



Oden Hetrick

Inside the Holy City

The above audio/video is of an amazing interview with Rev. Oden Hetrick who visited Heaven many times. It unveils amazing details of Heaven: The Holy City, The Tree of Life, The River of Life, Mansions, Chambers, The Throne of God, The Sea of Glass, Companionship & Intimacy and much more...

INSIDE THE GATES OF HEAVEN

CHAPTER 1

ANGELS FROM HEAVEN

It would take a very long time for me to describe all of my visits to Heaven. So for this reason, we will take an imaginary journey to that Celestial City and I will be your guide. Along the way I will answer questions that have been frequently asked by those interested in their Eternal Home.

My first understanding of God's unseen creation took place when I was in an army hospital with a sprained back. I had read my Bible and prayed and closed my eyes to sleep, and then I saw ten angels around my bed. They were seven feet tall with large masculine bodies, beautiful faces, long golden hair and long white shining garments. When I opened my eyes to see them better, I saw no angels. Only with my physical eyes closed could I see the angels and feel their presence, because God had opened the eyes of my spirit to behold the invisible world where He lives.

A few years later, while fasting and praying, Jesus Himself appeared to my spirit in my study. I had thought that I loved Him with all my heart, soul, mind and strength, but He showed me that my love for Him was like a drop of water in a canyon. I was astounded, but I reasoned that if Jesus appeared to me, there must be some hope for me.

A few weeks later I saw and felt the presence of an angel who was among some peach trees. This angel appeared to my spirit while my physical eyes were still wide open. I didn't know at the time, but this angel was sent to prepare me for visits to Heaven. The angel said that in Heaven everyone loves everyone. This statement was rather shocking because all I knew was earthly marriage, where to be right and proper, you love only one person. But the angel continued to explain that Heaven's love is far better, far more lasting and far more delightful than the love earth understands. Heaven's love comes from God and gives perfect eternal peace. It brings uplifting, delightful satisfaction to those who help others and thus show their love to everyone. There is no law against the love that God by His Spirit sheds abroad in willing hearts.

The mild rebuke of this angelic exhortation caused me to despise my likeness to the animal creation and lament my ignorance of the eternal love that unites and delights the saints in Heaven. I began to understand why my love for Jesus was so small. And I prayed the Lord would evermore give me that sacred love whereby He loves His Bride the Church.

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CHAPTER 2

MY FIRST VISIT TO HEAVEN

Shortly after this experience, three angels took my spirit on my first visit to Heaven. We were there instantly. Since that time, the 'peach-tree angel' has taken me on many guided tours of Heaven, showing to me and describing to me its scenes and activities. I am learning that I cannot rest my soul's desires on a temporary existence in a body of death and a world of lust, because they must and will be changed. True reality is found only in the eternal City of Heaven where my never-dying spirit experiences ecstasies pure and eternal.

After the angel showed me many things about Heaven, the Spirit of God began to show me things

of a more sacred nature in the Holy City of God.

Many have questioned me about my visits to Heaven - how I got there, and how they can get there. So here, briefly, is my understanding of how this works. The Breath God breathed into Adam at creation was God's Spirit, and Adam came to life as a body containing a soul, a spirit and the Holy Spirit. These spirits all occupy the same space at the same time in a human body, therefore Adam appeared as one person.

When I visit Heaven, my spirit and an angel visible to me are carried by God's invisible Spirit, while my body and soul (my physical nature) remain on the earth. In order to hear the call of God's Spirit, I spend much time in Bible study and prayer, watching and waiting. (Psa.130:6)

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CHAPTER 3

THE THREE DIVISIONS OF HEAVEN

God told Moses to build a place on earth where the people could meet to have their sins covered and learn to worship God. Moses was told to build this tabernacle like the pattern. The pattern was, and is, the City of God. So Moses' Tabernacle had a Most Holy Place within a Holy Place where the priests would serve; and around these was a large area for common people. God's presence was manifested by a cloud of glory in the Most Holy Place.

So also as we approach God's abode in the sky, we come first to the large outer environs, then to the Holy Place, then to the Most Holy Place where God sits on His Throne.

In this visit we plan to see the suburbs of Heaven where we'll answer some questions, including questions about sweethearts in Heaven. Then we'll enter the eastern gate, taste fruit from the Tree of Life, walk on golden streets and experience the crystal River of Life. We plan to see the people there, how they are dressed, and what they do. Then we'll tour a mansion and attend a banquet where Jesus sits at the head of the table.

Next we plan to enter the Most Holy Place where God sits upon His Throne with Jesus at His right hand. In this sacred Most Holy Place the saints, their clothing, and their chamber mansions are much brighter because they are closer to God on His Throne.

There are many names for Heaven in the Bible. Here are just a few: The Holy City of God -- New Jerusalem -- The Kingdom of Heaven -- Our Father's House -- Jerusalem above -- Temple in the sky -- High and Holy Habitation.

We find from these names, and from many other Scriptures, that the City of Heaven is, and always will be, in the sky. But even on this planet God had fellowship with our forefather Adam in Eden's Paradise. And Adam had fellowship with a sweetheart whose name was Eve. And the three of them -- God and Adam and Eve -- had a divine fellowship in that long ago peaceful paradise that we know very little about.

But when disobedience entered that beautiful picture, God removed His indwelling Spirit from Adam and Eve. Then He took drastic measures to restore His creatures to His fellowship -- He sent Jesus, His Divine Son, to pay our death penalty. Now all who turn from disobedience (sin) and follow Jesus, will be restored to fellowship with God; and God's Spirit will return again as a dove of peace and love, to dwell in every believer.

Our relationship to the indwelling Spirit of God is like the fellowship of two friends. One friend says to the other, "Let's go to the park!" and the other friend replies, "I'm all for it. Let's go!" God's Spirit is like the first friend who knows what to do, and we are like the second friend who caught the excitement of the action and the desire to go along. Jesus said:

"You will be my friends
if you follow my instructions."
John 15:14

We should learn this loving obedience on earth; if not, we learn it in the suburbs of Heaven where we are now going.

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CHAPTER 4

THE OUTER SUBURBS OF HEAVEN

The City of Heaven is foursquare like a cube; its length and width and height are each about 1500 miles. But in space the City of Heaven appears large and round -- much larger than 1500 miles. This is because of what are called environs or suburbs, the outer parameter of Paradise. The foursquare Holy City is completely surrounded and enclosed by these suburbs. The outer edge of these suburbs is very large, much larger even than the earth. In these suburbs or shadowy groves the saints first arrive when they come from the earth; and in this transition from earth to Heaven, they learn many things. First, they learn that they can still see, hear, smell, taste, touch and remember, and that they have a form like their earth body. This form is their spirit, now out of their body. When saints leave their bodies on earth, they have a sense of freedom as birds flying. They find their thoughts to be clear and their vision able to see both physical and spiritual realms.

The City of Heaven with its suburbs, its Holy Place and its Most Holy is like a planet; it is self sufficient in every way to provide for eternal beings, just as the earth is able to sustain physical life.

"He built His sanctuary in the high heavens,
like the earth which He established for ever."
Psalm 78:69

But the City of Heaven shines much brighter than a planet; it shines like the sun because it is the Kingdom of God.

"Then shall the righteous shine brightly
like the sun in the Kingdom of their Father.
If your ears can hear -- hear this."
Matthew 13:43

In order for the Kingdom of God (it is also called the Throne of God) to be seen in the sky, it has to be a very large place.

And speaking of size, Jesus said to His followers:

"Which of you by taking thought
can add one cubit to his stature?"
Matthew 6:27

The answer, of course, was that they could not, and therefore should not worry about tomorrow. But Jesus was revealing a secret that in Heaven we can by thought add one cubit to our height. In

my visits to Heaven I noticed that people appeared to be about five feet tall. On earth a cubit is 18 inches, but a heavenly cubit is 21 inches. So a person in Heaven three cubits tall would be 63 inches, or a little over five feet tall. But when it is their turn to worship God before His Throne, they add one 21-inch cubit to their stature which makes them seven feet tall.

