HEAVEN IS REAL, BUT WHAT IS IT?

To most believers of the Christian faith, the concepts regarding the subject of Heaven have long been drilled into their minds now from the moment that they were toddlers in their local congregation’s Sunday school programs, until the day they completed high school and anxiously ventured onward to their young-adult journeys. Not to be outdone by the days of their youth, however, most adults would also admit that they too have heard countless messages on the subject from the time-worn pulpits of their local assemblies over the years. You know, the golden streets, pearly gates, crystal waterfalls, and mansions over the hilltop, we have all heard the stories! But have we ever really checked them out? Have we ever jumped headlong into the scriptures for ourselves concerning the matter? Have we ever made the effort to examine the things which we’ve been taught regarding this subject with an open mind, to where the Holy Spirit could reveal to us whether or not they are actually so?

Before you permit your minds to instantly take yourselves back to ***REVELATION 21,*** my friends, and say I told you so, please stay with me for a few moments and allow me to lay a proper foundation for where we are headed. For I promise you, ***WE WILL GET TO THAT CHAPTER!*** But, if you will stay patient, I’m going to reveal to you something straight from the written word of God, in literal, black and white lettering, that you most likely have never picked up on before! And as we will soon find out, it’s a ***PRETTY BIG DEAL*** that you are not going to want to miss!

Nearly a year ago, as I was busy writing and posting articles on multiple other topics, I received a group direct message one evening from a couple of readers asking what my thoughts were regarding the subject matter of ***HEAVEN.*** Without question, their biggest area of interest regarded a concept which I had used multiple times up to that point when teaching other subject matters, so the question which they mainly wondered about was the following: ***IS THERE BOTH A LITERAL AND A SPIRITUAL FULFILLMENT CONCERNING THE SUBJECT MATTER OF HEAVEN?*** That was their question, for I had stated in a previous article that the ***“CATCHING UP OF THE CHURCH*”** was not a physical departure to a place in the sky called ***HEAVEN***somewhere, but rather a ***SPIRITUAL AWAKENING*** into a ***HIGHER DIMENSION OF THE SPIRIT?***So initially, to give a quick, concise summary of the answer that I sent, it was simply this: ***YES, THERE IS, BUT THE ANSWER IS NOT AS CUT AND DRY AS YOU MIGHT THINK!***

To begin our study, I’m going to first present you with the response that I sent them a few days after receiving their text. Following that, I will also be adding some additional material from ***John 14,*** concerning our ***“MANSION IN HEAVEN”,*** and an interesting little tidbit from ***1 Peter 1.***As we begin, please understand that I have changed the two names from my original response for privacy’s sake, and also, tidied up the grammar a bit, as the initial reply was done very quickly and without edit. The main structure, however, remains the same.

Hey Ladies,

I had to go back and re-read the conversation from the initial message. I had forgotten what all was being discussed. Joyce had asked, ***“WHY CAN’T IT BE BOTH, “CAUGHT UP TO HEAVEN, AND CAUGHT UP TO THE HIGHER REALM”?*** Then Linda asked, ***“YEA, WHY CAN’T IT?”*** I’m assuming what you were both referring to was that which I’ve been talking about regarding scriptures often having **BOTH** a ***NATURAL (LITERAL)*** and a ***SPIRITUAL*** interpretation, but just in case, I’ll give the obvious answer first, then expound. It’s obvious to me, that ***HEAVEN IS THE HIGHEST REALM OF THE SPIRIT;*** but I think by saying ***BOTH,*** I’m assuming what you are referring tois ***BOTH A NATURAL (LITERAL) AND SPIRITUAL INTERPRETATION OF HEAVEN,*** so we’ll just leave it at that for now and move on.

To answer the next part of our conversation, it is indeed, ***YES!*** ***THERE IS BOTH A NATURAL AND A SPIRITUAL INTERPRETATION TO HEAVEN;*** it’s in the explaining of it in literal words that is the difficult part. Here’s why. ***THERE IS NOTHING NATURAL ABOUT THE SPIRIT REALM!*** The ***LITERAL*** spirit realm is ***UNSEEN, IT’S INVISIBLE!*** Heaven is the abode of the ***INVISIBLE*** ***GOD*** who is ***SPIRIT*** ***(1 Tim. 1:17, JOHN 4:24)!*** It’s the place in the invisible realm of the spirit where he resides or makes His abode! But, not only that, it’s also the place where his ***PRESENCE RULES AND REIGNS FROM.*** Let’s discuss a couple of verses.

*“For* ***THE INVISIBLE THINGS*** *of him from the creation of the world* ***ARE CLEARLY SEEN****, being* ***UNDERSTOOD*** *by the* ***THINGS THAT ARE MADE…”******(ROM. 1:20)***

*Thus saith the Lord, The****HEAVEN IS MY THRONE,*** *and the earth is my footstool:* ***(ISAIAH 66:1)***

***“HEAVEN”,*** is the ***THRONEROOM OF THE INVISIBLE GOD WHO IS SPIRIT!*** Remember this! To this point in our study, we have no other description of Heaven, other than the fact that it is the ***THRONEROOM OF GOD!***  However, from this description, we now know that ***HEAVEN IS DEFINITELY A LITERAL PLACE,*** even though it’s a place in the ***UNSEEN REALM OF THE INVISIBLE GOD!*** No golden streets yet, but ***IT IS A PLACE!*** I am going somewhere with this, believe it or not, so please hang with me. There’s a good reason why I’m repeating this. ***HEAVEN IS A PLACE:*** and ***HEAVEN IS THE THRONE ROOM*** of the ***INVISIBLE GOD.*** The problem with it at this point in our study, is that it’s still in the ***INVISIBLE SPIRIT REALM!*** That which is ***LITERAL (THOUGH UNSEEN),*** has no ***NATURAL MANIFESTATION*** because in the case of ***HEAVEN,*** the ***LITERAL*** is the invisible! So how would our Heavenly Father provide for a way to make ***HEAVEN,*** which is invisible, **BOTH LITERAL AND VISIBLE** at the same time? He would create ***NATURAL THINGS*** that would ***MANIFEST*** the ***INVISIBLE THINGS WHICH******CAN’T BE SEEN!***

