

Again, the question is asked: "Can we accept this Scripture to mean that this is a physical place with the tree of life bearing twelve manner of fruits?" I answer your question by asking: "Do you know of any man with the proper authority to question the straight, plain teaching of this Book?"

Here we have walls, foundations, river, tree and fruit. It would be impossible to spiritualize this message without breaking completely the meaning of Heaven to God's children. God is using terminology that can not be denied.

2. Elements of Home, Streets, Nations and a Book

You will notice it speaks of home, streets, government and worship. John 14:1-4 says, "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. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know."

Here homes are mentioned. Streets are paved with gold as transparent glass. Rev. 4:2 tells us we have a throne. Rev. 5:9 says, "And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou was slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation." Rev. 5:10 says it is a kingdom of priests and they shall reign over the earth.

With all of these descriptions--not just confined to the Book of Revelation, but to other accounts of the scriptures--Heaven must be a physical place. It might also be interesting to note that the Lord Jesus in Luke 24:39 said, "Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself; handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have." In verse 41, when they still could not believe, He gives further evidence that Heaven is a physical place. Verses 42 and 43 say, "And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb And he took it, and did eat before them."

The average Christian in America today has never stopped to think that the Son of God Himself ate broiled fish and honeycomb after His resurrection. To help you understand more fully that Heaven is a physical place, I. John 3:2 the Apostle tells us that saved people will be like the Lord Jesus Christ in the new world.

With such graphic descriptions of Heaven as a place constructed out of materials so fantastic in value that man can not begin to comprehend its worth, it is enough to excite the imagination and heart of every man and cause him to want to see that place.

II. HEAVEN IS MORE THAN A PHYSICAL PLACE: IT IS A STATE OF MIND

When I speak of Heaven as being a state of mind, I must define the meaning of this statement that you might fully understand its value.

God says there will be no tears in Heaven. (Rev. 21:4 Can you imagine a place where there will be no more tears? Think of all the tears that have been shed since that dark, tragic night when Cain slew his brother Abel until this present hour with hundreds of wars having been fought. With millions of young men kissing sweethearts, wives, and mothers goodbye, never to return again, surely God is not misleading us when He tells us that Heaven is a place of no more tears, with the mind completely at rest. The anxieties and frustrations of this life will be over.