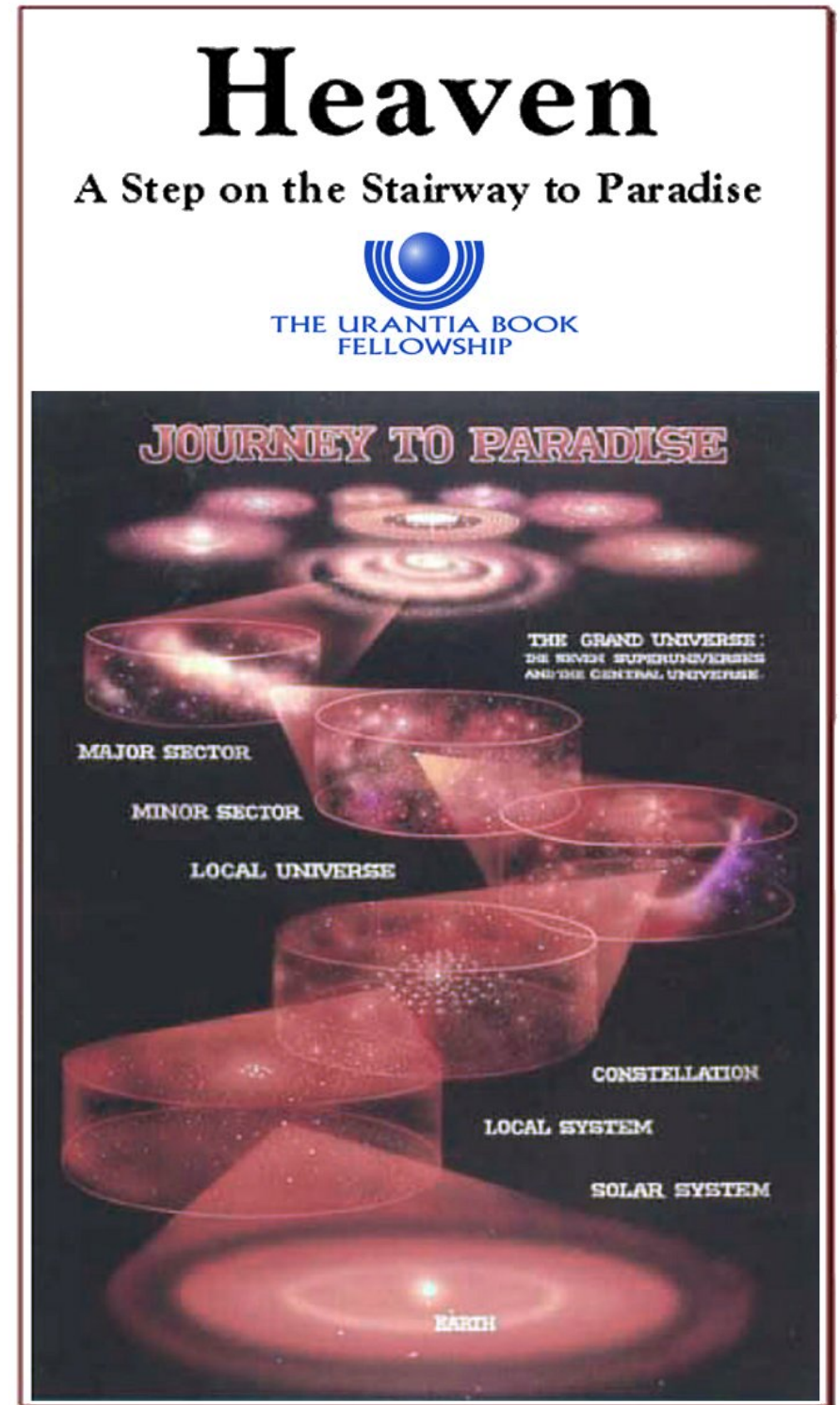


Additional food for thoughts about heaven:

- The headquarters of our local universe contains an enormous amphitheater, constructed of scintillating materials and seating over five billion. What manner of physical senses will you have in order to be able to see and hear at such an event?
- What manner of commerce can you imagine is carried on once you've left your earth life?
- How long will the English language continue to be of use to you?
- What will your name be when you first arrive on the mansion worlds?

Concepts from The Urantia Book
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It is obvious that our lives progress whether we plan or not. Many of us give little real thought to the direction of our lives; why not just go with the flow? We study, we work, we make mistakes, we learn from mistakes, and on we go from youth and adolescence to student, vocation, husband/wife, mother/father, grandparent, senior citizen, old age, death. Life unfolds pretty much along these lines without requiring direction or great reflection. Why then even begin to think now about what it might be like once the end of this progression is in view with the approach of death? And since we tend to think of life ending when we die and that what we do in our productive adult years is life's goal, it's no wonder so little thought is generally given to the hereafter. But what if this life is like a dream and the real world comes later? What if life goes on after death, a path to an eternal immortality and heaven is a journey rather than a destination? And what if we believed there was much better in store for us once this earth life was over — might we give more focus to what we did and what we accomplished while we're here?