*“For the* ***INVISIBLE THINGS*** *of him from the creation of the world are* ***CLEARLY SEEN, BEING UNDERSTOOD BY*** *the things that are* ***MADE…” (ROM. 1:20)***

Can you hear that? For instance, when the scriptures talk about ***“SPIRIT”,*** which can’t be seen, they give us ***NATURAL ANALOGIES*** such as ***WATER,***which takes on the shape and form of whatever vessel it’s poured into. or they talk about **WIND** which changes its course of direction, effects everything it encounters, can be felt, but still not seen! So, when things in the ***SPIRIT REALM*** are spoken of in the scriptures, they are often accompanied by an ***OBJECT IN THE VISIBLE REALM OF THE EARTH FOR THEM TO MANIFEST THROUGH*** so they can have ***NATURAL INTERPRETATION AND UNDERSTANDING!*** When God, who is Spirit, wanted to ***MANIFEST HIS ABODE, HIS THRONEROOM (HEAVEN)*** therefore, into the ***NATURAL REALM,*** although it was ***INVISIBLE,*** the first thing He did was create ***MAN IN HIS IMAGE******(GEN. 1:26-28)*** and then formed a ***NATURAL BODY*** of the dust of the ground to ***MANIFEST HIMSELF*** through ***(GEN. 2:7).*** It was ***‘MAN IN HIS IMAGE”***, therefore, who was to be the ***MANIFESTATION OF HEAVEN (GOD’S THRONE)*** on the ***NATURAL*** earth! A Throne is ***WHERE A KING RULES*** from., right? So, what did God do? He told the ***MAN IN HIS IMAGE*** to take ***DOMINION OVER THE EARTH*** in His stead. For what reason? Because all he (man) would be doing, in essence, by taking ***DOMINION***, was ***MANIFESTING THE INVISIBLE REALM OF HEAVEN – GOD’S THRONE!*** Any mention of golden streets yet? Nope! Have I left the Book yet with anything I’ve said? Hopefully, you answered no, so let’s continue.

We all know what happens next. ***MAN FALLS IN THE GARDEN!*** So now, God is in a dilemma. Why? Because he no longer has a ***PERFECT MAN IN THE EARTH*** to manifest ***HEAVEN – THE THRONEROOM OF GOD (WHO IS PERFECT*)** through! Because of this dilemma, God’s focus wouldnow ***SHIFT***to devising a plan of ***REDEMPTION*** so that he could bring ***THE NATURAL MANIFESTATION OF HIS THRONE ROOM******(HEAVEN)*** back into the earth through a ***REDEEMED MAN,*** who would once again be ***PERFECT!*** Notice something here. To this point God’s only intention has been to bring ***HEAVEN TO EARTH, NEVER THE OTHER WAY AROUND!*** Let’s continue.

Until Jesus would arrive 4000 years later to redeem this fallen man, God needed another way to manifest ***HEAVEN*** in the earth, so what does He do? He gives Moses the Blueprint for the ***TABERNACLE*** at Sinai. To stay consistent with his ***ORIGINAL INTENTION*** of ***MANIFESTING HEAVEN IN THE EARTH*** through a ***PERFECT MAN,*** He designed the***TABERNACLE*** just like the ***ORIGINAL MAN*** who had ***THREE PARTS: BODY, SOUL, SPIRIT*!** The ***OUTER* COURT** would represent the ***BODY,******INNER COURT*** the ***SOUL,*** and the ***HOLY OF HOLIES*** would represent ***MAN’S SPIRIT!*** Since this ***TABERNACLE*** would represent ***MAN IN HIS FALLEN STATE THOUGH*,** a ***VEIL*** was then placed between the ***INNER COURT AND THE HOLY OF HOLIES****!* God would now manifest himself from this Throne Room ***(HEAVEN),*** from behind the veil in this Tabernacle on Earth until Christ would come to ***FULFILL THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE LAW!*** This picture, therefore, shows us exactly what happened at the fall!

Due to ***SIN,*** there was now a separation ***(VEIL)*** between the ***SPIRIT OF MAN (WHERE GOD DWELT – HOLY OF HOLIES)****,* and the ***SOUL OF MAN!*** The ***SOUL******(MIND)*** would only have a connection now, to the body of ***FLESH (OUTER COURT).*** Man was now ***TRAPPED*** to the realm of the ***SOULISH LIFE*** apart from ***GOD!*** So, the ***FALL*** was the ***LOWERING DOWN*** of man from the ***SPIRIT REALM*** into the ***SOULISH REALM!*** The ***“CATCHING UP”*** therefore, ***MUST BE THE EXACT OPPOSITE,*** where the veil is removed, and man returns from the ***SOULISH REALM*** to the ***SPIRIT REALM*** again! With the veil taken away through a ***TRUE CATCHING UP EXPERIENCE,*** the soul would no longer be connected to the flesh at that point, but to the spirit again: ***THE MIND OF CHRIST RETURNED! THE PERFECT MAN RETURNED! HEAVEN (GOD’S THRONE) RETURNED TO EARTH!*** The ***KINGDOM OF GOD*** as it was in the ***BEGINNING!***

