

ON EARTH AS IN HEAVEN

HERE AS IN HEAVEN: JESUS BROUGHT HEAVEN

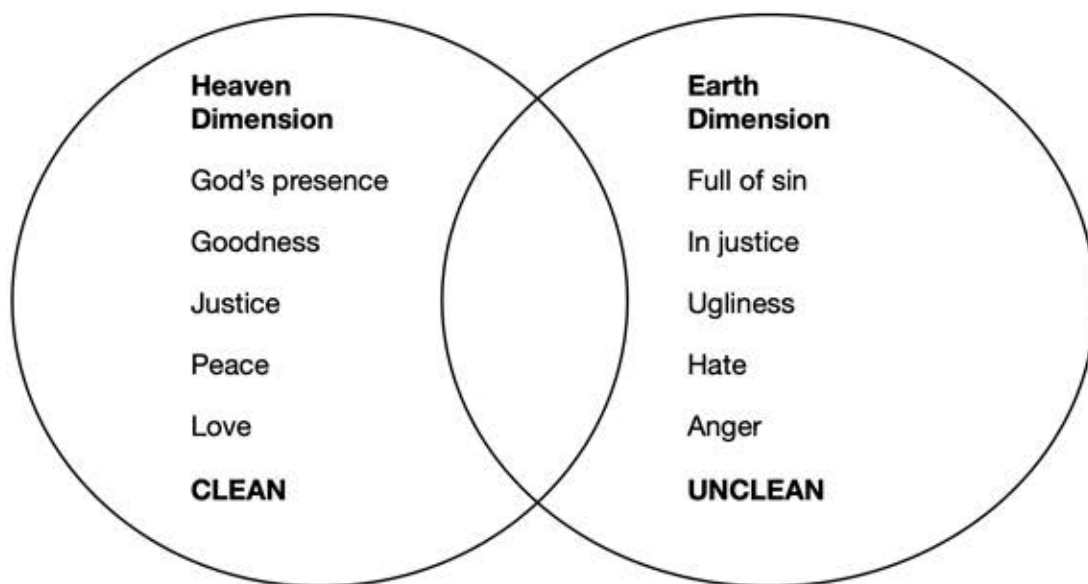
Today our message is entitled “*Jesus Brought Heaven.*” Jesus brought heaven where? He brought Heaven to earth. Turn to your neighbor and say, “Jesus brought heaven to earth.”

OG DISCUSSION QUESTION: *Do you believe heaven is here on earth? What evidence to you have that Heaven is here now? How can you be a witness that Heaven is here now? In what ways can we see more of heaven on earth?*

This morning you may be wondering, “How is that possible?” When I look around this earth, I don’t feel like I see much heaven. Can I get an amen? Others of you may feel like you see what could be best described as pockets of heaven here on earth, Amen. That might be someone receiving healing or the manifestation of God’s glorious presence that causes a person to fall to their knees like we did corporately last week. Words can’t really explain what we experienced, but we know that it was tangible and real. But how is it possible?

Well, last week we learned that Heaven was not a particular place, but rather, a person. That person, of course, is Jesus. Therefore, when Jesus was born to Mary and Joseph, he brought heaven with him. For the remainder of this morning we will be learning how he did this and more importantly why this is so significant and amazing for you and I.

Bible Project Reference: Heaven and Earth



- The Union of Heaven and Earth is what the whole bible narrative is all about. Remember, God is redeeming and restoring what was lost from the Garden of Eden

- What makes them intersect - before animal sacrifices given at the tabernacle

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A tabernacle, Hebrew Mishkan, was a portable sanctuary (basically a tent) Moses was instructed to build as a place of worship for the Hebrew tribes during the period when they were wandering around in the wilderness making their way to the promise land.

The tabernacle is first mentioned in Exodus 25 and is also referred to as a tent of meeting - to host the presence of the Lord. The temple in Jewish life refers to the temple built in Jerusalem (by Solomon) that was the central place of worship. Both refer to a structure where the people of God would go to experience God's presence and offer sacrifices.

Within the tabernacle was a place called the Most Holy Place also known as the Holy of Holies. Here is where they kept the Ark of the Covenant which represented the presence of God on earth for the Israelites. So, wherever the ark of the Covenant was there the presence of God was as well. However, only the High Priest could enter into the most holy place and he only did this once a year. Moses, would enter that place and receive instruction from the Lord. We see this in

Exodus 25:22 (NLT)

"I will meet with you there and talk to you from above the atonement cover between the gold cherubim that hover over the Ark of the Covenant. From there I will give you my commands for the people of Israel."

I'm not going to go into all the details of the tabernacle, but here is picture and I would encourage you to read P. Mike's book, *Lighting in a Bottle* if you haven't already read it.