The problem is — there's so very little that's factually known about what occurs after death that prevalent speculation makes either a non-existence or a hell seem like more interesting alternatives. Isn't the stereotypical Christian heaven inhabited by an old man with a long beard sitting on a throne presiding where the departed have become angels sitting on clouds and playing harps? Many Jews believe that when life ends so does personality; much like atheists and agnostics, most Jews aren't particularly interested in concepts of heaven. Many Muslim men look forward to heaven as having endless sex with virgins — one wonders what Muslim women have to look forward to. Buddhists and Hindus believe they don't go to heaven until they've completed a near endless round of rebirths in order to achieve an ego-less blissful state here on earth. Is your vision of heaven more expansive than any of these? There must be more to heaven or else no one would willfully choose such bleak eternal rewards.

The Urantia Book has abundant information about why we're here, why we live the life we do and the values it provides and what occurs at death and beyond. We're told in The Urantia Book

The Urantia Book fills out that story — who Jesus was before coming to earth, his life and teachings during the years he lived here, who he is and where he resides now that he has departed. It fills in the sketchy picture we'd otherwise have of who God is, where God resides, how and why God created the universe, how it's all administered, what our lives mean and what our destiny is. Knowledge such as this makes daily living more joyful, infusing life with new meaning and values.

Quote from a Urantia Book reader: *“The first and foremost change in my mind is the concept that we don't, upon physical death, go directly to heaven/paradise. God's plan for us is far grander. We have much more to do, much more growth to experience before we attain that wonderful goal. Secondly, and most importantly, the attainment of paradise and our Father is not the end! It is a new beginning to our next chapter of growth, experience and service.”*

Quote from The Urantia Book: *The mortal-survival plan has a practical and serviceable objective; you are not the recipients of all this divine labor and painstaking training only that you may survive just to enjoy endless bliss and eternal ease. There is a goal of transcendent service concealed beyond the horizon of the present universe age. If the Gods designed merely to take you on one long and eternal joy excursion, they certainly would not so largely turn the whole universe into one vast and intricate practical training school, requisition a substantial part of the celestial creation as teachers and instructors, and then spend ages upon ages piloting you, one by one, through this gigantic universe school of experiential training. The furtherance of the scheme of mortal progression seems to be one of the chief businesses of the present organized universe, and the majority of innumerable orders of created intelligences are either directly or indirectly engaged in advancing some phase of this progressive perfection plan. (48:8.3)*

satellites. You have gone from world to world as an individual, but now you prepare to depart for the capital in groups, bidding an eternal farewell to the whole previous career as an ascending mortal as you now become a system capital citizen.

Upon leaving the seventh world as a new class of graduates for citizenship on the system capital world the body you receive will, with periodic modification, see you through to the end of the local universe experience. You will experience a total of 570 changes as you progress through the local universe, but you will essentially retain this form until you bid it farewell when you emerge as a first-stage spirit-being in preparation for transit to the superuniverse worlds. At this point the adventure of true spirit progression has really just begun. The Local Universe administers 10,000,000 inhabited planets; the Superuniverse administers ten trillion inhabited worlds. There are seven Superuniverses in creation. God loves each individual as an individual child.

The concepts of the mansion worlds presented above were first introduced to humanity over 500,000 years ago and though confused and misunderstood they led not only to our present ethereal concepts of heaven but also to the ancient and now pervasive theory of reincarnation. What you've read here may sound far-fetched, science fictiony and outlandish since it's not fully depicted anywhere but in this little known book. Why give credibility to The Urantia Book? There are, after all, other descriptions of the afterlife such as the Tibetan Book of the Dead and the Egyptian Book of the Dead, purgatory, and other notions about life continuing once life here is over and these notions are quite unlike what The Urantia Book teaches. The authenticity of the Urantia revelation is something every reader must judge for themselves by taking the time to read the book. For the reader of The Urantia Book the detailed cosmology can be proven to be scientifically and historically sound, it is philosophically consistent, it strikes the chords of spiritual truth.

Jesus' resurrection and ascendance gives confirmation that death is not the end, that there is more than just what this life encompasses.

that the purpose of material creation is to provide the abode for the evolution of free-will beings. All "spirit beings," which is what we'll be once we leave here, live and work on physical spheres of material reality. These material worlds are constructed worlds and are not the worlds of time and space with which we're familiar.