Just like Man was three parts ***(BODY, SOUL, AND SPIRIT),*** and the ***TABERNACLE*** was ***THREE PARTS (OUTER COURT, INNER COURT, HOLY OF HOLIES), COMPLETE SALVATION*** would also require a process of ***THREE PARTS (PASSOVER, PENTECOST, AND TABERNACLES),*** one Feast for each part of man! We must remember however, that God dwells ***WITHIN*** man, so regarding the symbolism of these Feasts, we must understand that ***SALVATION WORKS FROM INSIDE OUT!***  At ***PASSOVER,*** therefore, we see a picture of man’s ***SPIRIT*** being saved at the ***INITIAL SALVATION EXPERIENCE.*** At ***PENTECOST,*** we receive the Holy Spirit into the realm of our ***CARNAL MIND*** as He begins to go to war against the things of the ***FLESH*** until our mind is renewed and the ***SOUL IS SAVED*** through ***HEART CIRCUMCISION.*** Then, at ***TABERNACLES,*** we’re ***“CAUGHT UP” INTO MATURITY*** which brings to “wit” ***(WITNESS)*** the salvation of our ***SPIRITUAL BODY (AND LATER THE MANIFESTATION OF IT)****.* This is just a nutshell explanation for now, for this is not really the topic here. Lots of other details in there.

Once these three things happen, we see ***A COMPLETE AND TOTAL RETURN TO THE WAY IT ALL BEGAN! HEAVEN (GOD’S THRONE) ON EARTH, MANIFESTED THROUGH A PERFECT MAN! THE KINGDOM OF GOD!!!***Only one difference: ***CHRIST*** was the *“****ALPHA”*** in the Garden of Eden, with man still within Him (I explain that in my book), but in Revelation, He becomes the *“****OMEGA”* *(***The man of***GENESIS 1:26-28****,*manifesting ***“DOMINION”*** through a ***MANY-MEMBERED BODY! HEAVEN – GOD’S THRONE…MANIFESTED ON EARTH!)***

Still at this point though, ***NO GOLDEN STREETS!*** But, now we can go to ***REVELATION 1,*** and ***REVELATION 21,*** and quickly explain this thing!

**REVELATION 21 (UNVEILED)**

**“**The ***REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST,*** which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and ***SIGNIFIED*** it by his angel unto his servant John:” (***REV. 1:1)***

***WE MUST NOTICE ONE THING HERE,*** and then we can move on. The entire book is “***SIGNIFIED”…ITS WRITTEN IN SIGNS AND SYMBOLS…ITS WRITTEN IN SPIRITUAL CODE!*** If we are going to understand ***SPIRITUAL CODE,*** then we must do what Paul said to do, which is compare ***“SPIRITUAL THINGS WITH SPIRITUAL”!***

Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing ***SPIRITUAL THINGS WITH SPIRITUAL.******(1 COR. 2:13)***

If we are going to get the correct interpretation of the ***BOOK OF REVELATION,*** therefore, we must use the other ***65 BOOKS OF THE BIBLE*** to help explain to us the meaning of the ***SIGNS AND SYMBOLS,*** not the latest ***WORLD EVENTS;*** that would be comparing ***SPIRITUAL THINGS*** with ***NATURAL!*** Just one quick example. The central figure of the Book of Revelation is the Lamb of God. Now, is that a four-legged, barnyard creature that goes “BAAAA”, or is it Jesus, the Lamb of God? Do you see what you just did? You used other information in the Bible to interpret that symbol. That’s exactly what we must do with the entire Book of Revelation. So, let’s go to ***REVELATION 21,*** now, and begin by taking a look at a couple of passages concerning the ***NEW JERUSALEM (AKA “THE HOLY JERUSALEM”).***

“And *I saw a* ***NEW HEAVEN*** *and a* ***NEW EARTH:*** *for the* ***FIRST HEAVEN AND THE FIRST EARTH WERE PASSED AWAY;*** *and there was no more sea.”* ***(REV. 21:1)***

*“And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city,* ***THE HOLY JERUSALEM, DESCENDING OUT OF HEAVEN FROM GOD (REV, 21:10)***

Remember what we said earlier about the ***TABERNACLE OF MOSES,*** how it became ***HEAVEN – GOD’S THRONE*,** until Jesus would come and establish the New Covenant?According to the prophecy of ***ISAIAH 65,*** What happened to this ***HEAVEN (TEMPLE)*** and ***EARTH (JERUSALEM - THE PLACE WHERE IT STOOD),*** in ***70AD?*** *(****NOTE:*** *some Jewish historians, including the Book of Revelation itself, also refer to* ***HEAVEN*** *more specifically as the* ***HOLY OF HOLIES*** *within the Temple, and* ***EARTH*** *as the room called the* ***HOLY PLACE****)* ***EXACTLY, MY FRIENDS, IT WAS COMPLETELY DESTROYED!*** *In 70AD,* ***HEAVEN AND EARTH*** ***PASSED AWAY!*** If you haven’t read my article about that, I just posted 5 to 6 pages on this topic a couple of weeks ago on my website. So, ***AFTER 70AD,*** instead of the ***NATURAL TEMPLE* *IN JERUSALEM*** being the place on earth where ***HEAVEN*** was manifested, the ***NEW JERUSALEM*** would now take over the reins! A ***NEW TEMPLE*** would come upon the scene! ***WHAT’S THE NEW JERUSALEM?*** Why it’s ***THE TEMPLE WHICH WE ARE,*** beloved! We are about to discover more details shortly, but for now, just notice from ***REVELATION 21:10,*** above, that the ***NEW JERUSALEM (***the ***TEMPLE WHICH WE ARE)*** is a product which comes ***DOWN,*** not out of the sky, butout of the ***HIGHER REALM OF THE SPIRIT! COMPLETE SALVATION,*** my friends, is a work of the ***SPIRIT REALM***…the ***HIGHER REALM,*** where a ***NEW CREATION (SPIRIT AND SOUL)*** is ***REFORMED*** and returned to the ***IMAGE OF GOD,*** whereby it can then ***HOUSE HIS PRESENCE***and become a ***TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT!*** It’s an invisible work of the ***SPIRIT*** within, as He descends into the lower realm of one’s ***SOUL*** to renew it!**SINCE 70AD,** therefore, the ***NEW* *JERUSALEM,*** the place on earth in which ***HEAVEN*** is***MANIFESTED,*** has been coming ***DOWN*** out of***HEAVEN (SPIRIT REALM)!*** A many-membered **NEW CREATION** man has been forming for nearly 2000 years now, as each man in his own order completes the threefold process of ***SALVATION.*** The ***NEW JERUSALEM*** has been ***COMING DOWN OUT OF HEAVEN!*** No one must go up physically! **OUR LOWER, SOULISH BEING** gets “***CAUGHT UP***” through a work of salvation that **COMES DOWN FROM ABOVE!** We get “***CAUGHT UP”*** into the ***SPIRIT REALM,*** right here on ***EARTH,*** and as a ***NEW CREATION BEING*** wherewith, we can thereby physically manifest ***HEAVEN*,** the ***THRONE OF GOD!*** The ***NEW JERUSALEM*** is nothing more than a **MANY-MEMBERED** body of believers who have been fully returned to the **IMAGE OF GOD,** for the purpose of exercising **DOMINION (HIS THRONE – HEAVEN)** in the earth…. ***THE BRIDE OF CHRIST!*** Hang on, my friends, **THIS THING IS ABOUT TO EXPLODE!** Let’s verify what we’ve just said.

