



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2012 Zapping-you Whenever Thoughts Flow

What Will We Be Doing In Heaven?



est inference is the way Israel runs things here on earth during the Millennium. The following is A.E. Knoch from *Unsearchable Riches*, Volume 21:

The government of the nation of Israel in the future inhabited earth will be in the hands of the apostles, which explains in part why there must be just twelve, one for each tribe. Concerning this, the Lord Jesus made prophetic promise to them in the closing days of His earthly ministry, saying:

“Verily, I am saying to you that you, who follow Me, in the renascence, whenever the Son of Mankind should be sitting on His glorious throne, you, also, shall be seated on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel” (Matthew 19:28).

Just as twelve is the number of government and the kingdom, and twelve apostles are chosen to rule the twelve tribes of Israel, there are also twelve times twelve thousand—144,000 sealed out of every tribe of the sons of Israel, Revelation 7:4—for kingdom administrators, who will have jurisdiction over the nations of the earth in that day, shepherding them with an iron club (Revelation 12:5).

As there will be divinely-orchestrated government on earth, thus also in heaven.

Notice the hierarchy. Jesus is the High Priest of the New Order in Jerusalem, but He delegates duties to the twelve disciples. King David must be in this picture, and I suspect he’s administrating the Kingdom in the stead of Christ, in Christ’s name, whenever His Majesty travels abroad. Think of a modern office structure: The CEO leaves town and an acting administrator steps in, carrying the weight and authority of the head man, administrating

What exactly will we be doing among the celestials? There is precious little information about this in the very place we’d expect to find detail: Scripture. This used to upset me a great deal. Now, it merely angers me regularly. 1) We finally got a guy up there (Paul) to have a peek at our destiny, 2) he goes to the third heaven and sees things so mind-blastingly stupendous that, upon his return, he needs a thorn in the flesh to humble him, and then 3) he says (I’m paraphrasing him), “Well, I’d like to tell you about it, but God won’t let me. Sorry.” (2 Corinthians 12:4.)

Thanks, Paul.

We are left to assemble inferences. Perhaps the great-

in his absence, with his blessing.

Beneath Christ, beneath David, and beneath the twelve, are the 144,000. These are the celibates out of Israel who have come through the Tribulation to administer the kingdom, taking its edicts to the far reaches of the earth, where nations are stubborn and require the iron club—or at least a good shake of it. One might call the 144,000 the ambassadors of the Kingdom; they represent the kingdom in the outposts. Other than carrying a big stick, they are quite friendly. Yet I would not cross them.

From earth to heaven

Apply this now to the celestial realm. We know from Ephesians, chapter 6, that sovereignties, authorities, and world-mights of wickedness populate this sphere. I equate these heavenly tribes with the Millennial nations at the four corners of Earth, forced to acknowledge Jerusalem's political and priestly sway. (It is among these nations that Satan stirs a rebellion as soon as he's loosed from his prison, to close out the 1,000 years.)

The difference between our work in the heavenlies and Israel's on earth is that we've no indication celestial obedience requires baseball bats. I'm not discounting it, there's just no indication. One passage tending against the "big stick" scenario, would be Ephesians 2:6-7—

[He] rouses us together and seats us together among the celestials, in Christ Jesus, that, in the oncoming eons, He should be displaying the transcendent riches of His grace in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

He seats us *among* the celestials. I have read this passage for years, but "among" jumps at me in a new way. I believe it speaks of a company of vivified, body-of-Christ saints dispatched to far-off celestial corners, removed—in space—from heaven's headquarters (namely, the throne of God), to live and serve *among* spirit beings. Here, *among* the celestials, these delegates impress God's grace upon that populace. Why assign this task to former earthlings? Through whom much grace is given, much is displayed.

The throne

Make no mistake—there is a throne of God. Not a literal throne, but a seat of power; a headquarters.

As Jerusalem is the center of the earth, so also exists a center of celestial rule. Is it a real city? Yes. Real bodies require real cities. Our changed bodies will be as real as the



hands attached to our wrists. "Spiritual" does not preclude "corporeal." And neither does a spiritual headquarters—a capital—preclude a seen, felt, occupied metropolis. Again, my precedent is earth: "On earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10). Take what appears upon earth, and magnify its magnificence until your head spins.

Does Christ occupy the celestial city? He does. *But I thought He was on earth.* He can be either place, just not simultaneously. On earth, in His absence, David represents Him. *But when King Christ is in Jerusalem, who represents Him in heaven?* It remains to be seen. I believe it will be Paul. I believe Paul to be the David of celestial rule. He will be a sun (1 Corinthians 15:41), while the rest of us will be stars of varying luminance.

Who is with Christ in celestial glory, at the right hand of God? Members of the body of Christ are, of course. *But I thought you said members of that body sit among the celestials, far from the center of rule?*

Not all. Some will live and reign at the Center. Just as twelve apostles serve Jerusalem, so will a select contingent of body saints attend God's throne. Suffering for the cause of Christ will have brought them here.

"If we are enduring, we shall be reigning together also" (2 Timothy 2:12).

"For to you it is graciously granted, for Christ's sake, not only to be believing on Him, but to be suffering for His sake also" (Philippians 1:29).

Reigning? Administrating? Serving in His stead? To whom much is given, much is expected.

And much is delivered. ■