

THE SABBATH SCOOP

VOLUME 23

JANUARY 2011

NUMBER 10

What the Bible Reveals About *Heaven*

How much can we know about where God dwells?

By Gregory Dullum

When I was in first grade, I got into a little trouble with my mother because I didn't know much about Dad's job. I knew Dad worked for Braniff Airways. I knew he left for the airport every day and he wore a hat that looked like those pilots wear. When my teacher asked me what Dad did, I said he was a pilot. Later, Mom asked me why I had told the teacher Dad was a pilot when he was not. He worked as a radio dispatcher for the airline. He didn't work on the flight deck of an airliner sailing through the clouds. He worked in an office on the ground in the bowels of the airport terminal.

How much do we know about where our heavenly Father dwells and works?

The Bible reveals that heaven is NOT the reward of the saved. People don't go to heaven when they die. So we have, for the most part, ignored this topic.

Let's ignore it no longer. Since God our Father and Jesus Christ our brother live and work there, let's see what the Bible tells us about heaven.

We'll let the Bible answer several basic questions. What is heaven? Where is it? How big is it? Who made it? Does it belong to anyone? What items can be found there? Who lives and works there? What do they do?

Defining Heaven

First, we must define heaven. The Bible mentions a "third heaven" (2 Cor. 12:2). This is the heaven we wish to study. To have a third heaven, there must be a first and second. What are they?

The first heaven is the atmosphere that surrounds our planet. It is in this heaven that we find clouds and moisture to create rain and dew. It is in this heaven that birds fly (Gen. 7:23, 8:2, 7:11, 27:28;

Deut. 11:11, 28:12).

The second heaven is the vastness of outer space with its suns, stars, planets, and moons (Gen. 1:14, 15:5, 22:17, 26:4, 32:13; Deut. 1:10, 10:22, 28:62).

Man has ascended into the first heaven for more than 100 years using hot air balloons and aircraft, and he has ascended into the second heaven for more than 50 years using rockets, but no man has ever ascended to the third heaven except for Jesus Christ, who came down from there and lives there today (John 3:13).

We must be cautious as we study heaven. The Bible uses the same word to describe all three heavens, so we must be choosy about which scriptures describe the third heaven. We will do our best to select only those scriptures that deal with our subject at hand—the third heaven.

What Is Heaven?

1. Heaven is where God is (Eccles. 5:2). He *dwells* there. When King Solomon dedicated his temple to God, he prayed, "And may You hear the supplication of Your servant and of Your people Israel. When they pray toward this place, then hear *in heaven Your dwelling place*; and when you hear, forgive" (1 Kings 8:30, emphasis added).

Heaven is not an *ordinary* home. It is HOLY. It is God's "holy habitation" (Deut. 26:15).

2. Heaven is where Jesus Christ dwells. He came from there, returned there after his crucifixion and lives there today (John 1:1-2, 14, 3:13).

3. Heaven is where angels dwell. They are called symbolically the "stars of heaven" (Rev. 12:3-4) and "morning



Photo by Gregory Dullum

Man can ascend into the first heaven by aircraft and into the second heaven by spacecraft but no man has ascended to the third heaven. What is the third heaven like?

stars" (Job 38:7), but unlike physical stars, angels have the ability to "sing together" (Job 38:7), to have one third be deceived to follow Satan (Rev. 12:4, 7) and to "rejoice" in heaven where they dwell (Rev. 12:12).

4. Heaven is from where God rules; it is his workplace or office. It is his throne. "Thus says the LORD: Heaven is my throne..." (Isa. 66:1). See also Mat. 5:34.

5. Heaven is a secret place. It is not a place man can discover. Christ tells us, "pray to your Father who is in the secret place" (Mat. 6:6). It is impossible for humans to get to heaven (Deut. 30:12).

Where Is Heaven?

Heaven is ABOVE the earth (Deut. 4:39, 5:8, Josh. 2:11, 1 Kings 8:23, Jer. 31:37).

David wrote, "The LORD looks *down from heaven upon the children of men*" (Ps. 14:2, emphasis added).

To get to heaven from earth, we must *ascend*. Jesus stated plainly, "No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man..." (John 3:13).

When Satan was cast out of heaven, he was cast *down* to the earth (Rev. 12:7-10).