Now these suburbs of the City of Heaven are very much like earth, with grass, flowers, trees, shadows, birds, and animals. This is the place where spiritual principles must be learned by those saints who on earth did not become very spiritually minded. It is not true that we suddenly know everything when we get to Heaven. Christians on earth are admonished by Scripture,

"Study to show yourself
approved of God."
2 Timothy 2:15

Some saints arriving in these shadowy groves would like to stay right here, but they are encouraged to move on to higher glories. And speaking of travel, it is possible in Heaven to go from place to place instantly, by taking thought. But it is more interesting and enlightening to travel slowly and enjoy the scenery. There are two methods of slow travel:

1/ We can move through the air as gracefully as a white dove in the sky of earth. Most slow travel is done in this manner.

2/ Some visitors to Heaven have called its vehicles by the exciting name of chariots. That's all right, but what I have seen are just seats with no flaming horses or wheels; and they are not so elaborate as to call attention to themselves. They just serve their purpose and then disappear. These chariots come in all sizes beginning with a double open-air seat for two companions, up to large bus-type open-air chariots with many double seats.

These chariots travel on land, on water, or in the air, and this is how they are moved: God's Spirit harmonizes all the activities in Heaven, deciding when and where the action is to be. When the saints hear the call of God's indwelling Spirit, their emotions respond with a joyful desire to go, and the controlling Spirit of God moves the chariot in which they ride.

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CHAPTER 5

LEARNING A SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLE

Now as the saints on their heavenly journey pause in these suburbs to learn spiritual realities, they are being prepared to understand and enjoy what they will experience in the Holy City. One thing they learn is the difference between physical saints on earth and spiritual saints in Heaven. And learning this will also enhance our visit.

"The first man, Adam, was made of dust,
the second man is the Lord from Heaven.
Now just as Adam was made of dust,
so are his descendents.
But those who are spiritual are
like Jesus who is in Heaven.
And as we have lived on earth

like Adam in a body of dust,
we shall also live in Heaven
like Jesus in a spiritual body."
1 Corinthians 15:47-49

God made us in three parts: spirit, soul, and body, but the real person (the real me) is my soul. My mind, my heart, my memory, my emotions, my reasoning power -- these are the real me. These are my soul. These are my real person, invisible, and eternal. My soul is shaped just like my body and fits into it perfectly just as a hand fits a glove.

God gave us a spirit so we could know Him and live on a higher level than animals. But because of Adam's disobedience there is sin upon every soul, ingrained in every personality; and the only way of escape is by asking Jesus to remove our sins, save us from eternal punishment, and redeem us to eternal life with Him in Heaven.

A sinful soul uses the body for satisfaction in temporal sinful pleasures. But a redeemed soul, being delivered from ingrained sin, is united with the spirit; and while enjoying the things of God in this life, looks forward to spiritual pleasures in eternal heavenly bliss.

"To be bodily minded is death,
to be spiritually minded is life and peace."
Romans 8:6

A redeemed soul and spirit occupy the same space at the same time within the body, out of the body, and in Heaven they appear as one spirit person. Spirits in Heaven have no infirmities and no signs of age, but they are recognized as the same person who lived in the body of dust on earth. After this body of dust is resurrected and changed, the saints will live in Heaven in a glorified body like Jesus.

"And, behold, there appeared to them
Moses and Elijah talking with Him.
Then answered Peter, and said to Jesus,
'Lord, it is good for us to be here;
If Thou wilt, let us make here three booths;
one for Thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah."
Matthew 17:3-4

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CHAPTER 6

A BEAUTIFUL SECRET OF HEAVEN

And now I have saved this next part till the last thing before we come to the eastern gate, because I know that when you hear this beautiful secret about Heaven, you will do all within your power to make your final abode in that land of endless day.

"The secret of the Lord
is with those who fear Him,
and He will show them His covenant."
Psalm 25:14

The secret covenant of God simply stated is eternal companionship. Consider that when God

created this earth, He put two sinless companions in a perfect paradise and had divine fellowship with them. Companions in paradise with the fellowship of their Creator is therefore God's perfect will, because God called this creation good and then He blessed it.

Yes, Adam and Eve sinned and lost their covering of light, but an animal was slain so that its skins could cover their bodies. This slain animal also temporarily paid their death penalty by the shedding of its blood, until Jesus became the supreme Sacrifice for sins. Adam and Eve are now companions in Heaven by an eternal covenant.

Notice also that Jesus calls Himself the Bridegroom (Mat.9:15) and that He came to earth to purchase for Himself an eternal companion by giving His life and His blood. (Eph.5:25)

There are remarkable comparisons between Adam and Jesus:

1/ Adam is a representation of Christ. Eve is representative of the Church, the Bride of Christ.

2/ God's design was for them to live in paradise and commune with Him. Jesus and His Bride, the Church, will live in Heaven's paradise forever in God's presence.

3/ When Adam saw that Eve had eaten of the forbidden fruit, he chose to partake also. His deep love for her, made him willing to suffer the consequences with her, rather than to be separated from her. Jesus chose to become sin for us, and suffer the consequences of death, so that His Bride could be with Him.

4/ Adam was put to sleep and Eve was formed out of a rib from his side. Jesus fell asleep (died) on the cross, and from His side flowed the blood that cleanses the sin from those who will be the Bride of Christ.

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CHAPTER 7

COMPANIONSHIP IN HEAVEN

Adam and Jesus are not the only ones who will have eternal companions in Heaven, because fellowship and companionship is the purpose of this creation. You see, when God made Eve for Adam, it was not as though He made another apple. It was as though He cut one apple in half (sex means to divide). Adam was divided into two beings -- one masculine, and one feminine. This division was not just in the physical realm; it was also in the spiritual, mental and emotional realms. That's why a strictly physical relationship on earth does not fully satisfy the desire of men and women for companionship. There must be a relationship not affected by time or space or death -- a relationship that unites two souls, two minds and two hearts.

Consider some words of Jesus about marriage (Luke 20:34-38).

"The children (men and women) of this world marry..."

The Greek word He used for 'marry' means, 'unite for the purpose of physical reproduction.' This is necessary on earth because physical bodies die.

"...but the children (men and women) of the resurrection...do not die."

They are eternal, spiritual beings like angels. But they are more than angels. They are sons and daughters of God. Jesus did not cancel companionship in Heaven, He is simply explaining that beings who do not die, do not reproduce.

On this earth a feminine being lives in a female body which is flesh and blood and physical and temporary. In Heaven she lives in an eternal spiritual body. She is still feminine and has the form of a lady, but she is no longer female. Spiritual glorified bodies do not have reproductive organs, because flesh and blood do not enter Heaven. The same is true for a man. In Heaven he lives in a spiritual body. He still looks like a man, and he is still masculine, but he is no longer male.

Yes, there are relationships between a man and a lady in Heaven, but there we live in glorified bodies, not in physical bodies. And only in God's house will companions finally be together forever.

"This is what the Lord says,
in My house, and within My walls,
a place and a name...
of sons and of daughters."

Isaiah 56:5

"In the Lord, the man and the woman
are not independent of each other."

1 Corinthians 11:11

"I will receive you,
and will be a Father unto you,
and you will be My sons and daughters,
says the Lord Almighty..."

2 Corinthians 6:18

Now consider these six facts:

- 1/ Jesus paid the supreme price to obtain a bride.
- 2/ When God made Eve for Adam, He instituted eternal companionship, because there was no death at that time.
- 3/ The masculine is not complete without the feminine, because in Adam they were created as one.
- 4/ Every child born to Adam's race is only half of a perfect one.
- 5/ Love is eternal.
- 6/ Everyone of us, just like Jesus, desires an eternal companion.