“And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, ***BEHOLD, THE TABERNACLE (HEAVEN) OF GOD IS WITH MEN,***and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for ***THE FORMER THINGS ARE PASSED AWAY.*** And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.” ***(REV. 21:3-5)***

Here’s where it all gets interesting, beloved. Watch closely. ***REVELATION 21:10-27*** is the ***ONLY PLACE*** in the entirety of the scriptures which describes the ***IMAGE*** that we have all had drilled into our minds regarding ***HEAVEN.*** The ***ONLY PLACE!* *THERE IS NO OTHER!*** So, with this in mind, ***YOU MUST GET AHOLD*** of what now happens just ***ONE VERSE PRIOR TO THE DESCRIPTION OF THIS CITY!*** Let me say that again. ***YOU MUST NOW GET AHOLD OF WHAT HAPPENS JUST ONE VERSE PRIOR TO THE DESCRIPTION OF THIS CITY!!!***

*“****AND THERE CAME UNTO ME ONE OF THE SEVEN ANGELS*** which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, ***COME HITHER, I WILL SHEW THEE THE BRIDE, THE LAMB'S WIFE.” (REVELATION 21:9)***

Maybe you caught it, maybe you didn’t. Let me explain. At the beginning of ***VERSE 9****,* an ***ANGEL (MESSENGER)*** begins to talk with John. He asks John to ***COME HITHER (CLOSER),*** and he would show him the ***BRIDE, THE LAMBS WIFE!*** As John approaches in verse ten, the angel immediately takes him up and begins to show him ***THE CITY, THE******NEW JERUSALEM!*** What??????????? Are you kidding me?????? The ***ONLY DESCRIPTION*** of the ***HOLY CITY*** that we have from the ***ENTIRETY OF THE SCRIPTURES,*** and ***IT’S NOT EVEN THE DESCRIPTION OF******AN ACTUAL PLACE, BUT A PEOPLE, THE BRIDE!!!*** Yes, my friends, ***THE HOLY CITY IS A PEOPLE, NOT AN ACTUAL CITY!*** There will not be a golden metropolis shaped like the City of Atlanta “**COMING DOWN”** out of the sky someday, my friends, and neither will we be going there! **IT DOESN’T EXIST!** It’s a ***PEOPLE*** who have become ***FULLY CONFORMED TO HIS IMAGE…..*** the ***BRIDE OF CHRIST….*** the ***NEW JERUSALEM….*** The **NEW MANIFESTATION OF THE INVISIBLE REALM OF “HEAVEN” IN THE EARTH!** This is not an opinion, my friends, it is right in front of you in **BLACK AND WHITE!** Remember, the whole Book of Revelation was written in ***SIGNS AND SYMBOLS,*** which must be interpreted using the rest of the scriptures. In the rest of the scriptures, ***GOLD, REPRESENTS PURITY.*** A street at that time, was a pathway travelled on by foot. What do we get when we put both together? We get an understanding that the ***BRIDE OF CHRIST*** is a **PEOPLE *(*A *CITY),* WITH A *PURE WALK!*** Likewise, ***A PEARLY GATE*** speaks of a means of entrance into this ***BRIDE OF CHRIST (THE CITY).*** There were ***12 GATES,*** each named after one of the 12 tribes of Israel. ***A PEARL*** is formed through ***SUFFERING*** when an irritant gets into its shell**.** So, ***12 PEARLY GATES*** speak of 12 experiences which a believer must ***SUFFER (FELLOWSHIP OF HIS SUFFERINGS – PHIL. 3)*** in order to be conformed into ***HIS IMAGE*** and ***ENTER INTO THE CITY,*** which is a ***PEOPLE…. THE BRIDE!*** And so on… and so on…

There is so MUCH more that I will teach about this in the future, but the nuts and bolts of the matter is ***HEAVEN***is the ***INVISIBLE THRONEROOM OF GOD!*** It was originally intended to ***MANIFEST*** itself through ***ADAM*** in the ***GARDEN.*** Adam fell!Heaven was then moved to the ***TABERNACLE OF MOSES,*** and then to the ***TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM.*** Once Jesus arrived, ***HEAVEN*** was manifested through ***HIM!*** Heaven came Down in ***JESUS,*** and finally,after the Temple was destroyed, ***HEAVEN*** was multiplied into ***THE BRIDE OF CHRIST, THE HOLY CITY,*** the ***NEW JERUSALEM (THE NATURAL MANIFESTAION OF A LITERAL, THOUGH INVISIBLE REALITY)!*** So, ***NOWHERE IN THE SCRIPTURES IS HEAVEN EVER DESCRIBED AS AN ACTUAL CITY.*  *IT IS A PLACE, BUT IT’S A PLACE WITHIN A* *PEOPLE…. THE BRIDE…. A MANY-MEMBERED PEOPLE CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF GOD, RULING AND REIGNING WITH DOMINION ON THE EARTH!***