How far is heaven above the earth?

HEAVEN

Continued on Page 2

Heaven

Continued from Page 1

The Bible isn't very specific but David wrote that the heavens "are *high* above the earth..." (Ps. 103:11 emphasis added).

When Lucifer (Satan) rebelled, he sought to take over God's heavenly throne. He said, "I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High" (Isa. 14:12-14).

From these verses we gather that the third heaven is above the clouds and beyond this planet's atmosphere. In which direction? North. (See also Ezek. 1:4.)

When Lucifer said, "I will exalt my throne above the stars of God," he probably was expressing a desire to rule over all the angels, which are often called "stars" in the Bible. If Lucifer meant He had to go beyond the physical stars to get to the third heaven, it would be very far away indeed!

The Bible doesn't say specifically that heaven is made of spirit. However, since God, Christ and the angels who inhabit heaven are spirit, and heaven is the secret place, we may logically assume heaven is composed of spirit as well. Being spirit and invisible, heaven can exist in the same location as our physical outer space without being detected by man. Heaven does not need to be billions of light years beyond the limits of our physical universe. In fact, the Bible indicates that heaven is quite close. God tells us, "Heaven is My throne, and earth is My footstool" (Isa. 66:1). Footstools are usually kept *very close* to chairs or thrones, not light years away!

As far as we know, Earth is the only place in the physical universe that has life. It is the only place where God is working to build a family. His work is here—his focus is here. Why would He place Earth billions of light years from his throne? Doesn't it make more sense to believe that heaven is very close to Earth rather than beyond the limits of our physical universe? However, heaven is undetectable to us because it's spirit, not physical matter.

How Big Is Heaven?

King Solomon tells us that heaven is not big enough to contain God and all his glory. He said, "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You" (1 Kings 8:27). These are words of praise expressing God's greatness and *not necessarily* describing the size of heaven. If there is *some truth* to this, we can gather that heaven is NOT UNLIMITED in size. It has certain boundaries. So how big is heaven?

God tells Jeremiah that heaven is too big to be measured by man (Jer. 31:37).

We know heaven is the dwelling place of God's angels. How many angels live there? If we knew the number, it might give us some clue as to the size of heaven. The apostle John had a vision of heaven. He saw many angels and noted, "and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands" (Rev. 5:11). The angels are called "an innumerable company of angels" in Heb. 12:22. While heaven may have boundaries, it certainly is NO SMALL PLACE!

Who Made Heaven?

Did heaven always exist or was it created? And if created, who made it?

The Bible tells us that heaven and everything in it was created by the preincarnate Jesus Christ—the same Being who created the earth.

We are told in Gen. 1:1, "In the beginning God created the heavens (plural) and the earth."

David tells us, "the LORD made the heavens" (1 Chron. 16:26, Ps. 96:5). Also in Psalms, we read, "By the word of the LORD the heavens were made" (Ps. 33:6).

In Rev. 10:6, we read, "and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it..."

These verses plainly state that *more than one heaven* and the things in them were CREATED. However, these verses may be referring ONLY to the first and second heavens.

Now notice Col. 1:16-17, which speaks of Christ: "For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist." The INVISIBLE things in heaven *did not exist forever!* They were made by Christ!

John supports this when he adds, "All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made." Lucifer was a *created* angel (Ezek. 28:15). So objects or beings that are *spirit* can indeed *be created!* Even if Christ did not create the spirit environs of heaven, the Bible tells us that He created everything that is in it—the buildings and all the objects that exist there.

Who Owns Heaven?

Does heaven belong to anyone? Whose name is on the deed, so to speak?

God tells us, "Indeed heaven and the highest heavens belong to the LORD your

God" (Deut. 10:14). See also Ps. 115:16.

David says to God, "The heavens are yours" (Ps. 89:11). He also said, "For all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours" (1 Chron. 29:11). Heaven itself and all the items in it belong to God.

What Items Are in Heaven?

What are some of the things that can be found in heaven? Below is a list of some things that the scriptures reveal. We must be aware that some of these things were revealed in *visions*, so they may not be LITERAL OBJECTS but merely SYMBOLS that God uses to express ideas.

