

**All Rights Reserved By HDM For This Digital Publication  
Copyright 1993 -- 2006 Holiness Data Ministry**

**Duplication of this disc (CD or DVD) by any means is forbidden,  
and copies of individual files must be made in accordance with  
the restrictions stated in the B4UCopy.txt file on this disc.**

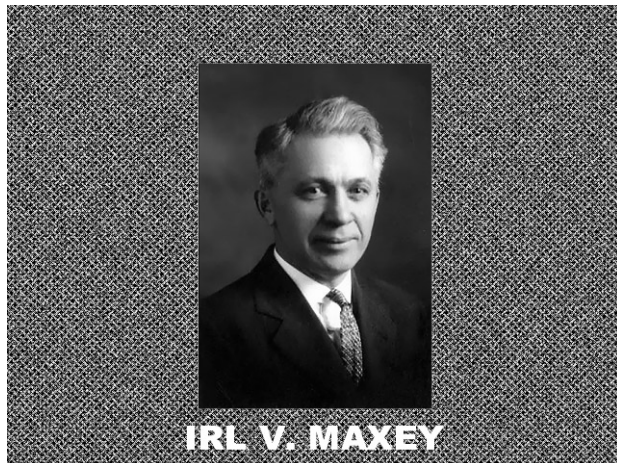
**THE UNCHANGEABLE BEAUTIES OF HEAVEN  
By Irl V. Maxey**

**Digitized and Edited  
By Duane V. Maxey**

\* \* \* \* \*

**Digital Edition 02/11/06  
By Holiness Data Ministry**

\* \* \* \* \*



**INTRODUCTION TO THIS FILE**

**This sermon was written on November 13, 1915 in Ashton, Idaho. My brother Parker notes, in his sketch of papa's life: "My earliest recollection was while Father was pastoring in Ashton, Idaho near Yellowstone National Park where we had moved in 1916." However, it seems quite apparent from papa's date on this sermon that the family actually moved to Ashton, not in 1916, but some time before November 13, 1915. Ashton is in eastern Idaho and is referred to as the Gateway to Yellowstone National Park. A current web site lists its population as 2,385. It is located in Idaho's Fremont County, the average elevation therein being 4,968 feet. So, here again papa was serving the Lord in a very small town -- as he did in much of his ministry -- a place with more scenery than citizens. But, I am sure that being in God's will was more important to Irl Vancleve Maxey than being in a large city**

with a large congregation. For, like Abraham of old, "For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God."

In this message, papa speaks of that beautiful, spiritual, and eternal Heaven that has been lost, and how it may be restored -- now, and forever. Perhaps some readers will find in it some nuances of meaning that are somewhat difficult to follow, or with which they do not agree. I, myself, have made bracketed comments in some places where this may be so. But, beyond these minor matters, papa delivers a spiritual message with an evangelistic close. I pray that this sermon will be blessed of God to the hearts of all who may read it, if Jesus tarries. -- Duane V. Maxey, (Ahwatukee) Phoenix, Arizona, February 11, 2006.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### **SERMON TEXT:**

Hebrews 11:10 -- "For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God."

\* \* \*

I want to talk to you on the "Unchangeable Beauties of Heaven." I am indebted to Dewitt Talmadge for part of my thought and the rest has seemed to dawn upon me from various sources as I have read books, the Bible, taken walks in nature, and have prayed.

Like the curtains of night are drawn slowly and the light fades, one poet has suggested that Heaven in all its splendor lies around infancy,\* and another that we should not lose our realization of this, but as we grow older keep our pure and innocent heart. A great many trouble their minds with: Where is Heaven? and they seem to grasp about in the haze of philosophy and never are satisfied.

[\*Here papa apparently expresses the poet's thought that Heaven's splendor fades as from infancy one grows older -- "like the curtains of night are drawn slowly and the light fades."]

No wonder. The natural man cannot grasp this, for the Scripture says, "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him" (1 Cor. 2:9). Only those who know God can realize where Heaven is. Heaven is where God is.

In the beginning there was God, and all about Him infinite space.\* Some who try to philosophize on this subject say God and matter have always existed. Perhaps the stuff from which God called forth magnitude [matter] did always exist, for Paul says, "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the

word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear" (Heb. 11:3).