Therefore, just as God made food for hungry bodies, and air for birds to fly in, so He has made paradise for sweethearts. But the only way to that paradise is Jesus -- the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6).

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CHAPTER 8

SOME QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Now your questions:

Q/ Will an unmarried person have a companion in Heaven?

A/ Yes. Just as God chose Eve for Adam, so He will choose companions in Heaven. Jesus was not married on earth, but Rev 19:1-9 records His marriage in Heaven.

Q/ Will my spouse on earth be my companion in Heaven?

A/ Many married Christians have a companionship that includes mental, emotional and spiritual

satisfaction. They share a love that distance cannot hinder, time cannot diminish, and death cannot finish. And since their life on earth is a happy one, they desire to be together in Heaven, and I believe God will grant their desire. On the other hand, many marriages are unhappy, but don't let an unhappy marriage turn you against the covenant companion concept. God made for Adam a companion he would not part with; and He knows how to choose the perfectly satisfying companion in Heaven for every saved child of Adam's race. If we keep His rules here, He will keep His promises there.

Q/ If there is no marriage in Heaven, how do companions express love?

A/ A biological response is not love; it is only an expression of love, as you have said. But God had to make it the only physical intimacy or the race would not continue. In Heaven there are seven intimacies, but they are spiritual, and any one of them would make the earthly relationship seem like a bad dream by comparison. Eternal intimacies will be explained in the Holy City where we will soon be going. But following is a brief introduction.

Spirits look like people, but two of them can occupy the same space at the same time and appear as one. This is why a soul and a spirit can both live in the same body; they are being intimate with each other and with that body. The fear of death is proof that souls and spirits are very delighted with life in a body.

Covenant companions in Heaven (those united by God) will live in spiritual glorified bodies and so will also be able to occupy the same space at the same time, the masculine and the feminine appearing as one glorified being, united as two voices singing one duet. There is nothing on earth that even compares to the lasting ecstasy of this intimacy.

God's Spirit and my spirit are also delighted to be together as one in my body, because when I dedicated my life to God, I was so happy that for hours I could not speak for laughing. And this spiritual intimacy will continue forever in my glorified body in Heaven.

"The Lord is intimate with the upright."
Proverbs 3:32

A happy relationship with God's indwelling Spirit is required before anyone enters the gate of the Holy City.

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CHAPTER 9

THROUGH THE GATES

We are ready now to approach the eternal City of God. And we will be seeing things that are very large and very different, things that are very intricate, detailed and beautiful, and hard to describe. But I will do my best with the Lord's help to describe these things for you, as did St John in Rev. 21 and 22.

This City built by God is our Father's House, a very moving sight for the redeemed to behold, not only because of its bright beauty, but because of its emotional effect on those who are sincere about their relationship to Jesus, and who want to be with Him in this, His Father's House.

(Many of us have loved ones there whose love beckons us to come Home. Its my eternal Home. I have loved ones, mansions and treasures there, and I would like to stay there, but God has asked me to tell you about it.)

St John described the wall of this City as 'great and high,' and because we are near, it appears to reach up out of sight. In the eastern wall, facing us, there are three gates. Each one is surrounded by huge multicolored arches having the appearance of stained glass windows. The twelve foundations are covered with precious stones of twelve different colors -- one color of gem for each foundation. The colors are so arranged that the City appears sometimes to be sitting on a rainbow and sometimes to be surrounded by it.

When we talk and sing about the eastern gate, we are referring to the center gate in this eastern wall of the City of God. This gate is important because as God and Jesus sit upon the Throne of Heaven, they face the inside of this eastern gate.

It is also through this eastern gate that Jesus will lead the raptured saints into the Holy City to eat from the Tree of Life, to feast at the marriage supper of the Lamb, and to spend eternity ruling and reigning with Him.

When the raptured saints come in sight of this magnificent City and that beckoning eastern gate, and when the glorious spiritual reality of our eternal Home dawns upon our glorified sight, we will be so filled with divine ecstasy that we will shout hallelujahs and praises to God like we never knew could come from our innermost being.

It will be the heavenly fulfillment of what happened when Jesus rode triumphantly into the earthly city of Jerusalem. On earth He was rejected, but in Heaven we will all be received.

St. John said each gate was a pearl and all twelve gates are never shut. A pearl is milk-white and translucent; we can see into a pearl, but we cannot see through it. The heavenly Throne of God and of Jesus has also a bright white semi-transparent appearance like a pearl. The gates are like pearl because they are concentrated white light. We can see into this light but we cannot see through it. We can, however, pass through this gate of pearly light. That's why it is said to be never shut. But it does not stand open as a door on earth stands open. (Jesus on earth passed through closed doors in His glorified body.)

After we enter through the gate of pearly white light, we see a huge hallway. With its high vaulted ceilings and wide corridor, it is about 216 feet long, because the wall of this City is 216 feet thick. There are no lighting fixtures here. The light comes from the Throne of God and begins as a very bright white light. Then as this light is diffused through, and reflected from, the gem-like structure of this City, there emerges a rainbow spectrum which is the blending of five major colors: gold, blue, purple, red and green.

So we see that the rainbow effect is not only in the twelve foundations, but throughout the entire City, with the first color, gold, being predominant much of the time.

The arches to your left and right, shaped like one-third of a circle, or like a rainbow, lead to rooms which on earth would be called business offices. Here the angel who keeps the gate has on record the name, the spiritual status and the works of every saint of God. In this hallway we are greeted by the angel of the gate with a joyful welcome because he knows who we are and because the angels bring only those who are worthy to enter this City. Inside this gate is one of the places where Jesus welcomes His people.

INSIDE THE GATES OF HEAVEN

CHAPTER 10

INTO THE CITY

In front of us now is the area of the City called Paradise at the Father's right hand, the Holy Place and the outer court. Here we see the golden streets, the Tree of Life and the River of Life. The Tree of Life is a row of trees on both sides of the river and these trees produce twelve kinds of fruit, one for each month of the year. But there is more than one kind of fruit ripe at one time. One fruit given to visitors to taste, is shaped like a pear, tastes like a soft ripe peach, and is so juicy that its juice will run down your arms and drip off your elbows. (Before an Old Testament priest entered the Tabernacle to serve the Lord, he had to wash his hands; and, to make sure he used enough water, it had to run down his arms and drip off his elbows.) But don't worry, the juice from heavenly fruit dries quickly and does not stain your beautiful garments.

The rows of the Tree of Life are always filled with fruit. The faster it is used, the faster it reappears; and what is left of the core then disappears. The trees are always filled with blossoms and fruit at the same time. These blossoms have a delightful fragrance that fills the air and blesses the saints who gather there.

Companions in Heaven spend many happy hours in this park talking, singing and laughing. In fact, there is always someone near by who is laughing heartily. We each take our turn expressing our love and delight with laughter as we enjoy the tasty fruit and the colorful fragrant flowers, or as we wade, walk, and play in the mile-wide river.

One day my angel guide said, "Today we're going to step into the crystal River of Life."

I said, "But I have shoes on."

Then I looked at my feet and they had no shoes on. My feet never came to my attention before in my heavenly visits; I just supposed I had shoes on. Perhaps it is because we wear them all the time on earth, or perhaps it is because of an old song about people putting on shoes and walking all over God's Heaven. I don't think we wear shoes in Heaven and I know we don't walk -- we move gracefully as on roller skates without bouncing up and down.

So we stepped into the river and the experience was very stimulating and exciting. It was my first experience in touching the water of the River of Heaven.

This crystal River of Life is not cold and wet like earthly water. We can breathe under the surface because this water is a manifestation or appearing of the Spirit of God. Walking in this river is walking in the Spirit, and these waters remove the scars and memories of sin from the souls and minds of the saints whose home is in Heaven. The sins themselves, of course, must be removed on earth by the blood Jesus shed on earth.

"Jesus...gave Himself for us
that He might redeem us
and purify us from all iniquity,
and make us His very own people."