God's throne is there (Isa. 66:1). *Christ's throne* is at God's right hand (Mark 16:19, Col. 3:1). Before God's throne are *24 thrones* upon which sit 24 elders clothed in *white robes* wearing *golden crowns*. Around God's throne is a *rainbow*. Before it are *seven lamps of fire* upon a *sea of glass* (Rev. 4:2-6).

God's *holy temple* surrounds his throne (Ps. 11:4). It has at least one *door* (Rev. 4:1) and contains the *ark of His covenant* (Rev. 11:19) and an altar (Rev. 8:3, 5, 11:1). God's temple resembles the physical temple, which was a copy (Heb. 9:23-24).

Surrounding God's holy temple is "the city of the Living God, the heavenly Jerusalem" (Heb. 12:22).

This may be the same city as the "New Jerusalem" (Rev. 21:2)—minus God's temple—or they may be two different cities. The "New Jerusalem" has no temple in it (Rev. 21:22), yet it descends from heaven, so it must exist there prior to descending. It has a high wall (v. 12), 12 gates, each made from one pearl (vv. 12, 21), and 12 foundations (v. 14).

Other items in heaven include:

Records

1. A registry of names of people be-

The SABBATH SCOOP

228 O'Connell Drive
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701-3332

Editor

Gregory Dullum

Circulation Managers:

Craig Evans • Raleigh Collins
Ed Crook • Gregory Dullum
© Copyright Gregory Dullum 2010

PRINT CIRCULATION: 86 • COST PER ISSUE: FREE
www.thesabbathcoop.org

The Sabbath Scoop is an independent publication. Opinions expressed are those of the editor (based upon more than 44 years attending the Church of God and four years of Ambassador College plus additional personal Bible study), not of any church or organization. Donations to cover costs of paper, toner and postage are gratefully accepted. You may e-mail the editor at: cbjprodept@socket.net. Unless otherwise noted, Bible quotes are from the New King James Version, ©1983, Thomas Nelson Publishers.

longing to the church of the firstborn (Heb. 12:23, Luke 10:20). This may be the "Book of Life" or they could be separate publications (Philip. 4:3, Rev. 3:5, 17:8, 20:12, 15).

2. Inanimate spirits of dead people, waiting to live again when they are placed in new bodies at the time of Christ's return (Eccles. 12:7, 9:5, 10, 1 Cor. 15:35-42, 44-49).

Clothing

3. The reward of the righteous (crowns), which Christ will bring with Him to earth when He comes (Mat. 5:12, Rev. 21:12, 3:11).

4. Many other crowns (Rev. 19:12).

5. Bright linen clothes (Rev. 15:6).

6. Fine white linen army uniforms (Rev. 19:14).

7. Golden bands to wear around the chest (Rev. 15:6).

8. White robe dipped in blood (Rev. 19:13).

Books

9. A sealed scroll (Rev. 5:1).

10. Little book (Rev. 10:1-2, 8-10).

Musical Instruments

11. Trumpets (1 Thes. 4:16, Rev. 8:2).

12. Harps (Rev. 5:8, 14:2, 15:2).

Vessels

13. Golden bowls (Rev. 5:8, 15:7).

14. Golden censer and incense (Rev. 5:8, 8:3-4).

15. Wine cup and wine (Rev. 14:10).

Keys

16. Keys of hades and death (Rev. 1:18).

17. Key to bottomless pit (Rev. 20:1).

Tools

18. Pair of scales (Rev. 6:5).

19. Great chain (Rev. 20:1).

Building Materials

20. Spiritual "material" resembling gold and precious stones (Rev. 21:18-21).

21. Fiery stones (Ezek. 26:14).

22. Windows (Mal. 3:10).

Weapons

23. Swords (Rev. 1:16, 6:4, 8, 19:15, 21).

24. Sharp sickles (Rev. 14:14-19).

25. Bow (and arrows) (Rev. 6:2).

26. Fire (Rev. 20:9).

Animals

27. White horses (Rev. 6:2, 19:11, 14).

28. Red horse (Rev. 6:4).

29. Black horse (Rev. 6:5).

30. Pale horse (Rev. 6:8).

1. Twenty-four elders (Rev. 4:4, 10, 5:8, 5:14, 11:16, 19:4).

2. Four beasts which sit around God's throne (Rev. 4:6-8, 5:8, 14, 19:4).

3. Archangel Gabriel (Luke 1:19, 26).

4. Archangel Michael (Jude 1:9, Rev. 12:7).

5. Archangel Lucifer was a resident until he rebelled and was cast to the earth to become Satan (Isa. 14:12, Ezek. 28:14-17, Rev. 12:3-4, 7-9). As Satan, he still visits heaven (Job 1:6-12, 2:1-7).