A sketch of this discussion should provide considerably more to think about than those otherwise superficial and dreary concepts of heaven; if nothing else this aspect alone of The Urantia Book vision fosters joy, hope and purpose. What follows is an abbreviated look at the first several of these worlds (mansion worlds) we're to experience as illustrated through the teachings of The Urantia Book.

After our death on Earth we will be resurrected on the **first mansion world**. We will receive a new body and will continue to eat, drink, and rest. We're still a near human and not far removed from the limited viewpoints of this mortal life and we will remain mostly human on this first world which is very much like what life on an otherwise normal world would have been. In spiritual and mental terms we resume our life there just where we left off in this life before being overtaken by death so we'll resume intellectual training and spiritual development at that level at which our life on Earth terminated. As soon as the process of resurrection is completed a charming companionable associate and personal guide is assigned to us along with a place of residence. We'll then be able to call upon those loved ones who died prior to us. All biological deficiencies we may have had while on Earth are largely made up for here as this first world pertains primarily to deficiency ministry, the correction and cure of the many imperfections of the life in the flesh. Defects in experiences pertaining to sex life, family association, and parental function are corrected here where the requirement for the parental rearing of three or more children will be met — everyone experiences the rearing of children before moving on to the next world.

For the first time you'll find yourself associating with other beings who were once humans but not necessarily from Earth. The local.

system mansion worlds serve a system of up to 1,000 inhabited planets within general proximity, Earth being but one such world

When you attain the **second mansion world** you will receive a new body; working groups and social organizations are formed, communities take on formal proportions. Here the removal of all phases of intellectual conflict and mental disharmony occurs. The physical aspects of this second world are more beautiful than those of the first world. Here the sea of glass, a broadcast receiving and transport receiving/dispatching area, is first encountered. Similar areas are associated with the following higher spheres.

Upon admission to the **third mansion world** you receive a new body. There you can visit the headquarters of the angelic orders and the home of their various training schools since you'll have already begun to see and recognize them. This is the world of great personal and social achievement for all who have not made the equivalent of these cultural achievements during their mortal life. More positive educational work is begun where in the previous two worlds the training was mostly of a deficiency nature, here you really begin to become part of the new culture. This is the real introduction to the intelligent comprehension of cosmic meanings and universe interrelationships. The physical aspects of this world are more beautiful than those of the previous two.

By the time you attain the **fourth mansion world** you are a long way from the initial material existence; you again receive a new body. Here you more fittingly find your place in the group, working, and class functions of this life, developing increased appreciation of the universe broadcasts and other phases of local universe culture and progress as you are being introduced to the demands and delights of the true social life of this new existence. A new social order is imparted, one based on the understanding sympathy of mutual appreciation, the unselfish love of mutual service, and the overmastering motivation of the realization of our common and supreme destiny. You are becoming self-conscious of God-knowing, God-revealing, God-seeking, and God-finding. Here, on this world more beautiful than the initial three, you will master the local universe language

Achieving the **fifth mansion world** again you receive a new body. You will begin perfecting the language of the system, becoming bilingual in the system and universe languages. You meet and participate in preparatory education for existence at the next higher levels. A real birth of cosmic consciousness occurs — you are becoming universe minded where it begins to dawn upon you that some stupendous and magnificent, some supernal and divine destiny awaits those who so laboriously but so joyfully and auspiciously participate. Study is becoming voluntary, unselfish service natural, and worship spontaneous. This world is even more beautiful than those before it.

When you arrive at the **sixth mansion world** you will receive a new body — you still eat, drink, and rest. Initial instruction is here begun in the technique of universe administration. Lessons embracing the affairs of a whole universe are now imparted. Often at this point the divine spark of God (Thought Adjuster) which has accompanied you since the birth of your soul on Earth becomes an integral part of your personality (fusion) at which time you receive a new name signifying this union. You are still more or less a material being, still far from being a true spirit, still a little lower than the angels. The organization of society on this world is of a high order. The shadow of the mortal nature grows less and less. Your personality is becoming more and more spiritually appealing as you leave behind the vestiges of planetary animal origin. You are becoming more kind and understanding, more sympathetic and tolerant. This is the most beautiful world you have yet to reside on.

The **seventh mansion world** is the most beautiful of the seven and once more you will receive a new body. You will be instructed by many teachers, preparing you for residence on the local system capital world (Jerusalem). Here you are purged of any remnants of unfortunate mortal heredity, unwholesome environment, or unspiritual tendencies. You begin a new and more spiritual worship of the unseen Father, a habit you will increasingly pursue all the way up through the long ascending career before you. Now begins the formation of classes for graduation to the local system capital world of which these seven mansion worlds have been but