Titus 2:14

The golden streets are on both sides of the river. Close to the water, they begin to slope downward and continue under the water forming the river bed. The golden streets are clear, but they look golden because they reflect the predominant gold color of the City. Here again the effect is like pearl -- we can see into the street but we cannot see through it. The river also is clear but it sparkles more like silver. The streets are on both sides of the river and are each about 90 feet wide. In the center of each street is a 30-foot wide green lawn with a row of trees, something like a boulevard. The trees are called the Tree of Life with twelve different fruits, one for each month. The lawn is made of short thick grass growing up out of white sand. There are also beds of fragrant colorful flowers artistically designed and arranged. This park of trees, streets, and river makes twelve spirals around and from the center of the City outward to the eastern gate. This park is about

26.000 miles long and could easily accommodate 144 million people. But in all my visits to this place, there appear to be very few people here.

Some have wondered about family circles in Heaven. Togetherness here is different than it was on earth, because, even those who had no family on earth have a companion here, from whom they never part. We do at times have a banquet in our mansion for friends and relatives but they all bring their companions. And when we attend other banquets, we go as companions. For as Eden was made an eternal paradise for Adam and Eve until they fell, so Heaven was made for companions who are restored from the fall by Jesus, to be eternal sweethearts.

There are no families here as there are on earth. But in a spiritual sense, those who are here are all one family in our Heavenly Father's big House. We can communicate by thought; but since we can't listen and talk to everybody at once, most human fellowship in Heaven is between companions.

There are also small groups of companions talking, you could say, all at once. And there are larger groups listening to an interesting person, and there are also congregations listening to platform presentations or watching video scenes.

INSIDE THE GATES OF HEAVEN

CHAPTER 11

THE GARMENTS OF HEAVEN

There are three different garments here: the garment of humility; the robe of righteousness; and the garment of praise. In order to be fully dressed, we put them on in that order. Here in this paradise area between the suburbs and the Most Holy Place, the bodies of saints are completely covered with permanent white light. The body may be a spirit body or a glorified body, in either case it is white. Since I was accustomed to the pigskin color of earth beings, I thought white was rather dull. But they told me I would learn to appreciate their white soft opaque appearance -- and I did. But there is color to their hair, eyes and lips.

The first garment covering this body of soft white light is the garment of humility. It is long and white, looks like opaque soft velvet and fits very neatly because it is tailored to fit. This garment of humility is for everyday use around the mansion and for performing humble service. It is also called the robe of salvation.

Then there is a shining white garment of fine linen called the robe of righteousness. It is worn over top and completely covers the garment of humility. The robe of righteousness has fullness; it also reaches down to the feet and is also neatly tailored.

"They shall walk with Me in white,
for they are worthy."

Revelation 3:4

Both men and ladies are dressed alike but masculine and feminine forms can be distinguished, even when they are fully dressed. This shining garment is worn for banquets, for fellowship at the Tree of Life and River of Life and for other social activities in the Holy Place.

The final garment is coat-like and sleeveless. It is worn for praise and worship activities in the Most Holy Place. It is a very beautiful gold-threaded and jewel-decorated garment. To be dressed in all the robes of Heaven speaks of salvation, righteousness and praise. These garments compare to the garments worn by Aaron the High Priest.

When the High Priest, in Old Testament times, went into the Most Holy Place of Moses' Tabernacle to minister before the Lord, his first garment was a white linen embroidered coat. On top of that was a blue robe with golden bells between pomegranates around the hem. Over that was a linen ephod colored blue, purple, scarlet and gold. Around his waist was a girdle. On his golden breastplate were twelve precious stones in four rows. 1/ Sardius, Topaz, Carbuncle, 2/ Emerald, Sapphire, Diamond, 3/ Jacinth, Agate, Amethyst, 4/ Beryl, Onyx, Jasper. On his head was a Miter. In his hands was a censer filled with incense.

In Heaven we are not concerned about tomorrow because we are so happy and satisfied today, but we do mark periods of time. The days are 24 hours long and there is no night here, but there is a corresponding soft-light quiet time of about seven hours. The other 17 hours are the bright part of the day, with gold as the predominant color and blue as the next prominent color. The day begins with the "dawn," so to speak, of the brightness. During the soft-light time, companions are together in their mansions reclining, talking, singing to each other, enjoying the garden of nuts and spices, viewing audio-visual scenes of knowledge or entertainment, and other things you will learn when you come here to stay.

There is also a seven day schedule of events, the seventh day being mostly for worship activities described later. There are twelve months in a year, 1000 years in a millennium, 7000 years in an age and seven ages or 49,000 years (or 1000 generations earthly speaking) to an age of ages.

Looking now toward the center of Paradise, we see that the land slopes gently upward as we follow the straight street which leads from the eastern gate to that tall structure ahead of us. This is the Most Holy Place where God is made visible on His Throne. We'll visit there soon but, first let's look at my country mansion.

INSIDE THE GATES OF HEAVEN

CHAPTER 12

THE COUNTRY MANSION

This mansion is surrounded by about ten acres of land and about an acre of flower gardens. The front yard is surrounded by seven-foot-high arbors of constantly blooming flowers, and the gate is an open heart-shaped arbor, covered with large red fragrant thorn-less roses. This arbor has seats inside on the left and on the right. I have many happy memories of my visits to this place.

This mansion has three stories with a five-story tower on the front right corner. A large double door in this tower takes us into a large circular vestibule about twenty feet in diameter. To the right, a door leads to a large banquet room. To the left a door leads to the large living room or social hall. In the center is a stairway to the upper floors and a door to the kitchen and the back of the house. The backyard is a garden of spices, flowers, fruits and nuts with rose-arbor hiding places where

companions fellowship together and with Jesus. On earth Jesus appeared only one place at a time. Here, Jesus appears many places at the same time.

"O Thou who dwellest in the gardens,
the companions listen to Thy voice,
cause me to hear it."

Song Of Solomon 8:13

On the second floor there is a study library, a music room containing a large piano-like instrument with three keyboards, and a large open balcony facing the garden of spices. On the third floor there are rooms for study, meditation and servants. There are saints who desire only a small place in Heaven and they are servants here and doorkeepers and caretakers. They enjoy seeing to it that fruit from the garden is picked, dried and stored with nuts and spices in preparation for a banquet.

At banquet time, the companions who own the mansion invite their guests who come as companions. Jesus sits at the head of the table while the owners of the mansion sit at the servant end of the table. We sit in seats for two people and dine and listen to Jesus tell of wonderful things we will learn and see and do in Heaven. There is a very delightful Spirit of love and communion. Platters are passed from left to right containing small delicacies like nut butter cups and dried spiced fruit. There is soft melodious music by angelic choirs while bouquets of colorful flowers fill the air with sweet fragrance.

On the lower level of this mansion is a treasury. It contains rows of bins made of clear glass dividers. These bins are about 2 feet wide, 4 feet long and 2 feet deep, each filled with gems of a different color. When I first saw these treasures, I exclaimed to the angel who was my guide, "Are these all mine and how did I earn all this?" I was told that God generously rewards His saints for even the smallest acts of kindness.

Praise God,
the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
for His great mercy
for by raising Jesus Christ from the dead,
He has given us a new birth,
and a living hope for an eternal inheritance
that is incorruptible and undefiled
and reserved for us in Heaven."
1 Peter 1:3-4 (Matthew 10:42)

This Holy Place of Heaven is a delightful place to be, but there are far greater glories to be enjoyed by saints who seek the face of God Most High. Blessed be His Name forever!

INSIDE THE GATES OF HEAVEN

CHAPTER 13

THE TEMPLE OF HEAVEN

Looking now again toward the center of Paradise, we see a round tower -- the very center of the City of Heaven. It is 300 miles across and almost a thousand miles high. In case you wonder about the huge distances of Heaven, consider that the moon is over 230,000 miles above the earth and we think nothing of this distance when we look at the moon. Likewise the large spaces of Heaven are no problem to the saints and the angels who live here.