[\*In saying "In the beginning there was God," I am sure that papa was not suggesting that God Himself had a beginning. No doubt he meant to say by this that "in the beginning of creation there was God." But, I confess that I question papa's further statement that "all about Him" there "was infinite space." God alone is "infinite". Therefore "space" could not be "infinite" unless space is a part of God, and such a belief seems to me to be too close to Pantheism -- "the doctrine that God is not a personality, but that all laws, forces, manifestations, etc. of the universe are God; the belief that God and the universe are one and the same." -- Definition from my Webster's computer dictionary. All of this is a great mystery, and one that I myself have pondered since boyhood. Acts 17:28 -- declares of God: "For in Him we live, and move, and have our being." It seems to me, therefore, that since God alone is infinite, "space" and the creation are not "round about Him," but rather "within Him". However, neither space nor creation "within" the infinite God are part of Him. How this can be, I shall not endeavor to answer here, and with this, I shall leave the reader to his own musings about this subject, which I think shall remain unfathomable to finite minds in this world.]

Matter was not in this present form nor is it coextensive with God, for He can bring something out of this and it is at His command. God, and infinite space,\* and there is Heaven. For nothing could mar that harmony, and that was heaven. Jesus taught us to pray, "Our Father Who art in Heaven," not "Who art in the heavens."

[\*About "infinite space" see my thoughts in the above bracketed comments.]

God called the worlds into existence and they followed his laws, and into every nook and cranny there God was, and there was Heaven -- as Heaven still.\* Surely this Heaven reaches to the earth. He is in every shaggy rock and mantled tree. He is in every clinging vine and blooming flower -- in the grass of the field and every stirring seed.

[\*Here papa apparently differentiates the material creation and its heavens from the Spiritual Heaven, with the latter being omnipresent, i.e., coextensive, and coexistent with God. This idea is not the same as the erroneous Pantheistic notion that God and matter are one. But again, this whole subject, I believe, cannot be fully fathomed by finite minds in this world. Papa's thoughts may be correct that the Spiritual Heaven is omnipresent with God Himself. I shall say with the Psalmist about this: "Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it" (Ps 139:6).]

Someone has said that those flowers bloom and waste their fragrance on the desert air. This is not so: -- God and all Heaven's visitors enjoy these. God basks in the sunlight, walks in the wind, and rides on the storm. He sings in the waters, shouts in the cataracts, and rests in the bosom of the sea. Here is God -- and here

is Heaven still. He flies his courses with the waterfowl, romps with the wild animals, holds the worlds in one hand and stretches out eternity in the other -- for eternal Heaven is God's work.

In the first earth, God came here, and here was Heaven -- the Paradise of man -- and the animals feared and obeyed. God then dwelt with man -- man knew Him, because his heart was pure. Even yet, God comes to earth and dwells with the pure in heart.

In the beginning when God stood alone, with infinite space around Him (we might say unexplored), He spake and spirit messengers to do His will came forth. Here is where Heaven began to be peopled. Here it changes.

Next, He bringeth His only begotten Son into the world and "He saith, And let all the angels of God worship him" (Heb. 1:6).

Next, the Holy Spirit came, and the Triune God with the angels, beholding its beauties, enjoyed the wonderful sight of the world's being called into existence. Jesus was here, for Hebrews 1:2 says of God's Son: "by Whom also He made the worlds." Yes, the host of God's angels and the blessed Trinity now visit every nook and cranny of creation. "It is good. It is good," the stars sang, and the angels sang, and they all shouted for joy! All was Heaven, for there God was.

Now the Father says, "Let us make man." Man was made to enjoy this creation, and probably others. I do not know, perhaps not.\*

[\*Precisely who the "others" were that papa thought might have been made to enjoy "this creation" I do not know, and I shall not here speculate. Papa was not certain that his assumption was right, and I am not certain what his assumption was -- and I shall leave it at that.]

In Heaven, some angels rebelled. Lucifer was their leader. By the fact of their rebellion, Lucifer and his followers were out of Heaven.\*

[\*Papa probably means here that the very act of rebellion by Lucifer and his followers, in fact, put them outside of that Spiritual Heaven which coexists with God.]

Then Man rebelled through Lucifer's rebellion. Oh! the blanket of eternal night caused by sin shut man out of Heaven! The maker of the earth must withdraw His presence and the earth must not know His full presence any more. Adam and all his posterity perished spiritually. So did the old earth and with it the location of the Garden of Paradise.

