**Heaven**

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Matthew 25:34; Luke 17:20-21

Scriptures in New Living Translation

November 25, 2012

Matthew 25:34  
Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world.

Luke 17:20-21  
20 One day the Pharisees asked Jesus, “When will the Kingdom of God come?” Jesus replied, “The Kingdom of God can’t be detected by visible signs. 21 You won’t be able to say, ‘Here it is!’ or ‘It’s over there!’ For the Kingdom of God is already among you.”

Galatians 1:7-8  
7 but is not the Good News at all. You are being fooled by those who deliberately twist the truth concerning Christ. 8 Let God’s curse fall on anyone, including us or even an angel from heaven, who preaches a different kind of Good News than the one we preached to you.

**1. The Concept of the Kingdom of God**

**A. It points to the future**

John 18:36  
Jesus answered, “My Kingdom is not an earthly kingdom. If it were, my followers would fight to keep me from being handed over to the Jewish leaders. But my Kingdom is not of this world.”

Matthew 25:34  
Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world.

Revelations 21:1  
Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone.

**B. It points to the present**

Luke 17:20-21  
20 One day the Pharisees asked Jesus, “When will the Kingdom of God come?” Jesus replied, “The Kingdom of God can’t be detected by visible signs. 21 You won’t be able to say, ‘Here it is!’ or ‘It’s over there!’ For the Kingdom of God is already among you.”

1Corinthians 3:16  
Don’t you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you?

Galatians 2:20  
My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Romans 14:17  
For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

2Corinthians 3:17  
For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

John 14:12  
I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.

Matthew 25:34  
Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world.

**2. Meaning of the First Heaven**

Becoming a person (in the flesh), Jesus himself came to heaven

Matthew 4:17  
From then on Jesus began to preach, “Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.  
KJV ‘Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand”

John 2:19-21  
19 “All right,” Jesus replied. “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” 20 “What!” they exclaimed. “It has taken forty-six years to build this Temple, and you can rebuild it in three days?” 21 But when Jesus said “this temple,” he meant his own body.

John 14:8-11  
8 Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” 9 Jesus replied, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don’t know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking me to show him to you? 10 Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak are not my own, but my Father who lives in me does his work through me. 11 Just believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Or at least believe because of the work you have seen me do.

Matthew 4:23  
Jesus traveled throughout the region of Galilee, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness.

Matthew 16:28  
And I tell you the truth, some standing here right now will not die before they see the Son of Man coming in his Kingdom.”

Luke 9:27  
I tell you the truth, some standing here right now will not die before they see the Kingdom of God.”

Luke 16:16  
Until John the Baptist, the law of Moses and the messages of the prophets were your guides. But now the Good News of the Kingdom of God is preached, and everyone is eager to get in.

Colossians 1:13-14  
13 For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, 14 who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.

2Corinthians 5:17  
This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

2Corinthians 1:20  
For all of God’s promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding “Yes!” And through Christ, our “Amen” (which means “Yes”) ascends to God for his glory.

2Corinthians 2:14  
But thank God! He has made us his captives and continues to lead us along in Christ’s triumphal procession. Now he uses us to spread the knowledge of Christ everywhere, like a sweet perfume.

John 16:33  
I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.

Philippians 4:13, 19  
13 For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength. 19 And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.

1Corinthians 15:31  
For I swear, dear brothers and sisters, that I face death daily. This is as certain as my pride in what Christ Jesus our Lord has done in you.

John 12:49-50  
49 I don’t speak on my own authority. The Father who sent me has commanded me what to say and how to say it. 50 And I know his commands lead to eternal life; so I say whatever the Father tells me to say.”

John 14:24  
Anyone who doesn’t love me will not obey me. And remember, my words are not my own. What I am telling you is from the Father who sent me.