This round tower is called the Temple of Heaven because it contains the Throne of God and of Jesus.

"And He showed me a river
of the water of Life,
clear as crystal
coming from
the Throne of God and of the Lamb."
Revelation 22:1

The space within the tower walls is called "the Temple" or "the Most Holy Place." It is the place of the Most Holy Presence of the Most High God, the highest state of existence for a person from planet earth. Isaiah was here (Isaiah 6:1). Here the devoted saints of God dwell in chambers of divine delight, and behold the face of God. These chambers or City Mansions are located in the wall that surrounds the Throne of God and of Jesus.

"The Lord is in His Holy Temple
the Lord is in Heaven."
Psalm 11:4

"There came a great voice out of the Temple of Heaven
from the Throne saying, It is done."
Revelation 16:17

The source of the light of Heaven is the brightness of the Glory of God and Jesus. This glory light causes their Throne to be so bright that it appears like earthly snow when the sun is shining. And this Light shines through the walls of the Temple making the chambers there a very bright place to live. Sometimes the Light is so bright that the walls seem invisible and sometimes the walls sparkle with colors like a rainbow or like a tower made of diamonds.

The Light of Heaven is like a golden sunrise reflected on a blue sky. In this Light, flowers, fountains and surroundings sparkle and shine with delicate rainbow hues. Heaven is a very beautiful place, and the half has not been told.

INSIDE THE GATES OF HEAVEN

CHAPTER 14

THE GARDEN OF FOUNTAINS

This Garden of Fountains has three gates -- North, East, and South. We are heading toward the East Gate but before we get there, we come to the three Gardens of Fountains just outside the walls of the Temple.

Some of these fountains are small and gentle and others rise to great heights. They all fall into basins made of inlaid jewels intricately designed. Each fountain and basin is different and each design is different. Again this water is not cold and wet. It is a visible presence of the Spirit of God, Who in the Bible is revealed as water and as oil, Who also took the form of a dove, a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. So likewise in Heaven, the Spirit of God is manifested in many ways such as fruit on the Tree of Life and water in the crystal fountains and the crystal River of Life.

"O taste
and see
that the Lord is good."
Psalm 34:8
"The water that I shall give you, will be in you
a well of water springing up into everlasting life."
John 4:14

INSIDE THE GATES OF HEAVEN

CHAPTER 15

THE TEMPLE WALL

Passing through the Gardens of Fountains, we come to the gate on the east side of the Temple. The wall of this Temple appears to be made of multicolored snowflakes, but it is actually very substantial; and being 15 miles thick, there is space within this wall for millions of rooms of all shapes and sizes and descriptions, and they are designed for every purpose necessary to the operation and administration of this City.

Within this wall of the Most Holy Place there are rooms called temples of instruction where every necessary subject is taught. Here the children who for any reason died prematurely, are taught basic heavenly knowledge. Some of these children join the angelic choirs and provide music for banquets or other occasions where their music is desired. In these room also the saints are taught the knowledge of heavenly companionship. We plan to sit in and listen to the teacher in a class for children and a class for companions.

In this Temple wall there are rooms with picture screens where knowledge is presented in a three-dimensional review of important events. Your life is on record here (and that's enough to keep anyone humble.) One of the events reviewed is the crucifixion of Jesus. Even in Heaven, the story of Jesus is still the sweetest story ever told. Wouldn't you like to see the story of Jesus as it really was?

Now before we enter this Temple and Most Holy Place of Heaven, let me say that it is not just another place to visit. It is very sacred, very hallowed and very different from things understood by most earth beings. If we were to consider the dimensions of existence as being numbered one to seven, Heaven's Most Holy Place would be number seven. The Presence of God in this Temple is the highest state of human existence, and it is only for the holy people of God. It is impossible for me to describe the things of this Temple in a way that they would be understood by those who have no spiritual perception, because higher spiritual wisdom always appears foolish to those who do not want it.

"Be filled with...
all wisdom and spiritual understanding."
Colossians 1:9

So those who would understand what I am about to describe must be spiritually and heavenly minded. They must seek the God of Heaven and love Him with all their heart, soul, mind and strength. And be assured that those who truly seek God will find Him. Those who find the devil were not seeking God.

"If you being evil
know how to give good gifts to your children,
how much more will your heavenly Father
give His Holy Spirit
to those who continue to ask Him?"
Luke 11:11-13

The Most Holy Place of Moses' Tabernacle on earth could only be entered once a year, by the high priest, who was ceremoniously prepared and wore special clothing used for no other purpose. And there was a rope tied to his ankle so that if he did anything wrong, his body could be dragged out. (Leviticus 10:1-10) I'm not trying to scare you; only to let you know that Heaven's highest pleasures are not given to unsanctified triflers. They are given to those who drink of the Spirit of God as a thirsty soul drinks from a cool mountain spring. They are given to those who breathe in the Spirit of God as they would breathe in the fragrance of flowers on a cool summer evening.

The saints in Heaven's Most Holy Place also wear clothing that is different from what they wear in any other part of Heaven. They themselves are also spiritually prepared, but they are not limited to one visit a year, because there are chamber homes called City mansions located on the inside of the walls of the Temple that face into the Most Holy Place. Companion saints spend much time in these chamber homes. From these they can behold the face of God on His Throne.

Before we partake of the Lord's supper on earth, we examine ourselves lest we partake without being worthy and perhaps get sick or die (1 Corinthians 11:23-33). I trust the foregoing admonitions have helped us to examine and prepare ourselves to enter into the Lord's presence in the Temple of Heaven.

"Let the words of my mouth,
and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in Thy sight,
O Lord my Strength and my Redeemer."
Psalm 19:14

In Paradise, also called the Holy Place, we traveled mostly by the slow method. Here in the Temple or Most Holy Place we travel mostly by thought.

INSIDE THE GATES OF HEAVEN

CHAPTER 16

THE CHILDREN'S NURSERY CLASS

We go first to the children's nursery within the wall surrounding the Most Holy Place. Here the souls of infants from earth, including premature infants, begin to realize their existence. The infants are put into classes by angels according to their abilities for either music or art or science, etc. Then they are taught the knowledge and skills of Heaven by very patient and loving feminine angels. The infants and their angel teachers live in the Light of God the Father and Jesus the Lamb as this Light shines through this wall and through these rooms on its way to light the City of Heaven. Jesus said of little ones,

"In Heaven their angels do always behold
the face of My Father who is in Heaven."
Matthew 18:10

At an appointed day the angel teachers gather their graduating students to an assembly in a very large room. Here they are addressed by a masculine and feminine being who are companions. Listen as the feminine being speaks to the children:

"Children, we have come to you by the will of Jesus who loved us and gave Himself for us that He might bring us to His beautiful home, the Holy City of God, where you now abide.

"We are from earth as you are, and we have come here to be your spiritual parents and to adopt you as our spiritual children. God your heavenly Father is pleased to have you in His House, and you will not ever have to suffer the things of earth any more.

"Your angel teachers are instructing you in the perfect Law of Liberty, which is the Word of God. And it is to your personal benefit that you apply yourself with all your heart, soul, mind and strength to the understanding of these principles. Let these words of God sink down deep into your intellect, emotions and will that there they may, as seeds, grow into the fruit of the Spirit, to make you sweet, kind, gentle, loving and patient. Then you will be full of praise, worship and adoration to your Divine Creator, and show love to others with lots of hugs and kisses."

These orderly and obedient children take these words as permission to fellowship. So they begin to laugh and to hug and kiss one another. After a minute or so, their adopted spiritual mother says, "Children, save some hugs and kisses for your adopted parents."

Hearing this, the boys and girls flock as a cloud around their spiritual parents who delight themselves with the hugs and kisses of these darling little children with their chubby little arms and sweet innocent countenances.

