



Rise Up - Part I

Throughout the New Testament, we can see references to the concept of rising up, raised, being raised, raised up, raised from, risen, risen again, awake, rose again, rose from, and rise. All of these usages are translated from the same Greek word—egeiro.

Egeiro means, “to waken, rouse from sleep, disease, death; or figuratively, from obscurity, inactivity, ruins, nonexistence.” Four words aptly define egeiro: stand, take up, raise and awake.

Egeiro in Ephesians

Egeiro is used 150 times in the New Testament, but I will not be reviewing them all. I’d like to focus on its usage in the book of Ephesians, which occurs twice.

(Eph 1:20 KJV) Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised [egeiro] him from the dead, and set *him* at his own right



hand in the heavenly places,

And . . .

(Eph 5:14 KJV) Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise egeiro from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

Let’s break down each of these verses, beginning with Ephesians 1:20.

In the Heavens:

The following study focuses on egiero from Ephesians 1:20.

(Eph 1:20 KJV) Which he wrought [he has

wrought] in [the] Christ, when he raised egeiro him from [ek-from among] the dead, and set [having set] *him* at his own right hand in the heavenly [heavens] places,

Let’s incorporate these changes into a literal rendering.

(Eph 1:20 KJV) His power he has wrought in the Christ, when he roused him from among the dead, and having set *him* at his own right hand in the heavens,

The beauty of what God did for his son cannot be diminished. God manifested the greatness of his power in egeiro. I would like to say that egeiro is therefore a very powerful word. When we find it in the Bible, we should consider its potential for power. Not only did the greatness of God’s power rouse Jesus Christ from a state of being dead, it swept him completely from the

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earth and deposited him at his (God's) own right hand.

Not only did God's power become manifest on earth, it continued to be manifested as Christ passed through the devil's second-heaven kingdom, from the first to the third, and ended in God's heaven, being eternally manifested

Three heavens:

To capture the power of Jesus being raised from the dead, we need to learn about the three heavens; his journey to God took him through all three heavens. What better time than to gain a greater understanding of all three.

Intro:

(Gen 1:1 KJV) In the beginning God created the heaven(s) and the earth.

"Heaven" is translated from the Hebrew word shamayim, plural for 'heavens.'

There are actually three heavens mentioned in the Bible—the first one, that one in which you breathe, the second one between one and three, that one above yours,

called the second heaven, and the one above that, called the third heaven—God's home.

God mentions multiple heavens in Psalms:

(Psa 8:3 KJV) When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;

In the New Testament, the Greek word ouranos translates into 'heavens.'

(2 Pet 3:10 KJV) But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens [ouranos-heaven] 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.

The heavens, as we know them, will be removed. To qualify this, we'll see later that the entirety of the three heavens will not be removed.

The First Heaven-The Atmospheric Heaven:

The first heaven is the atmosphere in which you exist. It is under the firmament mentioned in Psalms 19:1.

(Psa 19:1 KJV) To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. The heavens [shamayim-heavens] declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork.

The heavens mentioned in Psalms 19:1 is our atmosphere consisting of multiple layers in the 20 mile troposphere, and is seen by the naked eye—the sky. It covers the earth and contains our oxygen.

(James 5:17-18 KJV) Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. {18} And he prayed again, and the heaven [ouranos-heaven] gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.

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In James, we learned that rain falls in the first heaven. We see this again in Revelations 11:6.

(Rev 11:6 KJV) These have power to shut heaven [ouranos-heaven], that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.

Activities in this heaven:

(Gen 6:7 KJV) And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air [shamayim-heavens]; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

Genesis 6:7 tells us that birds fly in the first heaven.

(Luke 17:24 KJV) For as the lightning, that lighteneth out of the one *part* under heaven [ouranos-heaven], shineth unto the other *part* under heaven [ouranos-heaven]; so shall also

the Son of man be in his day.

Lightning exists in the first heaven.

(Luke 17:29 KJV) But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven [ouranos-heaven], and destroyed *them* all.

The fire and brimstone came out of the first heaven; this heaven extends upwards about 20 miles.

The fowls fly in the air in the first heaven. Jesus also mentioned the fowls of the air [ouranos-heaven] in his Sermon. They fly in the first heaven.

(Mat 6:26 KJV) Behold the fowls of the air [ouranos-heaven]: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

The Second Heaven-The Celestial Heaven:

Mention of the Third Heaven grants us the logic that a 'first' and 'second' heaven also exist. The Bible does not use the term 'second heaven.' This place, the stratosphere, is where the sun, stars, the moon, and the entire galaxy exist.

(Eph 6:12 KJV) For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high [celestial - above the sky] *places* (NIT – not in text) [from on high - the second heaven].

The devil has made the second heaven his home; in Ephesians, it is called 'in high places.' 'In high places' means, 'from on high.' Honestly, I wouldn't want to be an astronaut or be present in that particular space.

(Eph 3:10 KJV) To the intent that now unto the principalities [*arche* – the chief evil rulers] and powers [*exousia* – exerted powers] in heavenly *places* [celestial - above the sky] might be known by the church

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the manifold wisdom of God,

The manifold wisdom of God was exposed to the evil chief ruler and his exerted powers abiding in the second heaven.