I will conclude with one scripture:

*“****YE*** ***(***a ***KINGDOM PEOPLE)*** are the light of the world. ***A CITY THAT IS SET ON AN HILL*** cannot be hid.” ***(MATTHEW 5:14)***

Here we have it from the mouth of ***JESUS*** Himself! In ***MATTHEW 5,*** Jesus was teaching the Bi-laws of the soon be established ***KINGDOM OF GOD*** when he looked at the multitudes***,*** a ***PEOPLE,*** and said: *“****YE****…* are a ***CITY SET ON A HILL!”*** He called a ***PEOPLE*,** a ***CITY, THE KINGDOM OF GOD*** on the earth**. *HEAVEN, THEREFORE, IS NOTHING MORE THAN THE THRONEROOM OF GOD, MANIFESTING* *ITSELF THROUGH HIS BRIDE, THE NEW JERUSALEM!*** Nowhere in the Bible is***HEAVEN*** ever described as an actual ***CITY,*** it’s only described as a ***PEOPLE!* *A FAR CRY FROM WHAT WE’VE BEEN TAUGHT!*** To be honest with you though, I like this outcome a whole lot better! A Spiritual body, with all things new, where there is no more pain, curse, war, or strife, ***RIGHT HERE ON PLANET EARTH!*** Not only that (and this is another message), but according to Hebrews, we can enter there ***RIGHT NOW*** *(which I’ve already discussed in my book)!*

*“But* ***YE ARE COME*** *(PRESENT TENSE) unto mount Sion, and* ***UNTO THE CITY*** *of the living God,* ***THE HEAVENLY JERUSALEM****…”* ***(HEB. 12:22)***

**NOTE:** will dive into the ***12 GATES OF THE CITY (PEARLY GATES)*** in much more detail at some point, as well as ***JOHN 14,*** where people think they will be awarded a ***MANSION*** someday. Not happening! Anyway, hopefully this helped a little bit, but I will dig into it more down the road.

Thanks, Ladies.

So, there you have the initial part of our study, which was a direct message sent out to two very special ladies about a year ago, my friends. According to ***REVELATION 21,*** as I have just put before you in **BLACK AND WHITE,** straight from the scriptures, we find that ***THE ONLY PLACE IN THE ENTIRE BIBLE THAT TALKS ABOUT A CITY WITH GOLDEN STREETS AND PEARLY GATES, IS NOT EVEN REFERRING TO AN ACTUAL CITY, BUT IS RATHER THE DESCRIPTION (IN SYMBOLIC FORM) OF A PEOPLE (THE NEW JERUSALEM) WHO WOULD MANIFEST WHAT HEAVEN ACTUALLY IS….. THE INVISIBLE THRONEROOM OF GOD! NOW, THAT’S A PRETTY BIG DEAL MY FRIENDS!*** Are you starting to see now why there are ***TWO CHURCHES*** mentioned in the Book of Revelation, the ***BRIDE (NEW JERUSALEM)*** and the ***HARLOT (CARNAL CHURCH SYSTEM)?*** Are you? Let’s move on to ***JOHN 14 and*** talk about this mansion for a moment!

**JOHN 14**

*“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2* *In my* ***FATHER'S HOUSE*** *are* ***MANY MANSIONS:*** *if it were not so, I would have told you.* ***I GO TO PREPARE A PLACE FOR YOU****. 3* *And if I go and prepare a place for you****, I WILL COME AGAIN,*** *and receive you unto myself;* ***THAT WHERE I AM, THERE YE MAY BE ALSO.*** *4 And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. 5 Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? 6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. 7 If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. 8 Philip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us. 9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip?* ***HE THAT HATH SEEN ME HATH SEEN THE FATHER;*** *and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father? 10 Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. 11 Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake. 12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. 13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it. 15 If ye love me, keep my commandments. 16* *And I will pray the Father, and* ***HE SHALL GIVE YOU ANOTHER COMFORTER,*** *that he may abide with you for ever; 17* ***EVEN THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH;*** *whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but* ***YE KNOW HIM; FOR HE DWELLETH WITH YOU AND SHALL BE IN YOU.*** *18 I will not leave you comfortless:* ***I WILL COME TO YOU.*** *19 Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also. 20* ***AT THAT DAY YE SHALL KNOW THAT I AM IN MY FATHER, AND YE IN ME, AND I IN YOU.*** *21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. 22 Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord,* ***HOW IS IT THAT THOU WILT MANIFEST THYSELF UNTO US,*** *and not unto the world? 23* *Jesus answered and said unto him,* ***IF A MAN LOVE ME, HE WILL KEEP MY WORDS: AND MY FATHER WILL LOVE HIM, AND WE WILL COME UNTO HIM, AND MAKE OUR ABODE WITH HIM.*** *24 He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me. 25 These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. 26* ***BUT THE COMFORTER, WHICH IS THE HOLY GHOST, WHOM THE FATHER WILL SEND IN MY NAME, HE SHALL TEACH YOU ALL THINGS, AND BRING ALL THINGS TO YOUR REMEMBRANCE, WHATSOEVER I HAVE SAID UNTO YOU.*** *27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. 28 Ye have heard how I said unto you,* ***I GO AWAY, AND COME AGAIN UNTO YOU.*** *If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I. 29 And* ***NOW I HAVE TOLD YOU BEFORE IT COME TO PASS, THAT, WHEN IT IS COME TO PASS, YE MIGHT BELIEVE.*** *30 Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me. 31 But that the world may know that I love the Father; and as the Father gave me commandment, even so I do. Arise, let us go hence.* ***(JOHN 14 KJV)***

