

1. **Introduction:** The Bible is the story of God’s great redeeming love for His human creatures. When Adam and Eve sinned and seemingly blocked God’s planned purpose of creating a people of His own who could and would live eternally in His presence, God was prepared with a plan to realize His goal despite sin.
In Genesis, we are told that before the Fall, God made His home with Adam and Eve in the Garden, walking and talking with them. He ultimately will make His home in the New Jerusalem among Adam and Eve’s redeemed progeny.
2. **Revelation 21:1-8:** *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”⁵ And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.”*
 - Revelation 21:1-2 presents a stunning reversal of what most believers believe about heaven. “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth... and I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.” The place where the redeemed will live eternally with God is on the new earth.
3. **Next:** Last class, Peggy Blevin asked a very pertinent question, a question I too have asked. The question is “if I died today, where would I go?”
 - The concern is that knowing that when I die, my soul will immediately be separated from my body. The body I am finished with goes into the ground. Where does my soul go? The answer from Scripture is at mortal death the soul of a believer goes directly to be with the Lord – but where is He?
 - The simple answer is that we don’t really know. Our status of being a redeemed soul without a body is what is referred to as the “intermediate state,” we are no longer a living person composed of body and soul, and not yet a redeemed soul given a “resurrection body.”
 - From our preliminary discussion of Rev. 21, we know that ultimately, we will live in the presence of God in the New Jerusalem that comes down to the New Earth from heaven. Where then is heaven (i.e., where is the New Jerusalem located before coming to earth)?
 - Where is a soul located between mortal death and its final-destination in the New Jerusalem on the New Earth living in the presence of God living in the presence of God as a person whose soul is united with a resurrection body?
 - Such souls are said to be in the intermediate state. What does that mean? Where is it located?
 - There doesn’t seem to be a well-defined answer in Scripture. This morning, we will explore a possible answer that is hinted at in several places in Scripture.
 - To begin our exploration, we will consider an experience of Elisha described in 2 Kings 6:8-17.
4. **2 Kings 6:8-17:** *Now the king of Aram was at war with Israel. After conferring with his officers, he said, “I will set up my camp in such and such a place.” ⁹ The man of God sent word to the king of Israel: “Beware of passing that place, because the Arameans are going down there.” ¹⁰ So the king of Israel checked on the place indicated by the man of God. Time and again Elisha warned the king, so that he was on his guard in such places. ¹¹ This enraged the king of Aram. He summoned his officers and demanded of them, “Tell me! Which of us is on the side of the king of Israel?” ¹² “None of us, my lord the king,” said one of his officers, “but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel*

the very words you speak in your bedroom.”¹³ “Go, find out where he is,” the king ordered, “so I can send men and capture him.” The report came back: “He is in Dothan.”¹⁴ Then he sent horses and chariots and a strong force there. They went by night and surrounded the city.¹⁵ When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. “Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?” the servant asked.¹⁶ “Don’t be afraid,” the prophet answered. “Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.”¹⁷ And Elisha prayed, “Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see.” Then the Lord opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

- The pertinent point is God’s prophet and the prophet’s servant if in danger (and by implication, all God’s redeemed) are protected by an army of angelic beings seemingly existing in a dimension parallel to our dimensions but not normally perceived by us. As it is a dimension of God’s creation, call it the God-dimension.
 - This passage demonstrates that God, at His discretion, can make the God-dimension and its occupants visible to whomever He wishes.
 - Angelic beings have no material body. They are creatures having non-material (spiritual) life like God. In the intermediate state a human is also a creature with no material body and possess non-material life.
 - Perhaps in the intermediate state the human soul lives in the “God-dimension” with other non-material creatures like angels and other living creatures who have no material body.
 - If so, the answer to Peggy’s question is that when we experience mortal death, our soul in the intermediate state goes to be with the Lord in the “God-dimension” which is neither the New Jerusalem of the final state where the soul is joined to a resurrection body, nor is it what is usually thought of as heaven.
 - What is the “God-dimension’s” location? It seems to be a parallel dimension that we can’t normally perceive, but it is somehow as close to us as the nose on our face, just not perceivable by normal human senses.
 - Whatever the number of spatial and time dimensions God created, each is perceivable and real to God Himself.
 - It seems obvious that if God created more dimensions than we can perceive, He created them for a purpose and He makes use of them for their intended purpose. Perhaps, one intended purpose of dimensions we can’t perceive is the provision of a location (with the Lord) for humans in the intermediate state?
5. **Related:** (1.) Jesus’ transfiguration (Mat. 17:1-8; Mk 9:2-8). (2.) Elijah is taken up to “heaven.” (2 Kings 2:1-14). Chariots and horses of fire before Elijah is taken by a whirlwind. (3.) Angel at the Threshing floor (1 Chronicles 21:14-30). David looks up and physically sees the angel of Lord standing between earth and heaven with a drawn sword. (4.) Road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-32). Jesus walks with discouraged disciples but their eyes are kept from recognizing Him. (5.) Balak and Balaam’s Donkey (Numbers 22:21-35). Angel of the Lord blocks the path of the donkey. Balaam can’t see the angel until his eyes are opened.