6. Seven thunders who utter their voices (Rev. 10:3-4).

7. Wheely-creatures, four living beings that appear to be attached to a spinning wheel below and a glass-like dome above, used for transportation (Ezek. 1:4-28).

What Happens in Heaven?

What goes on in heaven? What do the inhabitants of heaven do?

1. God sits on his throne, ruling heaven and earth (Isa. 66:1, Rev. 4:2, 5:13).

2. Jesus Christ has a throne at God's right hand. At times He sits on it, at other times He stands (Acts 2:30, Heb. 8:1, Acts 7:55-56).

3. Twenty-four elders sit on thrones surrounding the sea of glass, which is before God's throne. They wear white robes and golden crowns. They fall down before God, worshiping Him as they cast their crowns before Him, saying, "You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created" (Rev. 4:4, 6, 10-11).

When Christ is deemed worthy to open the sealed scroll, these same 24 elders will fall before Him, having harps and golden bowls of incense. They will sing a song of praise to Christ (Rev. 5:5-9).

Several times it is mentioned that the 24 elders worship God continually, sometimes offering praise or the word "amen," meaning "so be it," showing unity of mind and purpose (Rev. 5:14, 11:16, 19:4).

4. The four creatures sitting around God's throne offer continual praise and worship to God and Christ (Rev. 4:6-8, 5:8-9, 14, 19:4). "And they do not rest, day or night, saying: 'Holy, holy holy, Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!'" (v. 8).

5. There are times when "all the host of heaven" stand to the right and left of God's throne (1 Kings 22:19).

6. Any disputes or questions over God's law are settled in heaven, perhaps as our courts of law settle law disputes here on earth. In heavenly disputes, God's law stands firm. "Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled (the marginal note says "stands firm") in Heaven" (Ps. 119:89).

7. God's will is done (Mat. 6:10).

8. "The LORD looks down from heaven" (Ps. 14:2. See also Ps. 33:13, 53:2). God watches us! He pays attention to human activities.

9. God hears us as well as sees us. He listens to our prayers (1 Kings 8:30).

10. God judges and rewards human behavior (1 Kings 8:32, 39). He forgives those who repent of their sins (v. 30). He is spurred to action, punishing the wicked and blessing the righteous (v. 32).

11. The names of God's people are being registered (Heb. 12:23).

12. God sends the power of his holy spirit from heaven into the human beings who have repented, been baptized, and have hands laid upon them (Mat. 3:16, Acts 2:38).

13. Angels travel between heaven and earth (John 1:51). In a vision, they are seen going up and down a great ladder (Gen. 28:12).

14. Satan visits heaven and accuses God's people continually while there (Job 1:6-12, 2:1-7, Rev. 12:3, 10).

15. A door to the heavenly temple of God is opened (Rev. 11:19, 15:5). At one point, a door stands open (Rev. 4:1). Angels pass through the open door (Rev. 15:5-6).

16. A time will come when smoke from God's glory will fill the heavenly temple for awhile, preventing anyone else from entering it (Rev. 15:5, 8).

17. Harps are played and songs are sung (Rev. 5:8-9, 15:2-4).

18. There is joy and laughter (Luke 15:7, Ps. 2:4).

19. There are loud voices (Rev. 10:3-4, 11:15).

20. God thunders from heaven (Job 37:4-5, 2 Sam. 22:14). There are times when God speaks in heaven and his voice is heard on Earth, but not everyone who hears it understands what it is or what is said (Mat. 3:17, John 12:28-29).

21. There are also times of complete silence (Rev. 8:1).

22. A war was fought among the angels in which Lucifer (Satan) and his one-third of the angels lost and were cast down to the earth (Rev. 12:4, 7-9).

