

Dear Darryl,

Thank you for writing us at Christian Questions Radio. Regarding 2 Corinthians 12:1-4, you wanted to know if Paul was transported to the third heaven where God resides or was he taken to the third dispensation, the new heaven and new earth, in which Christ and his church will reign. You also wanted to know what the inexpressible words were that Paul heard in paradise, which a man is not permitted to speak.

In 2 Corinthians 12:1-4 the Apostle Paul is unsure whether this remarkable experience included his body or took place separate from it. As much as it appeared to Paul that he actually went to the third heaven (God's residence), we believe that he was caught up mentally and saw a vision of God's abode and of the new condition of things as they will be under the spiritual control of Christ, or, as you mentioned, a glimpse of the third dispensation (the world to come).

The inexpressible things that Paul heard were, most likely, the plans and purposes of God. He might have seen the events that would transpire throughout the Gospel age and culminate in the harvest. He might also have seen what would happen during Armageddon and how God's kingdom would come to be established on earth. Since he was not allowed to explain these visions, their meaning was a secret entrusted to him. These visions were most likely the same ones the Apostle John later saw and was permitted to express to the Church in symbols in the Book of Revelation. John's revelation included the entire Christian age and its changing scenes of church and state, to the end of this present evil world, where he saw Satan bound, Christ reigning, and a new heaven (or spiritual government) and a new earth (society) established (Revelation 21:1).

We hope we have answered your questions. Be sure to sign up for CQ Rewind at www.christianquestions.net. The service is free without obligation and will provide you with scriptural perspective on many questions and topics.

Sincerely,

Christian Questions Radio