

Grieving in Heaven

By Paul R. Blake

Introduction:

- A. Ask anyone if there is sorrow in heaven, and their answer will be an emphatic no. It may be the one thing most religionists agree on.
 - 1. If you were to ask me if there is sorrow in heaven, I would respond that the scriptures reveal that it depends on whether you are asking about heaven before or after the Judgment
 - 2. Sorrow in Heaven exists prior to the Judgment - Gen. 6:6
 - 3. Sorrow will not exist in heaven after the Judgment - Rev. 21:4
- B. What is written in the scriptures trumps what we think we know about what is written in the scriptures
 - 1. 1Cor. 4:6 - What is written?

I. GOD EXPERIENCES EMOTIONS

- A. We are created in His image, not the other way around
 - 1. All of the noblest emotions, all of the feelings in appropriate times and proportions experienced by humankind are reflections of the image of God. The scriptures teach that God experiences many emotions, including grief
- B. God experiences these emotions in the realm where He dwells, heaven
 - 1. What does God experience in His dwelling?

II. GOD EXPERIENCES GRIEF AND SORROW

- A. God feels things in heaven - Gen. 6:6; Isa. 63:7-15
 - 1. Do we have any trouble believing God experiences love, pity, kindness, goodness, and zeal in heaven?
 - 2. The same prophet speaks of God experiencing affliction of heart and grief in heaven
 - 3. IN Heaven - Vs. 15
- B. Psalm 78:38-40, 95:9-11; Heb. 3:10, 17
 - 1. No trouble believing God is full of compassion in heaven, but what about provoked, angry, wrathful, grieved?
- C. Isa. 7:13; Ez. 16:42-43
 - 1. We know heaven as a place of peace and rest, so how can God be agitated and wearied in heaven?

III. HOW DOES GOD EXPERIENCE GRIEF IN HEAVEN?

- A. While God knows the end from the beginning, He is also an emotive God who responds to His beloved children
 - 1. God became flesh and wept over Jerusalem's sin - Matt. 23:37
 - 2. The Spirit is grieved by our sins as Christians - Eph. 4:30
 - 3. God responds to wickedness with grief. This is a reflection of His unchangeable character. He must react to sin with righteous anger, but He must also respond to obedience with delight.

4. Grieve - lupeite, means "to afflict with sorrow; to make sad or sorrowful, to make sorry" (JFB Commentary)
 5. Grieve - lupeo, means "to distress; reflexively or passively, to be sad, cause grief, grieve, be in heaviness, be sorrowful, to make sorry" (Strongs)
- B. What makes God grieve in heaven at this time?
1. Sin in this world; as long as this world exists and men commit sin in it, God will have cause to sorrow over the loss of His children
 2. When this world, and the sin and death that fills it, is gone, the source of God's sorrow will be gone.

IV. GOD WILL FORGET OUR SINS

- A. It is a Divine choice to forget sins that are forgiven.
1. Isa. 43:25; Jer. 31:34, 50:20; Micah 7:18-19; Isa. 57:15-16
- B. Remove sin and the realm in which it exists, and the source of God's sorrow is removed - 2Peter 3:9-14
1. The earth and the sin within it will be gone
 2. The Adversary and all of the sinners will be in Perdition where God's presence does not go
 3. God will forget our sins, He will not visit hell, there will be nothing evil in heaven; what cause will anyone in heaven have to be sorry after the Judgment?
 4. Why would God need to remember sorrow and sin? Why would we want to?
- C. Heaven will be peace because we will behold all of the knowledge and wisdom of God; everything will make sense, the intellectual component of harmony and contentment.
1. Heaven will be rest because we will behold the love God in His presence. We will look on His majesty without being blinded by it.
 2. Heaven will be comfort because we will know that nothing will ever take that away
 3. We will experience restful joy like that of a mother holding a child as it drifts off to sleep.
 4. Like coming home at the end of a long, hard day, sitting down in your favorite chair, and looking up to see your beloved affectionately smiling at you
 5. Like a man learning for the first time that he is going to be a father
 6. Like a child overhearing his parents talk of taking him to Disneyworld
 7. Like parents seeing their firstborn child confess the name of Christ and be baptized
 8. Like every special moment in this life rolled up into one burst of bliss and experienced forever
- D. We cannot truly know and appreciate the glory and joy of heaven until we experience the sorrow and pain of sin in this world. It will be sweeter for having to live with them here - Rom. 8:18