The usage of the word 'heavenly' is the same Greek word for 'above the sky, celestial.' The second heaven can be included in the heavens above the sky [the first heaven].

(Heb 4:14 KJV) Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into [through] the heavens [ouranos-heavens], Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* profession [the confession].

Jesus Christ passed through all of the heavens on his way to his new home.

Using the word heaven, Jesus described coming events.

(Mat 24:29 KJV) Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven [ouranos-

heaven], and the powers [dunamis –inherent power] of the heavens [ouranos-heavens] shall be shaken:

Here we've seen that the inherent powers of the [second] heaven shall be shaken. They won't be able to mobilize their powers against God.

Heaven of Heavens

The stars are located in the celestial or second heaven, called 'the heaven of heavens.' I'd like to provide the verses referencing 'the heaven(s) of heavens.'

(Deu 10:14 KJV) Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the LORD'S thy God, the earth also, with all that therein is.

(2 Chr 6:18 KJV) But will God in very deed dwell with men on the earth? behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house which I have built!

(1 Ki 8:27 KJV) But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the

heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?

(Neh 9:6 KJV) Thou, *even* thou, *art* LORD alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all *things* that *are* therein, the seas, and all that *is* therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee.

(Psa 68:33 KJV) To him that rideth upon the heavens of heavens, *which were* of old; lo, he doth send out his voice, *and that* a mighty voice.

(Psa 148:4 KJV) Praise him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that *be* above the heavens.

Each of these 'heaven of heavens' references give us different perspectives into the celestial heaven. These include: God owns this real estate; it is not big enough to contain God; God made the celestial heavens; it is a riding ground upon which God

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and His hosts could travel; it is a sounding ground from which God has and will speak with a mighty voice; and it is a barrier that holds back the waters that are above the heavens.

Activities under this heaven.

There is great beauty and glory in the second, celestial heaven. The celestial heaven is the second heaven.

(1 Cor 15:40-41 KJV) *There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. {41} There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory.*

(Luke 10:18 KJV) *And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven [ouranos-heaven].*

We've seen that lightning exists in the first heaven; when satan falls from the second heaven, and then

through the first heaven, he will appear as falling lightning.

(Rev 9:1 KJV) *And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven [ouranos-heaven] unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.*

Stars are located in the celestial or second heaven. When the fifth angel sounds, an angel, a star holding the key of the bottomless pit, shall fall from heaven unto the earth.

(Rev 6:13 KJV) *And the stars of heaven [ouranos-heaven] fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.*

These stars, which are spirits, shall fall to the earth. They shall fall from the second heaven, through the first heaven, and onto the earth.

(Rev 8:10-11 KJV) *And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell*

upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters; {11} And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.

Once again, reference is made to a star falling from heaven—the celestial or second heaven. This star or angel was commissioned by the third angel when he sounded out. This great star will fall from the celestial heaven, burning as it were a lamp. It will fall upon a third of the waters on the earth and is called wormwood.

(Rev 12:3-4 KJV) *And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. {4} And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.*

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Called another wonder in the celestial heaven, using his tail, a great red dragon will gather a third of the stars of the celestial heaven and cast them to the earth. The red dragon will gather one third of the angels in the celestial heaven and use them for his own devices.

These activities that include the stars of heaven generally take place during The Day of the Lord. This is the time when God will judge man and the earth.

(Isa 13:9-10 KJV) Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. {10} For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.

Sometime during this time, the stars of heaven and the constellations will stop giving their light. This will take place in the celestial or second heaven.

The Third Heaven-The Dwelling Place of God:

The third heaven is above the first and second heavens, above the firmament, and above the waters beyond the firmament. God's throne room sits above all of this.

Even though the heavens are utterly expansive, the entirety of the universe cannot contain God.

(2 Cor 12:2 KJV) I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.

In verse 2, this man, presumably Paul, was caught up to the third heaven, God's dwelling place. This verse clearly references a third heaven. Paul saw this place, God's home.

(2 Cor 12:4 KJV) How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable [inexpressible] words, which it is not lawful for

a man to utter.

What Paul saw he couldn't express. Amazing!

What did it look like?

(Isa 6:1 KJV) In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.

Isaiah saw the Lord God sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up. Can you imagine? Isaiah caught a glimpse of God in the third heaven.

Stephen looked into the third heaven:

(Acts 7:55-56 KJV) But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into [the third] heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, {56} And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

The third heaven is the place that Jesus Christ entered. God's presence also occupies the third heaven.

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(Heb 9:24 KJV) For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, *which are* the figures of the true; but into heaven itself [the third heaven], now to appear in the presence of God for us:

Christ was entered into the third heaven, and he is still there.

We have learned that the first heaven consists of our atmosphere, that the second heaven is the celestial heaven that contains the sun, moon and stars, and satan with his adversarial forces, and that the third heaven is Jesus Christ and God's dwelling place. As Christians, our dwelling place is with Christ and God, in the third heaven.