23. New Jerusalem is being prepared and will descend from heaven to the earth in the future (Rev. 21:2, 10). It is described in Rev. 21:10-27. The city is fully constructed as it descends, so we may assume its construction and preparation is taking place in heaven.

24. Heaven will be vacated as God establishes a new headquarters on earth. There will be a new heaven and a new earth. The former things will pass away as all things will be made new (Rev. 21:1-4, 5, 22-27, 22:3-5).

Who Is in Heaven?

Who can be found in heaven? We have already mentioned that heaven is the home of God the Father and Jesus Christ. They are a FAMILY (Eph. 3:15). Also, two thirds of the angels live there. Who else can be found in heaven?

College Letters:

Lessons of Life Learned at Ambassador College

Take the flight less taken. Work sure cuts into a guy's spare time.

12/13/75

Dear Greg,

Hello! How are you? Really good here! Thank you for the piece of palm. To tell you the truth, I've never seen a palm tree. I guess that's the way it is among the meek and poor.

It must be wonderful to be having such beautiful weather down there. I can imagine nothing more relaxing than what you described while sitting under the palm tree.

Yes, I've been quite busy lately and I also enjoy it. My play turned out quite good. The opening night was a near flop but the following performances were very smooth. Now I am in a play called 'The Bald Soprano.' It's for high school 'One Act Play Competition.' We're doing very well so far. Have you ever heard of 'The Bald Soprano'? I hadn't until I was asked to play the part of *Mary*.

In speech class we give impromptus. I really like them. I guess maybe because they're a challenge. I love using my imagination, which I do quite often anyway.

Your 'Bubble Gum Special' sounds really neat. What sort of music falls under the category of 'Bubble Gum Music?' I suppose you were ready to croak after all the bubble gum, gum and music. You should do a mystery theater like WCCO does on Sunday night. I love listening to them.

Your Grand Canyon echo effect should be interesting. Have you done it already?

You'd be very happy if you could feel this awful Minnesota cold. Brrr! I'm more of an indoors person. I love watching the football games. The Vikings have done very well. I'll bet they win the Super Bowl.

Did you go to the Hearst Castle? Was it really magnificent and beautiful? I would suppose so! My orchestra conductor stayed there last summer. He's really wealthy and old. Do you know who he is? Mr. Davenport is his name.

Have you decided whether or not to come for break? I'm going to be gone from the 24th-29th visiting friends in Iowa. I'm looking forward to it because I like getting out of the ordinary routine of daily existence.

Don't think you're a lousy bowler until you've seen me bowl. What a joke. I bowl like 52 and 49. How's that for lousy? Oh well it was my second time bowling. I bowled once 5 years ago. I think I'll go out

and do a little more bowling.

Well keep well!

And write soon, like I didn't.

Love,

Susan [Kangas]

P.S. Enclosed is a program from the 'Unsinkable Molly Brown.'

[Editor's note: My freshman year (1974-75) at Ambassador College was a fantastic experience in every way. My dorm mates and I were very close and we had a lot of discussions which led to spiritual growth and maturity. When I had returned to college in the fall of 1975, I had hoped to pick up where I had left off in the spring. It didn't happen. Even though I stayed in the same dorm as I had my freshman year, I had a new set of dorm mates. These fellows were not as social and did not have the same interest in spiritual growth. That caused me to become a little depressed and forced me to switch roles from being a "sponge" absorbing everything I could, to taking charge of my own life, a painful but maturing process.

There were some other pressures and challenges as well, and by the time the winter break approached, I felt a real need to get away from college and clear my head. I called Mom and told her I really needed to come home for winter break. It was the best thing I could have done. After two weeks at home, I was ready to tackle another semester of college with a much more positive attitude. The following is her quick response to me telling her I needed to come home.]

December 18, 1975

Dear Greg,

Here is the \$200. I sure hope it's enough [for air fare]. Should be. Will be waiting for you to get home.

See ya—
Mom

[Editor's note: When I flew home, my flight stopped at Salt Lake City. The flight from Salt Lake City to Minneapolis was overbooked and volunteers were asked to deplane so others could get to Minneapolis that evening. If we would volunteer to give up our seats, Western Airlines would put us on a flight the next

morning, pay for our a hotel, pay for our cabs, pay for any phone calls, buy our breakfast and refund the money for our flight from Salt Lake City to Minneapolis. Since I did not have to be in Minneapolis that night, I volunteered to get off, along with two other young men. We each had our own hotel room.