After every child is hugged and kissed by both adopted parents, the children resume their orderly places. Then their spiritual father says, "Children, Jesus is coming very soon. Follow me and do as I do."

As the words 'follow me' are spoken, the two parents unite as one in the intimacy of Perfection because this is the requirement for standing in the presence of God. The parent instructor now faces away from the children and toward a bright object approaching from a great distance. The parent instructor then lays down his beautiful jeweled crown in front of him. Seeing all this, the children, who are trying to follow instructions, are a little perplexed at not being able to unite as their parents did; neither do they have crowns to lay before them. So when the parent instructor raises his hands in worship, the children are relieved and happy to at least be able to raise their hands.

The approaching Light is Jesus, followed by a multitude of heavenly beings. Jesus comes into view at an elevation which enables everyone to see Him clearly. He is seated on a golden and elaborate but conveniently-sized chair. His attendants are standing on space around Him.

Jesus then says, "Let the little children come to Me."

Immediately the parent says, "Children, come to Jesus," and then he proceeds up to Jesus' right hand. The children, likewise, rise up to Jesus whose smiling countenance wins their hearts. As the children are standing in a neat formation in front of Jesus, He motions to angels at His left who give each child a shining golden crown. The golden crown represents everlasting life. When each child is wearing a crown, Jesus reaches out His hands toward them causing the children to break ranks and ascend in a cloud-like formation around Him, each child wanting to hug and kiss Jesus. This scene lasts until every child is hugged and kissed and blessed by Jesus, and graduated to the next grade. Then Jesus, with His company, departs, leaving the children with the reality of a loving

Savior -- and leaving the attendants of this nursery on 'cloud nine,' living in Heaven and living in the Spirit.

INSIDE THE GATES OF HEAVEN

CHAPTER 17

A CLASS FOR COVENANT COMPANIONS

I promised you that we would visit a class where ladies and gentlemen were being instructed in the companionship of Heaven -- the eternal relationships between sweethearts in the perfect conditions of Heaven.

In some of my visits to Heaven I joined in activities there. One of these activities was teaching a class of men and ladies about the covenant companion concept. The reason I teach this class is because I learned this subject while living on earth. It is a fact of Heaven that we cannot be rewarded in Heaven for something we did not do on earth. And the things we learn in Heaven must be taught by someone who learned that subject while serving God on earth. Every spiritual subject must be learned first from Jesus Himself before we as humans can teach it. These things can be learned and taught both on earth and in Heaven.

So one day as I stood up to teach my class, I noticed Adam and Eve in the left rear section of the auditorium; and I wondered why they came to my class. I thought surely they must know more about the covenant companion concept than I do. The Spirit of God made known to me that just as Jesus on earth followed the ordinance of water baptism, so companions in Heaven must follow the procedure of attending a covenant companion class.

Nevertheless, I felt like the man who, as the story goes, was in Heaven describing the great flood of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, when someone told him that Noah was in his audience!

We go now to a spacious auditorium with large rooms on both sides. As we face the platform we see a large group of men and ladies in the room to the left. Bright angelic beings are arranging them so that men and ladies file into their seats alternately, a lady and a man, a lady and a man, etc., until all the seats are filled. Here now is the oration:

My companion and I greet you by the grace of God our heavenly Father, who has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places, through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom of Heaven. Welcome to this class, and to the knowledge of things which will make you worthy to join those who worship with exceeding joy in the Most Holy Place of God's presence.

Having sought the face of God and obeyed His Word, you are those who are called and chosen and faithful, and therefore privileged to attend this in-depth study on the relationship of Christ and His Bride the Church, the covenant companion concept, and the intimacies of Heaven.

Let's begin with some words of the apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 11:3-11,15:

"I would like you to realize
that Christ is the head of every man,
and a man is the head of a woman,
and God is the head of Christ.

A man should not pray or prophesy with anything on his head,
but a woman should have her head covered when praying or prophesying,

because to have her head uncovered is as shameful as having it shaved.

So if it is shameful for a woman to be shaved,
let her be covered.

A man should not have his head covered
because he is the image and glory of God,
but a woman is the glory of a man,
for Adam did not originate from a woman --
the woman was taken out of the man.
For man was not created for the woman's sake,
but the woman was created for the man;
therefore the woman's head should be covered
as a symbol of her authority among the angels.

However, in the Lord,
the man and the woman are not independent of each other..."
(vs. 15)

"A woman's long hair is a glory to her,
for her long hair is given to her for a covering."

We have in this passage the divine order of headship -- God, Christ, man, woman, angels. Among physical people on earth, this headship is not completely fulfilled. But in this City, everyone is spiritual and this divine order of headship is in full effect -- God, Christ, man, woman, angels. The man and woman are never independent of each other, but while their purpose on earth was physical, their purpose in Heaven is spiritual. While on earth they represented Christ and His Bride the Church, in Heaven men and women are the Bride of Christ. As Christ is in Heaven united spiritually to His Bride the Church, so the man and the woman are in Heaven united by spiritual union.

We are met here today to consider this spiritual union and the seven intimacies of eternal companions. Let's begin with the creation of Adam.

"And God said,
Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...
So God created man in His own image...
In the image of God created He him,
male and female created He them."
Genesis 1:26-27

Adam's body was made of dust, but Adam's life is in the Breath and Spirit of God. Adam's companion was a rib from his side, chosen, created and given by God. Eve did not come by the will of Adam, but by the will of God. Eve partook of, and shares the life of Adam as the Bride partakes of and shares the life of Christ.

Adam was willing to die to be with Eve because when she ate the forbidden fruit, he ate it, too. Jesus also died that His Bride might be with Him. But the fall of man was no accident in the plan of God, because God intended that mankind obtain the knowledge of good and evil in order to be more like Him.

"And the Lord God said,
Behold the man is become as one of Us
to know good and evil."
Genesis 3:22

From the very beginning God intended that men and women should be very much like Him, as He has said, 'in our image,' 'after our likeness,' 'as one of us.'

We live now either as mortals on earth, or as spirits in Heaven, but when Jesus completes His Bride on the resurrection day, we will all have glorified bodies like His own.

"The Lord Jesus Christ...
will change our body of humility,
and make it like His body of glory..."
Philippians 3:21

Then we will be complete -- spirit, soul and glorified body in the City of God. Then we will partake of the Life of the Spirit of God, and enjoy our place in the divine order of headship. Then the man and the woman will be companions by an eternal heavenly covenant and enjoy their companionship by seven spiritual intimacies.

INSIDE THE GATES OF HEAVEN

CHAPTER 18

SEVEN SPIRITUAL INTIMACIES

#1/ The first intimacy is the delight enjoyed by a spiritual soul as it dwells in a glorified body and senses the delights of this Celestial City. This is the intimacy of BEING. It will be fulfilled in your glorified body, after the resurrection.

"May your spirit and soul and body
be perfect and complete
at the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ."
1 Thessalonians 5:23

#2/ The second intimacy is God's Spirit united with your spirit so that you appear as one person. Of course, you would not be here without this experience, but after the resurrection you will also be one with God's Spirit in your glorified body. Because God's Spirit dwells in every person, and controls all activities in this eternal Home of the redeemed, He places His guidance so gently on your mind that you think it is your own desire. This is the intimacy of SPIRIT or of BAPTISM.

#3/ Intimacy number three is the intimacy of WINE. It is a love feast for partaking of God's Spirit as the New Wine of Heaven.

"You have kept the good wine until now."
John 2:10

#4/ Two illustrations will introduce intimacy number four. As you are now one with God's Spirit, and as Adam and Eve were originally together as one, so companions here can unite together, masculine and feminine as one person. After the resurrection your glorified bodies will be able to unite in the same way. This intimacy is necessary for worship in the Most Holy Place. It is called PERFECTION, an important and much needed intimacy in Heaven. In this intimacy we are called Sons of God.