I’ve heard it with my own ears. The absolute ***CARNAL INTERPRETATIONS*** of this passage of scripture have gone absolutely ballistic within the walls of Christendom, my friends! In my own local church, just a few years ago, I literally heard a gentleman stand before the congregation during a Wednesday night Bible Study one evening and teach them that the reason Jesus had not yet returned was because He was still up in Heaven somewhere building mansions for His children, and that there were a lot of them to build yet! No Joke, my friends, and until our modern-day church systems decide to give heed and listen to the exceedingly growing warnings of the Apostolic/Prophetic offices, unfortunately it’s going to continue! Let me ask you ***ONE SIMPLE QUESTION*** concerning ***John 14*** above**,** and then we will discuss it for a few moments. According to ***VERSE 2,*** whose house does this chapter concern, a ***HOUSE FOR YOU*** or a ***HOUSE FOR THE FATHER?*** Ah beloved, perhaps you’re seeing yet another case here of just what happens when you study the scriptures apart from a pre-conceived point of view! The subject matter of ***JOHN 14,*** is not a house for ***YOU,*** but a house for the ***FATHER,*** and how it was about to be formed through His return at Pentecost upon ***ALL FLESH*** through the person of the Holy Spirit! Let’s simply copy and paste that verse just to verify.

“In my ***FATHER'S HOUSE*** are ***MANY MANSIONS:*** if it were not so, I would have told you. ***I GO TO PREPARE A PLACE FOR YOU.*** ***(JOHN 14:2)***

Hopefully, you can see it now, my friends. The subject matter of ***JOHN 14*** is the ***“FATHER’S HOUSE”,*** not yours! Let’s move on with yet another question. Do you see the word ***“MANSION”*** in ***VERSE 2,*** and the word ***“ABODE”*** in ***VERSE 23?*** They are the ***EXACT SAME GREEK WORD!*** Unfortunately, the King James Version King misinterpreted it in ***VERSE 2*** of this chapter and translated it as ***“MANSION”.*** It’s the Greek word ***“MONE” (MON-AY’),*** which simply means ***“A DWELLING PLACE, OR AN ABODE”.***It was translated correctly in ***VERSE 23,*** but for whatever reason, it was changed by the translators in ***VERSE 2,*** which has resulted in absolute confusion for years now within the church system. So, to this point in the chapter, we now know that the subject matter is the **FATHER’S HOUSE,** and within the **FATHER’S HOUSE** there are **MANY DWELLING PLACES.** What we need to do now, is discover the location of **FATHER’S HOUSE.**

*“But Christ as a son over his own house;* ***WHOSE HOUSE ARE WE****, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.* ***(HEB. 3:6)***

Are you beginning to see this now, my friends? There are ***MANY DWELLING PLACES*** in the ***FATHER’S HOUSE,*** because he lives in a ***MANY-MEMBERED BODY,*** a ***CORPORATE PEOPLE!*** Hopefully you’re not growing weary of all of the questions yet, because here’s another. To whom was this chapter written to, us or the First-Century disciples? Why that one is obvious, my friends, so with that established, we can now better understand the basis for our next question, which is simply this. When Jesus told the disciples here in this chapter that he was going to ***PREPARE A PLACE*** for them, Where was it that he was about to go? If you said ***“HEAVEN”,*** I’m afraid you have gotten a bit ahead of yourselves, for ***JESUS WAS ABOUT TO GO TO THE CROSS***! Why? To ***PREPARE A PLACE IN US THROUGH REDEMPTION!*** *What would he do* ***AFTER******HE PREPARED A PLACE IN US*** *at the cross through redeeming us?* **THEN,** He would ascend into Heaven (Invisible Spirit Realm), and ***RETURN AT PENTECOST*** *in the person of the Holy Ghost and fill His* ***FATHER’S HOUSE****…the* ***HOUSE THAT WE ARE!*** Let’s look at the sequence.

1. Verse 2 “***…I GO TO PREPARE A PLACE FOR YOU.”***
2. Verse 3 *“And if I go and prepare a place for you,* ***I WILL COME AGAIN,*** *and receive you unto myself;* ***THAT WHERE I AM (IN YOU), THERE YE MAY BE ALSO***
3. Verse 4 *“And I will pray the Father, and* ***HE SHALL GIVE YOU ANOTHER COMFORTER,*** *that he may abide with you for ever; 17* ***EVEN THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH;***

You see, my friends, this chapter has nothing to do, whatsoever, with Jesus ascending into a place in the sky called **“*HEAVEN”*** somewhere, and then returning thousands of years later. He was talking about going to the ***CROSS*** to redeem humanity, ascending into Heaven (spirit realm), and then ***RETURNING IN THE FORM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT*** to ***ABIDE (DWELL)*** within the ***MANY ROOMS OF THE FATHER’S HOUSE…WHOSE HOUSE WE ARE!*** Many in the church would argue with this because they do not understand the concept of the ***TRINITY!*** The trinityis not **THREE “SEPARATE**” **PERSONS AS ONE GOD,** but **THREE PERSONS AS ONE GOD!** There is only **ONE GOD!** *“…Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is* ***ONE LORD:” (DEUT. 6:4)*** Still don’t believe? Let’s look at a few more.