Returning to college, I took a Western flight that stopped five times between Minneapolis and Los Angeles (I thought the best part of flying was take-offs and landings, and this gave me a chance to visit more states, even though I never got off the plane.) Western said few passengers had ever flown that flight all the way from Minneapolis to Los Angeles, so I was given a cake when I landed in Los Angeles, that said, "Congratulations, Mr. Dullum" and had the company logo—a big red "W"—on it.]

Saturday, 1/10/76

Dear Greg,

Hello! How was your 5-stop flight home? Great, I hope.

Well, you sure got a nice taste of Minn. weather. Are you sure you don't have connections with 'Old Man Winter'? Today dumped snow up to our rafters in Anoka.

Boy, am I disappointed you didn't get in touch with me while you were up. I was debating giving you a call before you left tomorrow but I'm sure it's very tactful. You're also probably busy with friends. Did you go to Wayzata for services? I thought you probably did. I wish I could've gotten down there but now that they have a church up in St. Francis it's much closer. Only 10 miles or so north of us.

My trip to Iowa was terrible! Let me clarify that. The *stay* was wonderful. The *trip* was terrible! I took Greyhound down and had to make 3 transfers just to get down to N. Iowa. On the way back it was a straight shot to Minneapolis though. That was a comfort. All in all I had a very nice time.

The play is coming along very well except for the fact that I no longer play the part of *Mary*. I had chamber orchestra after school and during Christmas I was gone and busy with relations so I gave the part to a girl who already knew the lines and blocking. You're right. 'The Bald Soprano' was and is a play for the theater of

the absurd. It's about 2 English couples who engage in pages of senseless conversation. They have a maid (Mary) who is in love with the fire inspector. Mary has plenty of lines. There are 6 parts and 4 of them are to the two married couples. The play is hard to explain. I'll send you a script sometime. It's hilarious to read.

Next week is semester change. I'll get a completely new class schedule. It'll be like starting a new school year. I can hardly wait. My schedule is okay now but I'd like to have some classes with friends next semester.

For my last speech in speech class I'll be giving a persuasive talk on why women shouldn't be allowed to become ministers or priestesses, etc. etc. I'm not exactly looking forward to it but my teacher convinced me it was a good topic considering 82% of the class disagreed with me. Part of my grade is determined by whether or not I can get those 82% to agree with me.

Congrats on that evaluation in club. I suppose it feels good to know you're an expert evaluationist. [My Ambassador Club director, Dr. Herman Hoeh, had said my evaluation of a speech was the best one at that particular meeting.]

Well, since I didn't see you while you were home you'd better tell me about your Thanksgiving. [I had traveled with two friends up the California coast to San Francisco and to Yosemite National Park, sleeping out under the stars.] What you told me briefly sounded fantastic. Especially about camping on cliffs over the ocean. I'd love to do that someday. I'd love to travel and see everything our country has to offer. I know it's beautiful.

Wow! That \$115 scholarship sounds great! I'm really glad for you. I hope you have fun at KBAC. I suppose you will since that seems to interest you. [Four of us applied for a \$500 scholarship for news director at KBAC. When Alex Lukes was selected, he felt the position was too big for one person and offered to split the \$500 four ways among those of us who had applied. As news director, Alex got \$155. As assistant news directors, Steve Mapes, Coleen Froehlic and I each got \$115.]

Well, I'll close for now and let your boredom cease. Or is that cease? Or sease? In any case, write soon and remember Alexander Graham Bell was a little dingy. Betsy Ross was a so-and-so (sew-and-sew) (get it?) Ha ha!

Love,

Sue [Kangas]

These are a riot!!

What's green and dances? FRED AS-
PARAGUS!!

What's green and sings? ELVIS PARSLEY!

What's green and swims? MOBY PICKLE!!

What's green, lies in a ditch, and is covered with cookie crumbs? A DEAD GIRL SCOUT!!

Jan. 18, 1976

Dear Greg,

Already it seems natural to write 1976.

I thoroughly enjoyed your report on Korah's rebellion. How true about people in the church today. I've seen the comparison before. People sure are stupid.

