

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

On May 2, 2012, we received the following inquiry:

“As I understand it, the angels see Jehovah God when they gather in front of him, read the Job book. So when Jesus comes, he will blow the trumpet and I will be transformed in an instant in a moment. I become a spirit creature, read Matthew 24. I go straight to heaven and get to meet Jehovah God, my father. I have understood it wrong?”

To answer your question directly, yes, dear brother, based on everything we have been privileged to learn, we believe your understanding is wrong. First, the book of Job does not mention the presence of recently resurrected men standing before the Father. This account refers to a time in the far distant past, long before Christ invited us to follow him. The ‘sons of God’ referred to in Job are indeed spirit beings, but they are a different order of sons than are the sons of men. So it does not provide instruction as to your question. Second, we have read the 24th chapter of Matthew several times and nowhere in that chapter do we see anything telling us that we instantly become spirit creatures and are immediately led to the Father. If we have missed something in that chapter, please write us again and point out what you are referring to.

In the meantime, we will respond to the rest of your question. We agree that when the time comes for you to be released from the body, you will be transformed into another body – an incorruptible body, according to *1 Corinthians 15:52*. But that is not a spirit body. There is a great difference between the two. The incorruptible body we will be given at that time is similar to the one Jesus had after his resurrection. If you read carefully the scriptural references to his appearances after his resurrection, you will note that each time, he appeared a little different. He was going through the transformations “from glory to glory.” (*2 Corinthians 3:18*) When he completed his glorification, he attained a spirit body and was no longer visible. As a perfect man, Jesus translated rather quickly – 40 days. Our own individual transformations will take much, much longer.

Think about it. What transformative power do you suppose human death has? Do you believe that merely exiting the physical body transforms you into a perfected spirit qualified to stand in the very presence of the greatest personality in the universe? Unless and until we have mastered our personalities in the perfection of love as did Jesus Christ, and ‘become perfect as our Heavenly Father is perfect’ (*Matthew 5:48*), we will not be granted that audience. I doubt that any of us can say we have achieved that level of personality perfection.

But this is not a negative. In the many abodes of the Father’s house (*John 14:2*), we will have the opportunity to correct all of our personality flaws and continue to grow in spiritual stature. In addition to perfecting our personalities, there will be many more things to do and learn. Do you suppose the language spoken in the heavens is English? Do you not understand that there are hierarchies and protocols in the heavens that we will need to understand before we can be a part of them? Do you not know that we will be exposed to new types of spirit beings,

different types of heavenly places, unimagined visuals, and heretofore incomprehensible concepts and ideas?

“But just as it is written: “Eye has not seen and ear has not heard, neither have there been conceived in the heart of man the things that God has prepared for those who love him.” – *1 Corinthians 2:9*

Brother, do not shortchange and underestimate the vastness of the Father and his universe by relying on the elementary doctrines given to lowly man in his most imperfect state. The problem lies in mankind’s general lack of appreciation for the sophistication and complexity of the heavens, and the grandeur of the Father. Jesus understood that most of us are not capable of comprehending spiritual things, so there were many things he could not explain in detail.

““I have many things yet to say to you, but you are not able to bear them at present.” – *John 16:12*

The apostles who wrote the letters that eventually made their way into the Bible canon, likewise gave answers regarding spiritual and heavenly things in shorthand form. But that is to be expected. Think of it like this: When a young child asks where babies come from, a wise parent does not begin to describe in detail the anatomy and the biological processes. Instead, he gives a short summary expressing the ultimate outcome in a way that the child’s mind can grasp. For instance, such a parent might say that babies grow in the mother’s belly and when its ready, it comes out. That explanation is accurate and might be sufficient for a young child. But when the child grows older, more detail can be added to the story until the child has grown to a stature sufficient to understand the complete biological process. It is similar for us who are spiritual babes.

When Jesus explained heavenly things, he gave ultimate outcomes, not a detailed explanation of the entire process of spiritualization. Even Paul, who was apparently privy to some heavenly concepts, hesitated to give detailed explanations for what he saw, even hesitating to admit that it was he who had the experience:

“I have to boast. It is not beneficial; but I shall pass on to supernatural visions and revelations of [the] Lord. I know a man in union with Christ who, fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know; God knows—was caught away as such to the third heaven. Yes, I know such a man—whether in the body or apart from the body, I do not know, God knows— that he was caught away into paradise and heard unutterable words which it is not lawful for a man to speak. Over such a man I will boast, but I will not boast over myself, except as respects [my] weaknesses. For if I ever do want to boast, I shall not be unreasonable, for I shall say the truth. But I abstain, in order

that no one should put to my credit more than what he sees I am or he hears from me, just because of the excess of the revelations.” – **2 Corinthians 12:1-7**

Nevertheless, what was written is accurate; it is just not in detailed form. Jesus told us that we would be led to all truth by means of the spirit of truth after his resurrection.

“However, when that one arrives, the spirit of the truth, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak of his own impulse, but what things he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things coming.” – **John 16:13**

This promise applies, not only to first century Christians, but to all of us down to this day. The spirit of truth works with all the children of God. And to those of us who want to know more, the spirit of truth will lead us to as much of it as we can comprehend. As for the writers here, we have been given much, but like the apostle Paul, we are restrained as to what we can present here. That is why we encourage everyone who is interested to make their desire for more knowledge and understanding a matter of diligent and repeated prayer. When you do, you will not need to be asking anyone; the spirit will teach you.

“And as for you, the anointing that you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to be teaching you; but, as the anointing from him is teaching you **about all things**, and is true and is no lie, and just as it has taught you, remain in union with him.” – **1 John 2:27**

Having said all of this, the bottom line is that the details do not matter. What is will be. Our belief in or acceptance of the Father’s plans do not effect those plans. If we have been faithful, when we are released from our bodies, we will know for a certainty whether we will be granted immediate audience with the Father. It is not imperative that we know the details before our release. Knowledge of it adds beauty and color to our worship, but it does not affect its value before God.

But, brother, you need not believe what we have written here. You only need to focus on doing the will of the Father, being ambassadors for the Kingdom substituting for Christ. All other things will be added. (**Matthew 6:33**)

Finally, we want to say that of all the things you wrote, the most encouraging to us is that you recognize that you are a son of God and that your destiny is in the heavens. You are already way ahead of so many of our brothers. We pray that you continue on your path, keep on praying, keep on seeking, keep on asking (**Matthew 7:7**), and you will eventually be led ‘into all truth.’

“Elaia Luchnia”