What we need to understand for this morning's message is before Jesus came to earth, the people of God had to go to the tabernacle to sacrifice animals in order to become clean because you could not draw near to the Lord when you were unclean. The difficult thing about this, was almost everything could make you unclean. Again, I'm not going to go into the details this morning. You can read about the Sacrificial System the Lord gave to His people in Leviticus chapter 1-10.

What I will tell you, is after learning what they had to do for the forgiveness of sins, you will want to jump up, do a Hallelujah dance and praise God because we no longer have to do all of that thanks to Jesus! Why? Because Jesus is both the tabernacle and the sacrifice - Hallelujah!

John 1: The Word Became Flesh (NIV)

¹ *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

¹⁴ *"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth,"*

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The word for 'dwelling' is, σκηνώω (skēnōō) It means to tent or encamp; to reside (as God did in the Tabernacle of old).

In the same way that God dwelt among His people in the tabernacle, He now dwelt among His people in Jesus.

Jesus became flesh and that physical body became a living temple or portable hotspot for the Presence of God. He showed us what it looks like to temple God's Spirit and bring heaven to a broken world.

What was so interesting about Jesus was he didn't need to stay in the clean spaces. He went everywhere it was unclean and made it clean.

So when Jesus walked the earth He gave people the opportunity to be saved, healed, and become clean not because of what they would have to do, but because of who HE was and what HE would do.

Three flask salvation illustration (Jesus, sin, and you)

All he required is for a person to repent and turn to Him. From the beginning of Jesus' ministry his central message to all was 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near'" (Mathew 4:17 NIV).

Once we are saved, the Kingdom of Heaven resides within each of us and we now temple the Presence of God.

OG DISCUSSION QUESTION: *How does the Three flask illustration of salvation encourage you? What should our response to what Jesus does for us be? In what ways can we express our gratefulness for Jesus? In what ways do you feel like you carry the Kingdom of Heaven within? In what ways do you feel like you DON'T carry the Kingdom of Heaven within?*

Jesus death, resurrection, and ascension was not only significant for our salvation and the forgiveness of sin, but was also apart of God's plan to usher the Kingdom of heaven here on earth and bring the two dimensions together as one - God's Kingdom with a New Humanity. But how is that possible? Through the Holy Spirit.

Jesus had to depart from this earth so that the Holy Spirit could be given to His people.

Luke 24:50-52 (NIV) The Ascension of Jesus

⁵⁰ "When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵² Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy."

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OG DISCUSSION QUESTION: *Why was it important for Jesus to return to heaven and send the Holy Spirit. What would have happened if he didn't send us the Holy Spirit? In what ways is the Holy Spirit Helping you to usher Heaven here on earth?*

When Jesus walked the earth as a man; everywhere He went was a clean space or hot spot for heaven. Miracles were a norm. People were being healed and set free. But when he departed from that place, guess what, heaven went with him because he was the living tabernacle. Although his disciples could experience heaven while they were with him, He wanted THEM to temple heaven's reality and, like him, release heaven wherever they walked. Jesus was all about multiplication! God's answer to this multiplication problem was HIS SPIRIT - Holy Spirit!

John 14:15-20 (NLT) *Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit*

¹⁵ "If you love me, obey my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. ¹⁷ He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you. ¹⁸ No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you. ¹⁹ Soon the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Since I live, you also will live. ²⁰ When I am raised to life again, you will know that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you."

Jesus us invites us to become multipliers of the Kingdom of God by filling us with His presence by sending His Spirit the Holy Spirit to live on the inside of us so that we, too, can be living tabernacles - a hot spot for heaven here on earth.

2 Corinthians 4:7(NLT)

"We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves."

God no longer requires animal sacrifices because Jesus was the perfect lamb sacrificed on our behalf. However, what we do offer him is a broken and contrite heart for that light to shine.

Psalms 51:17 (NIV)

"My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise..."

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I wanted to understand what a broken and contrite heart was and found this description online:

A contrite heart or spirit is when a person's inner man or will has been broken so they no longer run after the things they want, but surrender to the things that God wants. A broken heart or will says I will no longer do this my way or on my terms but I will surrender to your ways. This type of heart, that is fully surrendered to God, he will never turn away.

(<https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/topical-studies/how-to-seek-god-with-a-broken-and-contrite-heart.html>)

What God wants is for us to so deeply consumed with the desire to be cleansed from sin that our hearts ache, and feel broken to the degree that we yearn to feel at peace with our Father in Heaven. When we are at that place, then God does not turn away. He draws near to that kind of person, forgives them and fills them with His very presence.

Resources:

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/heaven-and-earth/>

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/new-humanity/>