I have to be to work at 5:30 [a.m.] all next week. Poor Myrtle stubbed her toe and she thinks she broke it. She did the same thing a while back. I sure hope it isn't the same toe. I got home from work early today & crawled into bed and slept for four hours. I sure was tired.

We took Brad's car up to the station & had a tune up. The spark plugs were in very bad shape. He also had to have a rebuilt starter put in. I kinda thought his starter was going bad because it sounded like the old Impala I used to have. It's good having it run again even if Brad didn't like spending the money.

One night we went to Southdale trying to get ideas on room colors. Then we went to the Lemon Tree at Southdale and used up our food allowance. Then we decided to go to the show. We saw *The Sunshine Boys*. It was kinda good.

Brad & Phil went to the show last night and saw *Jaws*. He hasn't said too much about it so I guess he didn't care that much about it.

I had a surprise yesterday. Had a phone call from Ed Lucken. He was calling from Country Kitchen on Lyndale so I asked him over for a cup of coffee. He came and we visited. Haven't seen him for years. Think the last time was at some wedding years ago. Can't imagine what got into him. Guess he was thinking about the past.

Guess I better go do the dishes. Hope you didn't eat too much cake. That was cute.

Love,

Mom

Sat. night Jan. 24th

Dear Greg,

I suppose by this time you are back from the mid-term break all rested up, biting at the bit, and a pinching feeling in the pocket book. Time goes by so fast, I notice your last letter was in November and here it is nearly the end of Jan. In another couple of weeks I can start growing tomato and pepper plants.

I went ice fishing a few times with Carl, then Dick got a fish house so now I can

COLLEGE LETTERS

Continued on Page 6

Fun Fact



Drawing and Fun Fact are courtesy of NAPSA
Until the 1800s, English husbands used to give their wives money on New Year's Day to buy pins and other small articles. This money was known as pin money.

Witerature

Wit and wisdom to complement the truths of the Holy Bible can be found in secular writings.

The Martha Rules by Martha Stewart, 2005, Rodale, p. 173

He with Gold Rules

"My staff and I had created a large and growing library of real content—photographs, recipes, craft ideas, gardening advice, decorating tips, collecting information—all of 'evergreen' value with a huge potential for synergy with other media platforms, such as television, radio, books, and newspaper columns. If we could combine all of those elements into one omnimedia company, the whole of that would be greater than the sum of its parts...."

"The excitement of this idea was contagious, and the path was easy for me to see. Finding the \$85 million, however, was not quite so easy. I first approached people who were used to taking big risks—investment bankers and venture capitalists—and quickly learned that, on Wall Street, the Golden Rule is turned on its head. Instead of 'Do unto others as you would have them do unto you,' the prevailing view is 'He who has the gold makes the rule.'"

Mat. 7:12; Prov. 22:7, 18:23

Quotable Quote

"Say what you have to say and the first time you come to a sentence with a grammatical ending—sit down."

—Sir Winston Churchill

Memory Scripture

"Clean & Unclean Meats Chapters."
—Leviticus 11, Deuteronomy 14

College Letters

Continued from Page 5

fish in that. I use the Coleman stove and it keeps it pretty warm. So far we caught a few fish but no big deal. I may go again tomorrow afternoon.

It's been a pretty good winter so far. We had a blizzard in Nov., then no more snow till the end of Dec. or so. Then a little off and on since then. One night it was down to about -22 another about -30.

I got a good buy on an almost new snow blower and moving snow is more fun than work now, especially if I can let it go till Sundays. I need to clean it (the road) out again tomorrow.

Lucile [Dad's sister] and Carl left for Florida last Monday and expect to be there a couple months. Eve [Dad's sister] flew to Washington, D.C. to visit Stu [her son] at Christmastime. When she got back she began to have severe pains in her back and finally went to the hospital. It seems she has too much calcium in her system. I don't know if they cured her or if she is still in the hosp. She is way overweight and was put on an 800 calorie diet.

Dick and his wife expect an addition to their family in a month or two.

