

**Kingdom of Heaven**  
**Part Two**  
(Expanded Consideration)

**Promise**

There may be some doubt, or even anxiety, about whether or not we have a place that is prepared for us in the Kingdom of Heaven. Well, to begin to dispel that doubt, please read these words of the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 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. 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.*

(John 14:1-3)

This is the introduction of the possibility of residence therein. However, later on in Scripture, there is a dampener on any thought of assuming that our residence must be in the Kingdom of Heaven. The apostle Paul seems to indicate that there might be some question about its availability, as he writes the phrase, "*Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect*". This is the thought of the apostle Paul that surrounds that phrase.

*Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.*

*Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.*

*Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.*

*Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*

(Philippians 3:4-14)

Fear not, little ones; this is not a reference to the residency that is obtained by those who are so favored by God to reside with Him. This is a matter of whether we can achieve the kind of devotion to service and the mind of righteousness that will bring us to a place of rest in the LORD. The devotion to service and the mind of righteousness are needed now as we travel the journey here, so that we will have a peace that is like unto the peace that was expressed by the apostle Paul.

*For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.*

(2 Timothy 4:6-8)

There might also be some concern about the preceding expression in Philippians 3:4-14, above: *might attain unto the resurrection of the dead*. This is a little more complex, but, generally, it refers to the event that is described in the Scripture that is included below.

*But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.*

*For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

*Wherefore comfort one another with these words.*

(1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

This event is the one that precedes the transfer of control to the Lord Jesus Christ. It is described in the following Scripture.

*And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.*

(Revelation 20:12-13)

The resurrection is a matter that we will not explore further, here. But on the matter of moving toward perfection in the service of the LORD; that is a process of surrender that we will present to you. First, let's look at the mind of righteousness that delivers us to that place.

*If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.*

*Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*

*Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

(Philippians 2:1-11)

Next, let's hear from the Lord Jesus Christ as to what this place of which Paul is speaking consists.

*These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.*

*And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*

(John 17:1-3)

The life that is eternal is the life that has absorbed the wisdom of the LORD into its soul. This is the eternal knowledge that never changes and that can never be erased. If you need a reason for obtaining the wisdom of the LORD, it was presented to us in the early days of the nation of Israel by the servant of the LORD, king Solomon. It is in the final part of his response to the LORD. We include his total journey to wisdom here, in order to give you a sense of the fact that God molds ordinary humans into extraordinary servants by the injection of His wisdom.

*And Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of David his father: only he sacrificed and burnt incense in high places. And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there; for that was the great high place: a thousand burnt offerings did Solomon offer upon that altar.*

*In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee.*

*And Solomon said, Thou hast showed unto thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked before thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee; and thou hast kept for him this great kindness, that thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day. And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in. And thy servant is in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude.*

*Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?*

(1 Kings 3:3-9)

Solomon begins this journey at the same place that we all start, as he says, "*I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in*". To move from that point, Solomon made the request that we all should make, "*Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart*". In that request for *an understanding heart*, it was the sum total of the thing for which Solomon asked, but it was only a portion of the things that the king needed. The LORD filled in the blanks in king Solomon's request.

*And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing. And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to*

*discern judgment; Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee.*

*And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour: so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days. And if thou wilt walk in my ways, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as thy father David did walk, then I will lengthen thy days.*

(1 Kings 3:10-14)

The word, wisdom, summarizes what we need for eternal life. However, this word has been subjected to a transformation. Now the word, wisdom, is often equated with the word, intellect: they are not the same. As you read, in the LORD'S blessing to Solomon, He endowed him with both *a wise and an understanding heart*. Understanding is intellect: wisdom stands strong by itself. To give a more granular understanding of the wisdom of the LORD that is our eternal life, let's back up in time a little. If we go back a little further in time, to the time of Moses; we have the definitive statement of what we need to acquire in order to place us in the way of eternal life. The words of understanding came through Moses, to the children of Israel.

*Now therefore hearken, O Israel, unto the statutes and unto the judgments, which I teach you, for to do them, that ye may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers giveth you. Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.*

*Your eyes have seen what the LORD did because of Baalpeor: for all the men that followed Baalpeor, the LORD thy God hath destroyed them from among you. But ye that did cleave unto the LORD your God are alive every one of you this day.*

*Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the LORD my God commanded me, that ye should do so in the land whither ye go to possess it. Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.*

*For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the LORD our God is in all things that we call upon him for? And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day?*

(Deuteronomy 4:1-8)

But, even though Moses knew this, still Moses did die, physically; as Scripture tells us.

*And Moses went up from the plains of Moab unto the mountain of Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, that is over against Jericho. And the LORD showed him all the land of Gilead, unto Dan, And all Naphtali, and the land of Ephraim, and Manasseh, and all the land of Judah, unto the utmost sea, And the south, and the plain of the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees, unto Zoar. And the LORD said unto him, This is the land which I swear unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, saying, I will give it unto thy seed: I have caused thee to see it with thine eyes, but thou shalt not go over thither.*

*So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD. And he buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, over against Bethpeor: but no man knoweth of his sepulchre unto this day.*

(Deuteronomy 34:1-6)

There might be some questioning thoughts about whether the words that Moses expressed to the children of Israel are enough preparation for the Kingdom of Heaven. In order to analyze this further, we must refer you back to the reference to Elijah. In the case of Elijah, we specifically read that he was provided with transportation to the Heaven of God. No, the chariots did not stop in the middle of the Milky Way galaxy, or in any other galaxy. The chariots originated from, and they returned to, the Kingdom of Heaven. We mention this fact of spirituality because there was a time when Elijah reappeared from his place of residence in the Kingdom of Heaven. At that time, Moses also appeared with Elijah. Here is the text of that meeting.