God made Adam and Eve from one lump of clay (Gen.2:23). God met with His people at the mercy seat, and this mercy seat was watched over by two cherubim, both made from one piece of gold (Exo.37:7-8). Christ and His Bride the Church will become one (Eph.5:31-32).

A woman should not pray unless she is covered (1Cor.11:5-6), and a man should not appear before the Lord empty (Deu.16:16). In this intimacy of Perfection, both of these requirements are met; the man is filled, and the woman is covered, and the two as one are accepted to worship in God's

presence.

"In the Lord,
the man and the woman are not independent of each other."
1Co.11:11

#5/ These first four intimacies prepare you to minister in God's presence, because they produce an ecstasy so sublime that it cannot be contained. And since the expression of this ecstasy includes all your heart, soul, mind and strength, it is really worship and must be expressed to God. So intimacy number five is the intimacy of WORSHIP when united Spirit-filled companions in the Most Holy Place of Heaven, the very presence of God, lose themselves in the rapture of wonder, love and praise to their Heavenly Father!

"Now unto Him who is able to
keep you from falling
and to present you faultless
before the presence of His glory
with exceeding joy,
to the only wise God our Savior,
be glory and majesty,
dominion and power,
both now and forever."
Jude 24-25

#6/ After the worshipping saints have completed their expressions of love to God, they submit themselves completely to the control of the Holy Spirit, Who carries them up to the Throne where God breathes upon them. God breathed into Adam the Breath of Life. Jesus breathed on His disciples the Holy Spirit. God breathes on His saints in Heaven an exceeding great reward (everything at one time). This is the intimacy of RAPTURE.

"The Word of the Lord
came to Abram in a vision saying,
Fear not Abram,
I Am your Shield
and your exceeding great Reward."
Genesis 15:1

"O send out Thy Light and Thy Truth:
let them lead me,
let them bring me to Thy Holy Hill,
and to Thy Tabernacles,
Then will I go to the alter of God,
to God my exceeding Joy."
Psalm 43:3-4

#7/ The final intimacy is when companions become one in Christ and in God, the intimacy of DIVINE LIKENESS.

"At that day you will know
that I Am in My Father,
and you are in Me,
and I Am in you."
John 14:20

These are the seven intimacies between covenant companions in this eternal Paradise. And this

Paradise is far better than the Garden of Eden.

When you leave this room, please exit to your right. One more announcement and then you may rise and be dismissed. Your Divinely-ordained covenant companion is the lady to your right!

(End of class)

These companions now enter more completely into the fellowship of Heaven and into a higher bliss of worship in the Most Holy Place.

From here these companions will go to the instructor's City mansion or chamber, which is also located in this wall of the Temple. That will be our next stop after a brief introduction.

INSIDE THE GATES OF HEAVEN

CHAPTER 19

THE CITY MANSION

In the Holy Place we saw the crystal River, the Tree of Life and the streets of gold. We saw the country mansions, pleasant and delightful and not too different from earth. We also saw that the saints there are a lot like people on earth. But the mansions, beings, saints and clothing you are about to see will be very different. These saints live close to the bright Throne of God and they are dressed in light so bright that you can see them only if you are one of them. The saints who live in country mansions see the saints who live in this temple as very bright lights. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 15 that those who rise from the dead on resurrection day, or are changed in the twinkling of an eye, are as different from each other in glory and brightness as the sun, moon and stars are different from each other. So now if you really desire with all your heart and soul to be near God, come with me.

The first time I entered my City mansion chamber in the wall of the Temple, I knew not where I was. It seemed as though I was entering into a scene beyond the realm of human existence -- a scene containing objects of adornment in beauty far surpassing such familiar things as flowers, trees, clouds and rainbows. The Light in this ecstatic domain was so bright and powerful it was not stopped by my body and I had no shadow! I feared to go any further lest I be consumed by the piercing brightness of the Light. Three different times the Spirit of God tried to show me this hallowed place but my spirit was too weak. Finally, being strengthened by the Lord, I was taken into a scene difficult to describe.

Having nothing to compare, I shall begin my description with what I call a flower. It had a stem about two feet high which resembled a clear plastic drinking straw. This was topped by a sparkling red ruby two inches in diameter. From this red ruby center there extended three 'petals' fourteen inches long, made of solid shimmering diamond. These petals were one quarter of an inch diameter where they joined the ruby center and tapered with straight sides to a sharp needle point.

Then I noticed that everything was made of a substance like pure glass or crystal, and that each object reflected all the colors of the rainbow in a pattern all its own. Blended with these colors I heard music, and my attention was directed to a little brook of sparkling crystal water as the source of the music. As I started toward this musical water, I became conscious of a glorious rapture filling and thrilling my soul. I was blending with the surrounding atmosphere, and was in harmony with the music from the little brook. Looking through the water to the bottom of the brook, I discovered the source of the music. Precious gems were placed in symmetrical positions so that music was produced by the water flowing over them.

Suddenly I noticed two strange human beings as clear as glass, and I was very much startled by the presence of these 'other-world' beings. That they had not noticed me was a slight relief, so I gazed with wonder and amazement at these two strangely beautiful beings -- one masculine and one feminine. They were as smooth and transparent as clear glass, yet they appeared to reflect light like silver. They moved in unison like soldiers marching and were perfectly in place and at home in their surroundings.

Then they noticed me! And I suddenly felt as out of place as a pig in a parlor. I wanted to turn and run but the Holy Spirit, my Guide, made me face the sad fact that I was an unworthy inhabitant of this celestial abode in my present sin-marked body. But I know that someday I will have a glorified body like Jesus, and that this was a vision of my future state with my covenant companion in our chamber.

The word 'Tabernacle' (a name for God's House) means 'a clear shining home easily seen from a distance.' So also a chamber in the Most Holy Place of Heaven is a clear shining home easily seen from a distance. This chamber is about twelve feet high, 24 feet wide and 216 feet long. The garden we first visited is toward the back of the chamber. At the front of this chamber is a living room. The walls look like soft clouds with rainbow colors upon them with ever-changing and blending hues. There is a very large couch-like piece of furniture. It is bright white and looks like a big ball of cotton. It quickly and easily conforms to, or changes with, any sitting or reclining posture -- very comfortable.

The entire front wall is an open window. Through it we can see or enter into the Most Holy Place and its activities. This Most Holy Place is a round area about 300 miles across and about 1,000 miles high. The Throne of God and of Jesus is at the top west side, facing east. From this position the Lord can easily see all the City mansion chambers, because they adorn the face of the inside wall of the Temple. So also the saints in the chambers can easily see God on His Throne and Jesus at His right hand.

"And they will see His face,
and know His Name."
Revelation 22:4

The chambers are in rows or stories reaching two thirds of the way around the inside of the Temple wall from the left side of the Throne to the right side of the Throne. There are 144,000 chambers in one row and 288,000 rows (our video incorrectly says 144,000 rows). Our chamber is over 800 miles above the courtyard garden and toward the left side of the Throne.

In Heaven, distance does not make things look small. Although they are earth-miles away they seem to be magnified or enlarged as though spiritual eyes contained telescopes like the eye of an eagle. Isaiah the prophet saw this Most Holy Place. In chapter six, he said,

"I saw the Lord
sitting upon a Throne,
high and lifted up
and His glorious Light
came down and filled the Temple."
Isaiah 6:1

INSIDE THE GATES OF HEAVEN

CHAPTER 20

THE THRONE OF GOD AND OF THE LAMB

God on His Throne is the center of all things, and from God comes the Light of Life.

This Light makes the City of God appear brighter than the sun in the sky of earth; in fact, the day is coming soon when the City of God will appear in the sky of earth, and the brightness of this City will outshine the sun and the moon. (Isa.24:23)

The River of Life also begins at the Throne of God. This River is the Spirit of God flowing from the Throne, through each chamber in the Temple wall, then down into the fountains. This River of Life then continues in twelve spirals around the Temple out through the Holy Place to the eastern gate. From this gate of Heaven the River moves as the invisible Spirit of God to bless those on earth who will accept Him.

