

of the time to which we look forward. It is like a person running for President of the U.S. and the big thing that he is ^{not} looking forward to is standing up on the platform, taking the oath--it is that which follows. The great hope of the Christian is not that which we call heaven, not something that comes immediately after death, but something that does not come immediately after death--it is for those who lived at the time of Christ, something that comes a long time after death--there is a period of bliss at that time and something that the N.T. speaks of as glorious, but the great hope of the Christian is that glorious time and situation when the resurrection comes of the body. So this word heaven usually simply means the sky and by an extension of it we can use ~~it~~ the term to mean something that lies beyond our reach. Heaven is not where God is-- God is everywhere and His space is not limited. It is true that the Lord Jesus Christ was raised up into the sky, into the heavens and the clouds received and He is in a body. Most Christians are disembodied at present--there are very few that have been raptured such as Enoch, Elijah--there are a few and the saints who were raised at the resurrection of Christ and they were taken right up into heaven. ~~Ch~~ For most Christians the Rapture is something that is still future and for Christ the Resurrection has already occurred and while Christ as God is everywhere His body is still in one place and we speak of that place as Heaven as it is a place which He got by lifted up into the sky. We after death are disembodied and there is not any relationship between our disembodied state and his resurrection body then and our fellowship with Him has not any particular relationship to His body and until the time of the Resurrection of our body and so the intermediate state is a wonderful thing and the thought of "to live is Christ and to die is gain" and that is a great improvement over the conditions in the world about Him and He looked forward to the Resurrection and we can too. Ques. He might be half a mile from the earth or He might be a hundred million light years from the earth. All we know is that the last the disciples saw of Him is when the disciples ~~see~~ saw a cloud cause Him to disappear and after that what happened to His body has simply not been revealed. Ques. Yes, our body is entirely different, etc. The intermediate state is a state spoken of in the Scripture as the unclothed state and a state that is incomplete and it is unsatisfactory but for the Christian it is a state of bliss. Ques. I would say that the great OT predictions of the time after the Resurrection refers to a period which begins with Mel. and what follows the Mel. we are not sure.