I haven't had much mail lately so I'm not up on any other possible news. Someone sent me Mr. Prunkard's address so I just wrote him the other day. I figured he may need a little encouragement. I understand the Mpls. groups "get" to listen to lengthy tapes by GTA to encourage them not to fall away. Suppose you've heard them. Sounds like they've reduced the *P.T.* to once a month or have they replaced it entirely with the *G.N.* magazine? I hear the broadcast occasionally. Tonight he was talking to a Big Sandy audience about Pearl Harbor. I don't know what the occasion was. T.V. is so poor this winter that I don't watch it much. I mostly listen to the radio—usually FM.

I haven't had time to do any skiing this winter but I may get a little in yet. About the only time I have is on Sundays and if I want to go fishing I can't ski. Work sure cuts into a guy's spare time.

I hope to put up a garage next summer if I have time. If I do it will be on the bedroom end of the building. I think it will go real well there and not obstruct my view there. Also it will be closer to either of the two doors. I hate to put up a building that would cut out the view.

Sunday night—another beautiful day, got the road cleared out and went fishing. Only got 2 crappies but that's better than getting skunked.

That's it for this time, write when the spirit moves you.

Dad



South Korea Begins More Military Drills

"Despite previous warnings of retaliation from North Korea, the South Korean military continued to defy the North on Wednesday [Dec. 22] by launching a three-day naval drill in the Sea of Japan and scheduling an exercise by the army and air force about 30 miles from the North-South demilitarized zone....

"The new set of drills follow a South Korean artillery exercise on Monday that dramatically raised tensions on the peninsula, and led to a frenzy of diplomatic activity across the region and at the United Nations Security Council" ("South Korea Begins New Round of Military Drills" by Mark McDonald, *The New York Times* reprints, Dec. 22, 2010, p. 1).

When asked what would be the sign of his coming and of the end of the age, Jesus Christ replied, in part, "And you will hear of wars and rumors of war. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom..." (Mat. 24:3, 6-7). Wars and rumors of war are the "beginning of sorrows" leading up to his return (v. 8).

Senate Ratifies Nuclear Reduction Treaty

On Wednesday, Dec. 22, the U.S. Senate approved a nuclear arms reduction treaty with Russia on a 71-to-26 vote. The New Start Treaty required a two-thirds majority of votes to pass.

"Republican critics called it a bad deal, arguing that the treaty's inspections were inadequate and that nonbinding language in its preamble could give Russia leverage to try to keep the United States from deploying missile defense installations in eastern Europe....

"The debate over the treaty, however, ranged far beyond the numbers, revealing starkly different visions for national security in the 21st century. Mr. Obama and his supporters argued that ratification was essential to rebuilding a relationship with Russia and maintaining

the international coalition against Iran's nuclear program. His critics said it represented a first step toward a dangerous and wrong-headed vision of eventually eliminating the world's nuclear weapons" ("Arms Treaty With Russia Headed for Ratification" by Peter Baker, *The New York Times* reprints, Dec. 21, 2010, p. 2).

God said that if our people would reject Him, He would break the pride of our power (Lev. 26:19). By reducing our nuclear stockpile, we are showing a loss of pride in our military strength. If our nation doesn't repent, war ending in national captivity awaits us (vv. 27-35, 43-45)!

Disney Community not Immune to Crime

"As if the Thanksgiving murder were not enough to ruin things in this subdivision that Disney designed. Now, tanks and SWAT teams?

Here in a community built 14 years ago by the Walt Disney Company as the happiest subdivision on earth—and which, to be fair, has been largely free from urban strife—two major crimes in less than a week have made even the fake snow that blankets the town square every every evening hour on the hour seem a little less cheery.

"Late into Thursday night [Dec. 2], sheriff's deputies barricaded several blocks in this neo-traditional town of 10,000 people and miles of white rail fencing, trying to talk a despondent and armed 52-year-old man out of his home. After more than 14 hours, sheriff's deputies entered his home early Friday and found him dead from a self-inflicted gunshot wound" ("A Killing (a First) in a Town Produced by Disney" by Kim Severson, *The New York Times* reprints, Dec. 2, 2010, p. 1).

Man, apart from God, does not know the way to peace (Isa. 59:8, Rom. 3:17). The Disney corporation can try to create a utopian community but it will fail. True utopia will come only when Christ returns and sets up his government. Prior to that time, we will see this world become more and more violent (2 Tim. 3:1-4, Mat. 34:37, Gen. 6:5).