*“That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one,* ***EVEN AS WE ARE ONE****…” (Jn. 17:21-22)*

*“Now* ***THE LORD (Jesus Christ) IS THAT SPIRIT:*** *and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. (2 Cor. 3:17)*

So, we see here between these two passages that Jesus is ***ONE, NOT SEPARATE*** with ***BOTH*** the ***HOLY SPIRIT*** and ***THE FATHER!*** When Jesus said that he would ***COME AGAIN*** in verse 3, He was talking about coming ***AS THE HOLY SPIRIT*** to dwell in His ***FATHER’S HOUSE*** ***(WHICH WE ARE)*** at ***PENTECOST*** so that ***“WE”*** could be ***ONE WITH THEM!*** What did Jesus say in verse 20?

***“…AT THAT DAY YE SHALL KNOW THAT I AM IN MY FATHER, AND YE IN ME,******AND I IN YOU.”******(JOHN 14:20)*** Can you hear that, my friends? Because ***JESUS,*** the ***HOLY SPIRIT,*** and the ***FATHER*** are ***ONE,*** He was telling the disciples that ***WHEN THEY GET THE HOLY SPIRIT, THEY GET THEM ALL!*** Do you remember what the voice said to ***SAUL OF TARSUS*** on the road to ***DAMASCUS?*** The voice said, ***“I AM JESUS WHOM THOU PERSECUTEST!”*** You better get that, folks! Saul was persecuting the ***SPIRIT FILLED CHURCH,*** but ***JESUS TOLD SAUL THAT HE WAS PERSECUTING HIM!!!*** Jesus and the Holy Spirit are ***ONE,*** my friends. When Jesus told the disciples that He would send them ***ANOTHER COMFORTER***, the Greek word for “***COMFORTER”*** there is ***“PARAKLETOS”,*** which Vine’s tells us means ***“ANOTHER OF THE SAME SORT”!*** Now, how much closer to the “***SAME SORT”*** can you get to someone than being ***ONE WITH THEM?*** Anyone? I think we’re getting the message now! Let’s end with this.

“Jesus answered and said unto him, *if a man love me, he will keep my words: and my father will love him, and* ***WE WILL COME UNTO HIM, AND MAKE OUR ABODE WITH HIM. (JN. 14:23)***

Can you hear it now? If one will get the Holy Spirit, **“WE”** will come and ***MAKE OUR ABODE WITH HIM!* JOHN 14** has nothing to do, whatsoever, with Jesus leaving this planet to a placein the sky called ***HEAVEN*** somewhere, to start a housing project. The subject matter of ***John 14*** is the ***FATHER’S HOUSE,*** not yours! The subject matter of ***JOHN 14,*** was for Jesus to go to ***CALVARY*** (to prepare a place for us in the ***FATHER’S HOUSE)*** through redemption, then ***ASCEND INTO HEAVEN,*** and ***COME AGAIN*** as the person of the ***HOLY GHOST***, that ***WHERE HE IS (IN US) WE MAY BE ALSO!*** There has never been a ***MANSION*** awaiting you on planet ***HEAVEN***, my friends, just another erroneous teaching from the minds of ***CARNAL MEN!*** Let’s move on and bring this thing in for a landing.

**STREETS OF GOLD**

*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an* ***INHERITANCE INCORRUPTIBLE,*** *and undefiled, and that fadeth not away,* ***RESERVED IN HEAVEN FOR YOU…* *(1 PET. 1:3-4)***

*“That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of* ***GOLD THAT PERISHETH****, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ…”* ***(1PET. 1:7)***

At the introduction to this article, I briefly mentioned that I wanted to end our study by taking a quick glance at an interesting little tidbit of information from **1 PETER 1,** which is directly related to the topic of Heaven. We have now arrived at our final destination. Before I make a concluding comment from the above two passages, however, I’d like to first present a quick, bullet-point review of the conclusions to which we have arrived at.

