

TSIYON NEWS

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*Tonight at **Tsiyon.Net** –*

*Message for the New
Hebrew Year!*

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From Eliyahu

"Let them build Me a Sanctuary, that I may reside in their midst." Ex 25:8

This, our theme verse for this year, reminds us of a profound truth: Our Creator desires to live in the midst of His people. What does that really mean? For many, this thought brings up the idea of going to heaven when you die. Undoubtedly, Scripture makes clear that Heaven is the abode of our Creator in the spirit realm. But is it the place where God desires to live with us? Let's talk about Heaven.

Heaven has long been envisioned as the place of the ideal afterlife, filled with eternal peace and joy, serving as a reward for those who lead virtuous lives. This concept is rooted in various ancient religious traditions, cultural beliefs, and philosophical interpretations, shaping how different populations perceive the afterlife.

Religious Beliefs Regarding Heaven

1. *Christianity*: Heaven is depicted as the dwelling place of God, angels, and the faithful who have been redeemed. It is often described as a realm of bliss, free from suffering where we will be reunited with our loved ones.
2. *Islam*: Muslims believe in Jannah, a paradise promised to those who follow commandments of the Muslim god. It is portrayed as a lush, beautiful garden with rivers, shade, and eternal companionship.
3. *Hinduism*: Heaven, or Swarga, is a temporary abode of happiness where souls reside before reincarnation. It is part of the cycle of samsara.
4. *Buddhism*: Some Buddhist traditions speak of heavenly realms as one stage in the cycle of rebirth, with Enlightenment as the end goal.

Origins of the Idea of a Heavenly Afterlife

The concept of heaven as afterlife has ancient roots, with early civilizations envisioning realms beyond earthly existence. Ancient Egyptian beliefs included the Field of Reeds, a paradisiacal afterlife. The concept of heaven as an afterlife destination is not exclusive to ancient Egypt—it appears in various forms across numerous ancient pagan religions. Here are some notable examples:

1. **Babylonian Beliefs**: In Babylonian mythology, the afterlife was often associated with the underworld, but there were also ideas of a celestial realm for gods and select individuals. The heavens were seen as the domain of the divine, and some myths hinted at the possibility of humans ascending to join the gods under specific circumstances.
2. **Greek Mythology**: The Greeks envisioned the *Elysian Fields* (or Elysium) as a paradisiacal afterlife for heroes and the virtuous. It was described as a place of eternal spring, happiness, and peace, reserved for those favored by the gods or distinguished by their deeds.
3. **Norse Mythology**: In Norse beliefs, *Valhalla* was a majestic hall in Asgard where warriors who died bravely in battle were welcomed. It was a place of honor, feasting, and preparation for the final battle of Ragnarok. Another

realm, *Fólkvangr*, overseen by the goddess Freyja, also served as a resting place for some of the fallen.

4. **Celtic Traditions:** The Celts believed in *Tír na nÓg*, the "Land of the Young," a mystical paradise where the dead could enjoy eternal youth, beauty, and happiness. It was often depicted as an island across the sea, accessible only to the chosen.
5. **Mystery Religions:** Ancient mystery cults, such as those of Orpheus and Dionysus, often promised initiates a blissful afterlife. These religions emphasized personal salvation and the soul's journey to a heavenly realm, transcending the mortal world.

These ancient pagan beliefs reflect fallen humanity's enduring fascination with the idea of a heavenly afterlife—a place of reward, peace, and connection with lost loved ones. They also highlight the diversity of interpretations and cultural influences that have shaped the popular concept of heaven over millennia.

Pagan Afterlife in Heaven



Modern Statistics and Perspectives on Heaven

Surveys suggest that belief in heaven remains prevalent worldwide. According to Pew Research, over 70% of Americans believe in heaven as afterlife, with variations across religious and demographic groups. People offer numerous motives for their belief in a heavenly afterlife. Here are some of them:

- *Comfort:* It offers solace in the face of mortality, providing hope for reunion with loved ones.

- *Morality*: It reinforces the idea that good deeds and virtue are rewarded.
- *Purpose*: It encourages meaningful living, inspiring individuals to strive for spiritual fulfillment.
- *Fear of Hell*: The prospect of eternal torment motivates individuals to seek heaven as an escape and a refuge from hell.

