

Bereans Bible Institute, Module IV

Lesson 10 – What About Heaven?

I. Introduction

- A. The only Hope in the Old Testament for the Just is resurrection to an inheritance in the renewed Land.
- B. If the New Testament is viewed from a Jewish (OT) perspective, the hope is the same. (All N.T. passages can be harmonized easily with this view).
- C. If the New Testament is viewed from a Greek philosophical perspective, some passages seem to support “heaven” as the destiny of the Just. (This conflicts with other NT passages regarding the Abrahamic Inheritance, and conflicts with many OT prophecies).

II. Primary Biblical Passages

- A. “My Father’s House” and “Many Mansions” are on earth. (John 14:1-3)
 - 1. “Mansions” means “dwellings” or “abodes”
 - 2. “Prepare” does not mean “build,” but to make something ready.
 - 3. “My Father’s House” is the Temple in Jerusalem
 - a. Herod’s Temple (John 2:15-17)
 - b. Solomon’s Temple (2 Chronicles 2:1, 7:16)
 - c. Kingdom Temple (Isaiah 2:2-4, Joel 3:18)
 - 4. All of these Temples contained “many abodes” for the priests
 - a. Solomon’s Temple (1 Kings 6:5-10 & 1 Chron. 9:26,27)
 - b. Herod’s Temple – Josephus: *“Now, about the sides of the lower part of the temple, there were little houses, with passages out of one into another; there were a great many of them, and they were of three stories high; there were also entrances on each side into them from the gate of the temple. But the superior part of the temple had no such little houses any further, because the temple was there narrower”* (Wars of the Jews, Bk. 5, ch. 5)
 - 5. Jesus went to make the way to evict the former priesthood, and make the way for His followers to become the new priesthood in the Kingdom.
 - 6. His “going away” refers to everything He did: His arrest, trial at the Temple, crucifixion, resurrection, current High Priesthood.
- B. “The Kingdom of Heaven” is not in Heaven, but on earth. (Matt. 5:3,10)
 - 1. cf. (Matt. 5:5 & Psalm 37:11)
 - 2. The “Kingdom of the God of Heaven” (Dan. 2:37,44)
- C. “Rewards” stored in heaven, but brought to earth by Jesus. (Matt. 6:19-21)
 - 1. (Rev. 22:12; Isa. 40:10; Isa. 62:11)
- D. The “New Jerusalem” is on earth. (Rev. 21:1-5)
 - 1. Coming down from heaven (v. 2)
 - 2. The tent of God is with men, he will live with them (v. 3)
 - 3. God makes everything new (v. 5)