(Phil 3:20 KJV) For our conversation [way of life] is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

Our way of life is heavenly. We stand and are also seated there and look for Christ's return to this earth. What a great mind picture. This is

why Christians are strangers and pilgrims while they live on earth.

(1 Pet 2:11 KJV) Dearly beloved, I beseech *you* as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

Activities in this heaven:

God's throne is in the third heaven.

(Mat 5:34 KJV) But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by [the third] heaven; for it is God's throne:

God will gather all things in Christ, those things in the third heaven, and those things on earth 'in one.' There will no longer be a separation of all things belonging to Christ.

(Eph 1:10 KJV) That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in [the third] heaven, and which are on earth; *even* in him:

Your inheritance is reserved in the third heaven.

(1 Pet 1:4 KJV) To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in [the third] heaven for you,

The word 'reserved' means, 'guarded.' Your inheritance has been placed under guard in the third heaven. God's military guards our inheritance. How fantastic!

You are enrolled in Heaven.

(Heb 12:23 KJV) To the general assembly and church of the first-born, which are written [enrolled] in [the third] heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

'Written' means, 'enrolled.' You are enrolled in heaven. Nothing can remove your name from the Book of Life or the scrolls of heaven.

(Heb 8:1 KJV) Now of the things which we have spoken *this is* the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in

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the [third] heavens;

Jesus Christ, our high priest, is set on the right hand of God's throne in the third heaven.

(Eph 1:20-21 KJV) Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set *him* at his own right hand in the heavenly [the third heaven] *places*, {21} Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

Ephesians greatly clarifies what God did for His son. 'In the heavenly ...' refers to 'the third heaven.' The third heaven is out of reach, out of touch to all but a select few including us. That's where our prayers go. Based on verse 21, something of this heaven might still exist in that which is to come. It will still be far above everything.

You are seated in the third heaven.

(Eph 2:5-6 KJV) Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened

[made alive] us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) {6} And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly [epouranios – above the sky—celestial] *places* in Christ Jesus:

We, Christians, sit together in the third heaven in Christ Jesus. How fantastic! Here, the third heaven is said to be above the sky, a celestial place in Christ Jesus. That place is our real home until God forms the new earth.

Two points from John: Heaven holds many secrets; No man hath ascended up to the third heaven except Jesus Christ.

(John 3:12-13 KJV) If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you *of heavenly things*? {13} And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, *even the Son of man which is in heaven.*

Those many heavenly things include spiritual blessings.

(Eph 1:3 KJV) Blessed be the God and Father of

our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly [above the sky – the third heaven] *places* in Christ:

There are great buildings in the third heaven, even cities.

(Heb 11:16 KJV) But now they desire a better *country*, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

(Heb 12:22 KJV) 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, [Author's note: They have to live somewhere.]

Verse 22 talks about the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. Also in the third heaven is an innumerable company of angels.

Fallen angels might try to deceive you:

(Gal 1:8 KJV) But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you

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than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

Some fallen angels will teach contrary doctrine. Even if an angel comes from the third heaven, and teaches you contrary to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, let him be accursed.

After a person dies, does he go to heaven?

A second mention of John 3:13 is warranted. More so, according to the following two verses, no man has ascended up to [the third] heaven.

(John 3:13 KJV) And no man hath ascended up to [the third] heaven, but he that came down from [the third] heaven, even the Son of man which is in [the third] heaven.

(Acts 2:34 KJV) For David is not ascended into the [the third] heavens: but he saith himself, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand,

The only man yet to do so, Jesus Christ, has ascended and dwells in the third heaven.

The Heaven to Come:

What about the heaven to come?

(Rev 21:1-3 KJV) And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. {2} And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of [the third] heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. {3} And I heard a great voice out of [the third] heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

God will live on the new earth after the first heaven and earth are passed away. From God's heaven, the holy city, the New Jerusalem, will descend. The great voice introducing the tabernacle of God will speak out of God's heaven, and resound across all heavens. The Bible does not specifically say that the third heaven will also be re-

moved. It seems that it is still there when the New Jerusalem descends to the new earth.

I'd like you to consider Ephesians 1:20 again and the Greek word egeiro.

(Eph 1:20 KJV) Which he wrought [he has wrought] in [the] Christ, when he raised egeiro him from [ek-from among] the dead, and set [having set] *him* at his own right hand in the heavenly [heavens] *places*,

Literal:

(Eph 1:20 KJV) His inherent power he has wrought in the Christ, when he roused him from among the dead, and having set *him* at his own right hand in the heavens,

What God did with and for Jesus Christ spanned all three heavens. Jesus breathed real air in the first heaven; he passed through the second heaven, stars, all beings celestial, and arrived at the third heaven, God's home, and Jesus Christ's new home. All of the greatness of God's power was manifest when he raised his son from the dead AND sat Jesus Christ at his own right hand in the heaven above the skies, the heaven

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high above all power and all principalities, essentially, all of God's creation.

Much Love in Christ,

Jerry D. Brown

Stay tuned for Part II