

The third Heaven – God's throne

As Daniel prayed, the angel Gabriel suddenly appeared before him, offering comfort and understanding to Daniel's troubled heart. Gabriel's purpose was to bring an end to Daniel's inner confusion by imparting to him a new revelation from God. The angel began his conversation by saying something you and I should want to hear more than any other phrase in our language: "For thou art greatly loved." Daniel was concluding his prayer when he was surprised by joyous words from God. To have a greater appreciation of this scenario, consider this: Gabriel had been in the third Heaven (2 Corinthians 12:2-3). That's billions of light years away, farther than our natural minds can grasp, and yet Gabriel now stands before Daniel, arriving in a flash, in nanoseconds.

Here's just how far Gabriel flew to arrive at Daniel's side. We're told that our astronauts would have to travel for forty thousand years at terrific speeds to get to the first star. But that would be just the first leg of their inter-galactic journey if they travelled onward to the third Heaven, God's throne. There are billions, trillions, quadrillions, and quintillions of stars beyond that, as we go higher and higher. Scientists have now discovered a new quasar that is some eighty-two trillion billion miles out in space. And it becomes even more mind-boggling. We know that light travels at a rate of 186 000 miles per second, so when a scientist talks about a light year, that's the speed light travels at that velocity for 1 year, or a distance of six trillion miles!

You and I could travel thirteen and one-half billion light years, and still not arrive at the third Heaven, God's throne! Just as Gabriel moved from the dimension of the third Heaven to Daniel's side in an instant, so will we be able to move, at the speed of light, in our glorified bodies as we sweep through space, identical to the speed angels currently traverse the Heavens.

All glory, honour and praise to the Most High God!