If we walk in the Light and in the Spirit on earth, we will walk in the Light and in the River in Heaven.

The Throne of God appears to rest on a large white-with-light oval structure about 100 miles wide, 50 miles front to back, and 25 miles high. But then again its size seems to vary greatly. It is difficult to describe; you will have to see it for yourself.

In front of the Throne is a large sapphire blue oval area called the sea of glass, and on the other side of the Sea of Glass from the Throne is the Ark of God, or Mercy Seat, and the Altar of Incense. (The prayers of saints are called 'incense.' Rev.5:8.) When the apostle John was in this Most Holy Place, he saw souls of martyrs under the Altar of Incense, praying to God to hasten judgment upon the earth. (Rev.6:9-10) The Sea of Glass before the Throne is paved with blue sapphire gems. Its oval shape is about 150 by 200 miles. It is like a moveable platform; it disappears when not needed and its size is adjustable.

At appointed times there are various methods of worship in the space below where the Sea of Glass sometimes appears. But I find it difficult to describe these things because of sacred secrets that some earth dwellers, who have not seen invisible things, may not understand. However, I would like to describe worship activity for you as it takes place in the large area of the Most Holy Place before God's Throne. This first worship activity is called 'Cup of Love.'

Thousands of companion saints gather into this space before the Lord on His Throne, dressed in garments of very bright white Light. These garments are decorated with sparkling jewels in the five major colors of Heaven: gold, blue, purple, red, and green. The saints place themselves in a round cup-like formation, like a perfectly-shaped drinking glass, very artistic and beautiful. This symbolizes a vessel of honor and cup of love to Jesus who drank the bitter cup of death for these very saints who are now expressing their love to Him. Then the cup begins to turn slowly. This is the worship of love and is very delightful to God and to Jesus and to all who in this arena behold.

"He shall see of the travail of His soul,
and shall be satisfied."
Isaiah 53:11

At another time I was the only one in the great arena of space before the Throne of God. The Sea of Glass was removed and I was raptured with wonder, love, and praise. In my ecstasy, I was waving my arms and dancing and spinning around, and as I did so, the five colors of Heaven were coming

from the five fingers of each of my hands. I was not conscious of writing anything, but the trails of color remained in space as a love letter to God even after I finished my worship. That is when I learned about the five major colors of Heaven.

INSIDE THE GATES OF HEAVEN

CHAPTER 21

THE FACE OF GOD

People have a tendency to be fearful of God because of their failures. Even some devoted saints are so afraid of God they do not seek His presence. But God does not see your failures. He sees a beloved child within the righteousness of Jesus. And God your Heavenly Father would love to have you come near to Him. I stood on the Sea of Glass with a multitude of saints all arranged in orderly fashion as Jesus presented us to God the Father. God is not an old man with hollow cheeks and long white beard, whose delight is to punish sinners. No. He loves those who seek to do His will, even though we sometimes fail; and He is drawing us to Himself by the circumstances of life. Most people just don't seek God until things get bad, so sometimes God lets things get bad so we will seek Him. If we seek Him when things go well, then He will make things go well for us so we seek Him more. To stand on the Sea of Glass and look into the face of God is to look into the face of the One who loves you and delights to see YOU.

"Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they shall see God."

Matthew 5:8

"Anyone who will confess Me before men,
that person I will also confess before My Father in Heaven."

Matthew 10:32

"As the Bridegroom rejoices over his bride,
so will your God rejoice over you."

Isaiah 62:5

You will never be the same after this experience. Look forward to that day with confidence.

When God sits on His Throne before a gathering of saints, He makes Himself big enough so that all may easily see Him. But when His is giving a personal interview, He appears to be, if He were standing, only twelve to eighteen feet tall. And His Throne also appears to change in size.

One day Jesus wanted to present me to His Father in Heaven. Now I knew from previous experiences that Jesus refuses to let me think that I am unworthy, because He has told us to pray that we should be considered worthy to stand with Him. (Luke 21:36) So although I was a little afraid, I did want to go with Jesus to see God the Father.

Jesus said to His Father, "This friend of Mine has been wanting to see You," -- and I looked into the face of Love! My anxiety vanished. His expression was so loving and kind that I lost all my fear, and my soul was calm. His love made me feel free, and able to love Him in return. He gave me the impression that He waited from eternity just to see me face to face. He looked like a handsome young man and Light was shining from His face. He completely ignored the fact that I am only a creature, and His manner of speech made me feel like a long-time good friend of His. Being in His presence has not only changed my idea of Him but has also changed me -- forever!

Seek His presence. Seek His face. He loves YOU.

"When You said,
Seek My face,
My heart said to You,
Your face, Lord, will I seek."
Psalm 27:8

Finally, let me encourage you to be a friend of Jesus. Obey the Holy Spirit and seek the face of God. I have given my testimony in order that you may be among those of whom the Bible says:

"And they shall see His face
and know His name."
Revelation 22:4

One day recently as I approached the Sea of Glass before the Throne, there were many patriarchs and prophets and righteous men already gathered there to pray and to worship God on His Throne. As it says in Job 1:6,

"The sons of God
came to present themselves
before the Lord."

I learned that those who on earth were concerned about the souls of men, are in Heaven still concerned about things on earth. I heard the souls of martyrs under the altar and their pleading cry, "Until when, O Lord will You delay Your vengeance on the earth dwellers who shed our blood?" Their earnestness almost caused me to weep.

I spent seven days there joining the prayer and praise to God. I learned that God is consulting with His concerned servants both in Heaven and on earth, informing them that Jesus will soon appear, and the time is short.

INSIDE THE GATES OF HEAVEN

CHAPTER 22

BRIGHT CLOUDS

In order to help me understand what I was seeing in Heaven, sometimes God would perform something special for me on earth.

One Sunday morning in Florida, my family and I were sitting in church when I noticed a strange lighting effect. I looked out the window and saw a beautiful sight. The sky was covered with bright clouds lighted by the morning sun with a golden color. This produced bright golden light shining from all parts of the sky. The tree leaves were gold colored; the ground and the buildings and the bushes were all gold colored; and there were no shadows under the trees! I told my family that there are scenes like this in the Holy Place of Heaven.

One Sunday in May, as we were outside preparing for a singing engagement that evening, my daughter Joy ran excitedly out of the house and said,

"What is that strange cloud up there?"

I looked up and saw a large bright cloud, oval shaped like the Sea of Glass before God's Throne. Large clouds are usually bright around the edge and dark in the center. This cloud was extremely and evenly bright all over its surface. Close to the cloud and completely surrounding it, was a very thin black line like you see at the edge of a clear bubble where the light rays are bent together.

I said, "There is something supernatural about that cloud."

The cloud retained its brightness as it became smaller and smaller and in about fifteen minutes disappeared from sight. Immediately following this, in another part of the sky, we saw a five-minute display as two short streaks of light formed from top to bottom, then other streaks appeared forming rungs in a ladder in the sky and then all vanished.

Pondering all this, I wondered what the Bible said about bright clouds, and then I remembered the transfiguration in Mat.17:2-5, where Jesus gave to three of His disciples a demonstration of His coming in His Kingdom. His face shone as bright as the sun, and His clothing shone like white light, and a BRIGHT CLOUD overshadowed them.

I think the meaning of all this is that Jesus is soon coming in His Kingdom, the City of Heaven and He will shine like the sun in the sky. (Mat.13:43)

Will you be ready to live in that beautiful City? Jesus died on the cross that you may live forever. He shed blood can wash the sins from your soul. Pray this prayer with me:

Jesus take my sins away,
Help me to pray,
Help me to read the Bible,
Help me to be ready when You return,
I ask this in Your Name, Jesus.
Thank You, Lord, for saving my soul!

Now read your Bible and ask the Lord to help you understand it. Ask the Lord to help you in your daily life, and thank Him for all He does for you.