But God came again to this earth in the Person of Jesus. He came unto His own, and His own received Him not. Here, Jesus lived and died for men, that they

may forever live with God. Adam by his sin, shut out from men, life in Heaven. Jesus brought Heaven back to all who believe upon Him. How Jesus did this was wonderful, and Peter says the angels did not understand it: -- "which things the angels desire to look into." (1 Peter 1:12).

Man joined the rebellion of Lucifer, but now by Jesus' blood he could again be restored. Jesus told His followers He was restoring (preparing) a place for them by His death and resurrection.

Ah, friends, this is Heaven! Heaven is not far away. Heaven is here, now, in the hearts of thousands of those who believe. They who enter this can, and do, realize Heaven is here -- realize the presence of the blessed Trinity. Also, their minds are sharpened by this fact, so that the meek inherit the earth. All nature echoes to their redemption, and all Heaven sings -- and the redeemed appreciate earth's beauties because Heaven is here with them.

The patriarchs and kings of the infant world who lived with God -- Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and all the saved of earth are in Heaven. Let Paul answer: "For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest... But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, And to Jesus..." (Heb. 12:18, 22-24).

Here, are we come. Oh! this is Heaven! Yes, we are come to them and live with them, and our old clay feet prevent us from going with them as they go, but "We will drop this robe of clay some day, some day!"

Heaven, as a body, will come down some day, and those who live here will just drop their robe of clay and be at Home. This old earth will pass away and everyone that is of the earth, earthy. Peter says: "Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness" (2 Peter 3:13).<sup>\*</sup> And it will be where Heaven comes back to earth.

[<sup>\*</sup>This sounds, eschatologically, like the Amillennial view which I heard that papa leaned toward -- a view quite similar to my own.]

John the Revelator says, "The first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea" (Rev. 21:1).

Peter says, "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up" (2 Pet. 3:10).

**John says, "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth.. coming down from God out of heaven." (Rev. 21:1-2).**

**Oh, Glory to God! Here Heaven is, all come to earth. God, His angels, the redeemed, all together. Oh! This will be joy!**

**Joy commenced when the redeemed first commenced to come to Heaven. How Heaven does sing at that event! Oh, think, choir, of the many times the Choir of Heaven sang with Heaven welcomed an infant, or when someone was born again and Heaven entered into his heart!**

**Paul says, "The whole creation groaneth... waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body" (Rom. 8:22-23) when the earth and the fierceness of animals shall be gone. The fires of Judgment and Hell are burning. This earth is passing away. The new earth shall come, and the redeemed and all Heaven are coming to take their eternal abode here. Here the City of God is coming down. Its Builder and Maker is God. Heaven shall have changed by enlarging its borders -- changed also in the number of people who have gone there. At last Heaven shall find its permanent location on earth.**

**John says, "There are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost" (1 John 5:7). They have not changed. God is always the same. Jesus is the same: "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever" (Heb. 13:8). The Holy Ghost is the same. He moved on the hearts of the prophets and the apostles, giving the Bible.**

**"There's a land that is fairer than day,  
And by faith we can see it afar;  
For the Father waits over the way,  
To prepare us a dwelling place there.**

**"We shall sing on that beautiful shore,  
The melodious songs of the blest,  
And our spirits shall sorrow no more,  
Not a sigh for the blessing of rest.**

**To our bountiful Father above,  
We will offer our tribute of praise,  
For the glorious gift of His love,  
And the blessings that hallow our days.**

**Refrain**

**"In the sweet by and by,  
We shall meet on that beautiful shore,  
In the sweet by and by,  
We shall meet on that beautiful shore."**

**Oh friends! Come to God this morning! Come to Jesus now! Through Him, may your heart enter Heaven this morning, and soon you will drop this robe of clay and faith will be turned to sight. Oh! Shall your family circle be unbroken by and by? Oh, God grant that it may not be broken! Come now! The glories of Heaven have not been told. How God is the Light of all this earth, John describes. He is love, and here is love. Come! Live in Heaven now! Know the blessed Trinity! -- and join the loved ones in that City!**

**\* \* \* \* \***

**THE END OF THIS SERMON**