The Role of Hell in Shaping Beliefs Regarding Heaven

The concept of hell plays a crucial role in shaping people's desire for heaven. While heaven represents reward and eternal joy, hell serves as its stark opposite—a place of punishment and eternal torment for those who transgress moral or religious laws.

In Christianity, hell is often depicted as a realm of eternal suffering, complete separation from God, and unending anguish. Similarly, Islamic teachings contrast Jannah (heaven) with Jahannam (hell), where wrongdoers endure fiery torment. Fear of such consequences compels many to strive for heaven, not only for its rewards but also to avoid the pain and despair associated with hell.

Now, let's return to our theme verse:

"Let them build Me a Sanctuary, that I may reside in their midst." Ex 25:8

This verse is not about Heaven in any sense. It is about God dwelling with His people ON EARTH. God dwelling with mankind ON EARTH NOT IN HEAVEN, according to the Bible book of Revelation, is the end state of mankind. It will be the afterlife of the righteous. The last two chapters of the Bible make this abundantly clear.

So, if that's His plan, why isn't that happening right now? Here's the big reason: While God wants to dwell with Man, Man (the vast majority) does not want to dwell with God! Look at the reasons people want to go to heaven. Almost nobody says they want to go to heaven so they can live with God. Further, when God has offered to dwell with humans most have either rejected Him outright, or said 'yes' and then abandoned Him later. They want His stuff but they don't really want Him.

Only a relative few people actually care about Him and not just what they can get from Him. That small remnant of believers who actually love God are the people He wants to live with – not just as individuals either, but as His corporate people.

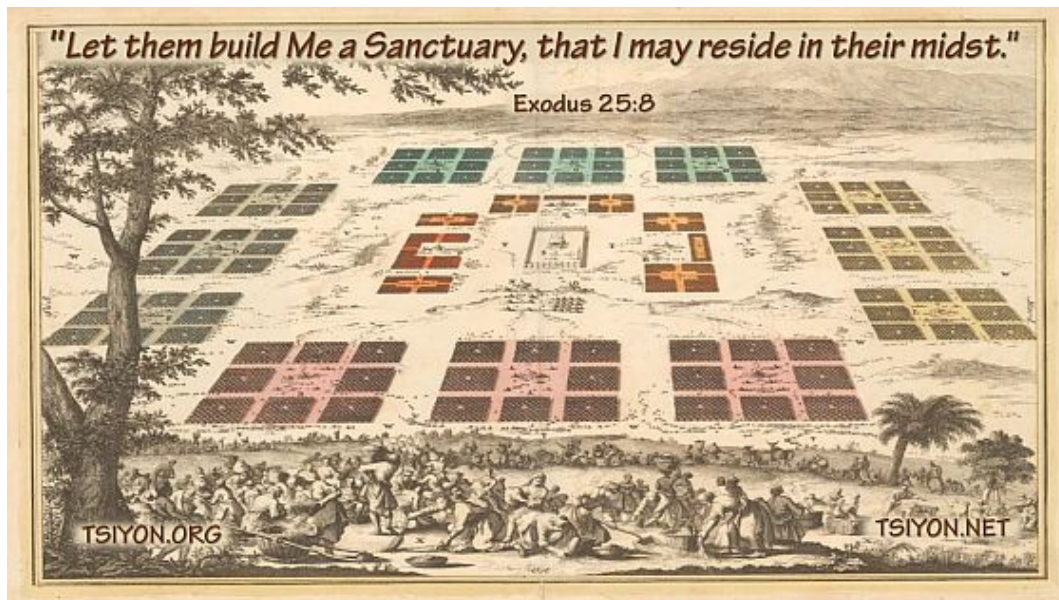
Thus to them He says; *"Let them build Me a Sanctuary, that I may reside in their midst."*

Join me tonight for my live stream presentation based on our theme verse: ***"Let them build Me a Sanctuary, that I may reside in their midst."*** This will be a special presentation to bring in our new Hebrew Year, which began just 7 days ago. This is for our Tsiyon Members only at Tsiyon.Net and no other streaming platforms. Log on and join us to get a snapshot of what's ahead for us this year!

Eliyahu
Tsiyon.Org

PS - Our next meeting after this one will be streamed on **Passover**, April 12, 2025 at 8 PM Central from Tsiyon.Net. Bring your own matzo and wine for our observance of our Lord's remembrance in the New Covenant.

See this tonight!



Audio:



Video:





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