

Selling/ Buying Heaven

The heaven one buys into is qualified by the theology of its origin. If one subscribes to the theology of dominion-from-the-top-down one will understand heaven as being conferred from the top-down; if one perceives life and theology as participatory-from-the-bottom-up, one will understand heaven from quite a different perspective. If history is a measure, some logic seemingly applies to both perspectives. The common ground and answers to life need ceaselessly to be pursued.

Heaven is commonly represented as perpetual time and place of physical/ spiritual bliss. The details of time and place get blurry, particularly so, when the worldview upon which theology and heaven are rationalized loses credibility; modern knowledge subscribes to an evolutionary worldview that religions mostly reject. This is the conundrum that main-line religions and theology face, namely, that the top-down, static-centric worldview is now eroded by the bottom-up evolutionary worldview.

The worldview of creation-from-the-top-down is based on belief of the direct creation of species by God, distinctly different and fixed life-forms. The worldview of creation (from within) from-the-bottom-up conceives of all creation as essentially joined, and all higher life-forms evolved from lower (less complex) life-forms. The substance of all organisms is continually self-renewing; old substance is ever replaced with new.

Dominion theology understands heaven in terms of physical place where the saintly shall abide forever in physical/ spiritual bliss, those who die, and forever after life on Earth ceases. Dominion culture plays on emotions of guilt and fear, reward and punishment in order to hold position over the populace; its theology premises divinity who plays by the same rules.

Participation theology is open to the time/ place of Earth-life, knowing that it is in process of continuous change and that it will cease to be sometime in the future. People are aware that they have a hand in changes to Earth-life and in the sustainability of life on Earth. Beyond this life it cannot be known what existence in the future will be, but that should be ok for we ought to realize that we had no existence in prior life except in genetic potential; better to be than not to be.

So, what is heaven? Heaven may be conceived as a quality of informed consciousness whose dimensions are anticipated through physical senses that inform consciousness and thought-processing—a process and place of human conditioning. What the senses know about heaven is that human choices in the present determine the quality of harmony and happiness in the future. The way we live, lives on after us in the company of future generations. Heaven isn't to be bought, it is to be experienced. God is with us. Heaven is from within. Personal trustworthiness is a measure of trust one can expect in return. Be trustworthy and experience the bliss you anticipate.

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