*And after six days Jesus taketh with him Peter, and James, and John, and leadeth them up into an high mountain apart by themselves: and he was transfigured before them. And his raiment became shining, exceeding white as snow; so as no fuller on earth can white them. And there appeared unto them Elias with Moses: and they were talking with Jesus.*

*And Peter answered and said to Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias.*

*For he wist not what to say; for they were sore afraid.*

*And there was a cloud that overshadowed them: and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him.*

*And suddenly, when they had looked round about, they saw no man any*

*more, save Jesus only with themselves.*

(Mark 9:2-8)

It would seem reasonable to think that the same type of transport that delivered Elijah, also delivered Moses; and, thus, that the two transferences were of the same place. Therefore, we can say that Moses' soul, too, was transported to Heaven; as was Elijah's. The promise is secure: there are some of us who will be transported to the Kingdom of Heaven. However, this could also mean that there are some of us who will not be transported to the Kingdom of Heaven.

Now, don't become anxious about that other place, known as Hell. The place of Hell and the state of death have both been eliminated from the equation of our soul's final disposition. This elimination was done during the generation of Jesus Christ.

*The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to show unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw. Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.*

(Revelation 1:1-3)

Specifically, the elimination of Hell occurred as follows:

*And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*  
(Revelation 20:14)

Hell is history, and no soul will ever reside there again.

Now, in addition to the Kingdom of Heaven, there is another place of residence that is available to the regenerated souls of the worlds. This place is called, *new Jerusalem*. This place, too, resides in the same reality space as our current physical heaven and earth.

*Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.*

*He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.*

(Revelation 3:11-13)

*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. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*

(Revelation 21:1-2)

*Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.*

(Revelation 22:14)

The new Jerusalem also has a neighborhood, which in Old Testament terms we might say that it is a suburb. In the neighborhood of the new Jerusalem are the other souls.

*For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.*

(Revelation 22:15)

The new Jerusalem and its suburb are in the spiritual plane of existence. The Lord Jesus Christ gave us a brief introduction to this other plane. The Lord Jesus Christ also gave us an introduction to the impending arrival of this other plane, in our sphere of spiritual awareness, in his day.

*Then Pilate entered into the judgment hall again, and called Jesus, and said unto him, Art thou the King of the Jews?*

*Jesus answered him, Sayest thou this thing of thyself, or did others tell it thee of me?*

*Pilate answered, Am I a Jew? Thine own nation and the chief priests have delivered thee unto me: what hast thou done?*

*Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.*

(John 18:33-36)

Considering these facts of faith, we say that there is no need to fear that you will be losing anything if you are not physically called to reside in the Kingdom of Heaven. The same great benefit, of having the presence of God in our midst, is available in both places. The Kingdom of Heaven seems to be more of an administrative place for controlling reality, than is the new Jerusalem. This should cause none of us any discomfort, since we are all given tasks according to the calling of God, and according to the grace with which He has bestowed us.

*For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among*

*you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.*

*Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that showeth mercy, with cheerfulness.*

(Romans 12:3-8)

This is all a part of the design of the LORD, most definitely. This is the design that has been active from before the first word of the book of Genesis. It is expressed in the latter day in the following Scripture.

*Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.*

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.*

(Ephesians 1:1-12)

Yes, there are some who will be called to another plane of service. These are the ones that are described in the Scripture in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, which was referenced

above. It is the Scripture reference that begins as follows: *But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.*

Please understand that the participation in suffering is not a calling for everyone. We say this because there are some people who think that they can force God's blessings to come to them by designing a life of suffering. The life of suffering that exalts the LORD is not subject to our design. There is a group of people for which suffering, and even death, were the portions of their service. These ones were those who were chosen to be the trailblazers for the way of righteousness. Just as the Lord Jesus Christ had his, voice of one crying in the wilderness; so, too, did, and does, the way of righteousness have its voices of many crying in the wilderness of conversion of mankind to righteousness. *The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to show unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass, refers to a group of them.*

*And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?*

*And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.*

(Revelation 6:9-11)

I refer to it as a, voice of one crying in the wilderness, because there are no formulas that can prescribe what the outcome of their cries will be. There is, though, a definite promise as to what the flowering of their life will be.

*And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.*

*What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?*

*Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh*

*intercession for us.*

(Romans 8:28-34)

There is also a specific statement of the Lord Jesus Christ, in which the portioning of reality is presented. Note that in this blessed statement, not every category of blessed human will be called to, what I believe to be, the rigors of being in the pure presence of the LORD God in the Kingdom of Heaven. Even so, all the blessed humans are given a bountiful portion of the grace of God, and a definite showering of the glory of God through their lives.

*And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,*

*Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.*

*Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.*

*Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.*

*Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.*

*Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.*

*Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.*

*Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.*

(Matthew 5:1-12)

The promise of a calling to the Kingdom of Heaven, for the ones who are so equipped, is a real calling; it is not a necessary place of residence for all mankind, though. We must honor the words of the Lord Jesus Christ, which he gave to us as he explained the important position in which we need to be. It is a simple position of which Jesus spoke. It does not even involve any compensation on our part for the honor of being included; that is, no compensation other than that which is described by the apostle Paul.

*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

(Romans 12:1-2)

