

The Heavens

Christ and the Saints are not only the Name and Tabernacle of the Deity, but they are also, "those who dwell in the heaven." The phrase "in the heaven" is Apocalyptically equivalent to "in the heavens in Christ" — *en tois epouraniois en Christo* (Eph. 1:3). Paul tells the saints in Ephesus, that he with them were "blessed with all spiritual blessings" in these heavens; in which they and Christ...were regarded as sitting together (Eph. 1:20; 2:6).” **This being together is a spiritual state** – because Christ at the time of the letter to the Ephesians was at the right hand of God and the members of the Ephesian ecclesia were walking in their probation upon the earth. “A heavenly is a constituted *heavenly or celestial* (orig. supernal) state. It may be **Divinely constituted**, or constituted by human authority....

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We have these two kinds of heavens in Paul's letter to the saints in Ephesus." The first we have just discussed in Ephesians 1:20 and 2:6, where those in the heavens are "constituted" such by their participation in the gospel by their death through baptism into the name of Christ. "In ch. 6:12, he alludes to the heavens constituted by human authority. The Common Version styles them "*High Places*;" but Paul used the same word to indicate them as that rendered "*heavenly places*" in ch. 1:3,20; 2:6....

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It is, however, to be remembered that Paul so expresses himself as not to be misunderstood by the enlightened. He defines the heavens in which they “sit together with Christ” as being “in Christ”; but he omits the phrase “in Christ” when he speaks of the heavens in which “the spirituals of wickedness” are found. Hence, the two kinds of *celestial* states are characterized: by being “in Christ” or not in Christ; which is equivalent to being out of Christ – outside, or not included in the things, of which the manifestation of Deity in the Flesh is the great and glorious center.

But the Heavens in Christ are not...places, but STATES, the foundation of which is laid in Jesus Christ – Deity manifested in the Flesh” (Eureka Vol. 4, p.317-8)

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Ephesians 1:3 – Stage 1 – Revelation of how acceptance of the Gospel in Christ brings one into a special status; ie. Into the heavens.

Ephesians 1:20 – Stage 2 – A new way opened up by a victorious leader.

Ephesians 2:6 – Stage 3 – Divine Grace manifested to the people through faith.

Ephesians 3:10 – Stage 4 – Those in the heavens called upon to witness against those Gentiles in occupation of the heavens of the world.

Ephesians 6:12 – Stage 5 – the heavens as a present scene of conflict.

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Ephesians 1:3 – Stage 1 – Revelation of how acceptance of the Gospel in Christ brings one into a special status; ie. Into the heavens.

Deuteronomy 6:22-23 compared with Ephesians 1:3-5

The words of Paul answer to the work of Joshua in leading the people across the Jordan to the new status in the land. Just as those that are obedient to the Gospel call enjoy a new status in the eyes of Yahweh.

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Ephesians 1:20 – Stage 2 – A new way opened up by a victorious leader.

Joshua 1:1-9 compared with Ephesians 1:18-21

Paul in the second use of the word “heavenlies” describes to us the Victory of Christ over sin and death which ensured the successful conquest of all those in him as long as they follow his lead.

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Ephesians 2:6 – Stage 3 – Divine Grace manifested to the people through faith.

Joshua 18:3 compared with Ephesians 2:5-8 & Col 3:1-11

We are revealed that the Grace brought to light by Christ's victory has not only elevated those exercised by it: but guarantees their future inheritance **if faith continues to motivate them.**

We are here encouraged to no longer walk in unrighteousness. We put to death the earthly members; fornication, uncleanness, passion and evil desire. But are encouraged to seek those things which are above.

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Ephesians 3:8-10 – Stage 4 – Those in the heavens called upon to witness against those Gentiles in occupation of the heavens of the world.

Joshua 4:21-24

Joshua reminds the Israelites that the miraculous Exodus of Israel from Egypt would stand as a witness to the “people of the earth”, or those principalities and powers that sit in the heavens, regarding Yahweh's mighty hand.

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Ephesians 6:12 – Stage 5 – the heavnlies as a present scene of conflict

Joshua 24:15-28

Paul urges his readers to “take ...the whole amour of God” that they might be successful. Joshua did the same, because after he had battled and won and made it possible for every tribe and family to attain unto the individual inheritance, he concluded by urging Israel to continue steadfast in serving Yahweh.

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Joshua 24:15

And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, **choose you this day whom ye will serve**; whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: **but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.**