1. Heaven is the abode of the ***INVISIBLE GOD*** who is ***SPIRIT (1 Tim. 1:17, JOHN 4:24)!***
2. Not only that, but it’s the place in that invisible realm from which He rules. ***“…HEAVEN IS MY THRONE,*** *and the earth is my footstool…”* ***(ISAIAH 66:1)***
3. Because of Heaven’s invisible characteristic, God needed a literal manifestation of it on the earth for it to be understood. *“For* ***THE INVISIBLE THINGS*** *of him from the creation of the world* ***ARE CLEARLY SEEN,*** *being understood* ***BY THE THINGS THAT ARE MADE…” (ROM. 1:20)***
4. His first manifestation of this invisible realm was through the creation of ***MAN IN HIS IMAGE (FIRST MAN ADAM)*** in the garden before the fall, in whom was given the command to take ***DOMINION (RULERSHIP)*** over the earth. ***(GEN. 1:26-28)*** He was to be the ***MANIFESTATION OF GOD’S THRONE (HEAVEN)*** on the earth.
5. After the fall, with the ***IMAGE OF GOD*** lost, and needing to be ***REFORMED (GAL 4:19),*** God would have Moses build a ***3-ROOM TABERNACLE***, which mimicked the ***3-FOLD*** nature of ***MAN (BODY, SOUL, SPIRIT)*** to ***MANIFEST*** the realm of ***HEAVEN*** through, until ***CHRIST*** would come to redeem man.
6. ***AS A SIDE NOTE:*** From a previous study, we saw in ***ISAIAH 65*** and also in the ***BOOK OF REVELATION,*** that the Temple structure was referred to as ***HEAVEN AND EARTH,*** where the Holy of Holies was referred to as ***HEAVEN***, and the Holy Place the ***EARTH.*** By first Century Jewish culture, ***HEAVEN AND EARTH*** was also symbolic at times, where the ***TEMPLE*** as a whole was referred to as ***HEAVEN,*** and ***JERUSALEM*** was referred to as the ***EARTH*** on which it stood.
7. Christ then came and ***TABERNACLED AMONG US*** ***(JOHN 1:14),*** redeemed fallen mankind, and left a ***3-FOLD PATTERN OF SALVATION*** by which man could be brought back to ***HIS IMAGE. PASSOVER*** would quicken the ***SPIRIT, PENTECOST*** would cut away the ***FLESH*** and save the ***SOUL,*** and ***TABERNACLES*** would***AWAKEN MANKIND UNTO PERFECTION******(MATURITY)***and bring to wit (witness) the salvation of the***BODY!***
8. Those who complete this process become ***THE PERFECT MAN*** ***(MANY-MEMBERED)*** and become the ***MANIFESTATION OF THE MATURE SONS OF GOD!*** ***(ROMANS 8)*** They become the ***NEW CREATION OF GOD,*** reformed to ***HIS IMAGE,*** and ***A PEOPLE READY TO MANIFEST HEAVEN AGAIN!*** But we didn’t stop there! We arrived at ***REVELATION 21!***
9. In ***REV. 21:1***, we suddenly discover that by this point in the book, there had been ***A CHANGE IN TEMPLES,*** the old ***HEAVEN AND EARTH (JEWISH TEMPLE)*** had passed away, and a ***NEW HEAVEN AND EARTH (MANY-MEMBERED, REDEEMED MAN)*** had arrived upon the scene! “And ***I SAW A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH: FOR THE FIRST HEAVEN AND THE FIRST EARTH WERE PASSED AWAY;*** and there was no more sea. ***(REV. 21:1)***
10. The ***TABERNACLE OF GOD (MANIFESTATION OF HEAVEN ON EARTH)*** had returned to man! ““And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, ***BEHOLD, THE TABERNACLE OF GOD (HEAVEN) IS WITH MEN…” (REV. 21:3)***
11. Then, one verse before the religious church system’s description of what they call “***HEAVEN” (***found in ***REVELATION 21: 10-27),*** we make a startling discovery in ***VERSE 9!*** An Angel appears to John and asks him to ***“COME HITHER” (CLOSER),*** and he would show him ***THE BRIDE THE LAMBS WIFE! WHAAAT?*** Let me say that again in case you missed it the first time! An Angel appears to John and tells him to come closer **(“COME HITHER”)** and he will show him ***THE BRIDE, THE LAMB’S WIFE!*** When John comes closer, ***IMMEDIATELY, THE ANGEL BEGINS DESCRIBING A CITY!!! OMG!*** Here is the only place in the entire bible that describes what the religious church system calls ***HEAVEN,*** and it’s not even describing an actual city! It’s describing a fully redeemed people… the ***BRIDE…*** the ***LAMB’S WIFE***… the ***NEW JERUSALEM***… a ***MANY-MEMBERED, MATURE MAN*** on the earth whom has been returned to the ***IMAGE OF GOD*** to manifest the invisible realm of ***HEAVEN (GOD”S THRONE)*** and exercise ***DOMINION OVER THE EARTH!*** The **KINGDOM OF GOD!** Does this surprise you, my friends? Jesus had said it from the very beginning. Look at what He said at the **SERMON ON THE MOUNT,** as He was introducing the by-laws of the ***KINGDOM OF GOD!***
12. ***“YE (A KINGDOM PEOPLE)*** *are the light of the world.* ***A CITY THAT IS SET ON AN HILL*** *cannot be hid.”* ***(MATTHEW 5:14)*** Straight from the horse’s mouth, my friends. Jesus called a ***KINGDOM PEOPLE “A CITY SET ON A HILL”!***
13. ***HEAVEN*** has nothing to do with what religion has taught us over the years, my friends. ***IT IS NOT A DIVINE DISNEYLAND IN THE SKY WITH PEARLY GATES, GOLDEN STREETS AND MANY MANSIONS! HEAVEN*** is ***THE INVISIBLE THRONE ROOM OF GOD*** operating through the ***CIRCUMCISED HEARTS*** of a fully redeemed, many-membered, mature son in the earth… the ***BRIDE,*** the ***LAMB’S WIFE…*** the ***NEW JERUSALEM!***
14. We next discovered that ***JOHN 14*** has nothing to do with ***US*** receiving a ***MANSION*** on a planet called ***HEAVEN*** somewhere! The subject matter of ***John 14*** is ***FATHER’S HOUSE,*** not ours!
15. We discovered that the place that Jesus was going to when He said ***“I GO TO PREPARE A PLACE”*** was the ***CROSS!*** He was going there to ***REDEEM MAN (PREPARE A PLACE),*** so He could then ascend into ***HEAVEN (INVISIBLE SPIRIT REALM)*** and return in the person of the Holy Spirit to reform them into ***HIS IMAGE,*** and then ***DWELL (ABIDE IN)*** with them on earth!The ***KINGDOM OF GOD ON EARTH!***

So, with ***PLANET HEAVEN*** now taken away, along with our ***MANSIONS OVER THE HILLTOP,*** we must now exit our study by leaving one last question concerning the two passages above from ***FIRST PETER:***

If our ***INHEIRITANCE IS INCORRUPTIBLE,*** as **1 PETER 1:3-4,** says it is, then how can ***GOLD THAT PERISHETH (1PETER 1:7)*** have anything to do with our ***INCORRUPTIBLE INHEIRITANCE….?*** Somuch for our ***GOLDEN STREETS,*** my friends! ***HEAVEN*** is the ***INVISIBLE REALM OF THE THRONEROOM OF GOD!*** The **“*NEW JERUSALEM”*** is the ***MANY-MEMBERED, BODY OF CHRIST*** in the earth, who has been ***FULLY REFORMED INTO HIS IMAGE*** for the purpose of ***MANIFESTING IT***…. a ***CITY SET ON A HILL***…. the ***KINGDOM OF GOD ON EARTH…. SELAH!***

**NOTE:** Our loved ones which have gone before us are much closer than we think…...