

## Title: Whom Have I in Heaven?

Brandy Helton, Garden Gathering, 9/3/23

How good and glorious is the Lord. When you come together as one to worship Him, He is right here in the midst. It just strengthens us all so much. Amen. I want to bring the word He gave me for us today. I entitled it "Whom have I in Heaven."

### Hosea 6:3 NASB1995

*"So let us know, let us press on to know the Lord. His going forth is as certain as the dawn; And He will come to us like the rain, like the spring rain watering the earth."*

I will read it again, "So let us know, let us press on to know the Lord." That is what we do. We "press on to know the Lord." We are always growing. We are always increasing. Remember, God's Kingdom is not one of decrease, but one of increase, multiplication, and dominion. The charge is and has always been, for humanity and the followers of God and Christ to "press on to know the Lord." Press on to know the Lord, because "His going forth is as certain as the dawn." He is going to come. He is going to manifest Himself to you. He is going to manifest Himself to His Church and to His bride. He is going to manifest Himself to the kingdoms of this world. He is going to manifest Himself to the nations.

### Ezekiel 38:23 NKJV

He states that "He shall be made known in the eyes of many nations." The Lord is going to do this. "He will be made known to the eyes of many nations," peoples, ethnic groups. Our charge is to "press on to know the Lord."

### Psalms 73 NKJV

This psalm speaks of the saint that is following God and finds himself in the midst of a fallen world. "For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. The wages of sin is death. There is none who does good, no, not one." Since the fall, you have ups and downs throughout all the generations, but the wicked have always existed. The righteous are trying to walk through, and it seems at times, that the wicked are prospering, going about their business, and getting away with things. Yet, the righteous are having to walk a fine line, following after God's heart. Sometimes it looks like, "Who is winning and who is losing here?" You will see the wrestling of the human soul in the Psalms. That is the bottom line, you are wrestling, trying to discover what is going on in this life. Now, I could have just gone to the verse that I want to start on, but I needed you to see it in context. What it looks like sometimes, when you are going through life, and trials, tribulations, and unexpected things come our way. The flesh, the works of the evil one, trials, and tribulations are an assault and intrusion from the devil, right?

### Psalms 73:25-26 NKJV

He decided, and this is where he settled it, "Whom have I in Heaven, but you?" "There is none upon the Earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart, and He is my portion forever."

This verse has special meaning to me, personally. In October of 1987, I just had my second daughter, and I was going through what would have been a traumatic moment after a birthing. They thought that I was having a heart attack and I was hemorrhaging. All these things were going on and during this, was the first time I heard the Lord speak to me word for word from the Bible. I had to go find the verse after hearing Holy Spirit speak. That is the Spirit of Truth. I am sure I had read it before during times of "reading the Psalms," but the Holy Spirit comes in

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your need of the moment and speaks word for word, the direction of the Lord for you. Those that have walked with me for a long time, have heard this testimony of mine. It was revelation knowledge, as I was a scared, young mother having to walk through the fire all alone. Jeff was with Amber who was 16 months old at the time. You feel as if you are alone, yet the Lord is always with you. He is in it and with you through every trial and everything that you go through. This comforted me, and it has to this day, "Whom have I in Heaven, but you?" Whom? "There is none else, no one upon Earth, that I desire besides you." You see how it is always pointing back to God.

It is always putting God in the place of where He resides as Lord God Almighty and Lord of your heart. Then your flesh and your heart have to line up with this realization that, "I am with you. Yes, I am with you." We have all walked through at least one trial and one fire, if you have been born on the planet, right? He says, "There is none upon Earth I desire besides you. Oh, my flesh and my heart may fail. But, God is the strength of my heart, and He is my portion. He is my inheritance forever," right? He is all mine. That is why I love the verses where God speaks that. He says, "and the nations will know that I am the Lord." I love that. "The nations will know," that is the strength of God speaking. You do not have to figure it out. You just have to rest, be assertive, and believe God, that He has got it. You find yourself singing these things.

#### Psalm 73:27

That is the reality, if they do not repent and turn to Christ. That is the reality and end result of the wicked. Those who do not accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, are destroyed because of their own harlotry. They went after other lovers. We sang over all of these things this morning. "It is good for me to draw near to God," the psalmist settles it. This is where I am going to walk. It is good for me. "It is good for me to draw near to God." "I am going to press on to know the Lord." "I am going to press on to know the Lord, because He is going to rise and shine." Yes, He is going to shine light to your soul. He is going to bring healing to your body. He is going to give you strength to walk through it and overcome it.

"I put my trust in the Lord." He settled it there. We have to do that. What is our option? Trust in the devil? I always tell you, "Have faith in God or have faith in the devil." Those are your options, fear or faith. That is it. So, I have to put my trust in God. Hallelujah. I think that is probably the summation of all the Psalms. They finally settled it. We will put our trust in God. Amen. Let God meet you in your weakness. Do not be ashamed of it. But, expect God to transform you in and through it.

Let God meet you in your weakness. Do not be ashamed of it. Do not be ashamed of what you are having to walk through. Okay, expect God to transform you in and through it. The goal is Christ's likeness, not pride and self preservation. The goal is Christ's likeness, not pride and self preservation, because that is the propensity of humans. It is called iniquity, pride, preserve yourself, and save yourself. That is it. But, God said, "Humble yourself." "Let us press on to know the Lord." That is what this side of life looks like.

I am going to read to you out of my Open Bible, some of the introduction to the book of Lamentations, which was written by Jeremiah. Give ear to hear.

*"Lamentations describes the funeral of a city. It is a tear-stained portrait of the once proud Jerusalem, now reduced to rubble by the invading Babylonian hordes. In a five poem dirge, Jeremiah exposes his emotions. A death has occurred. Jerusalem lies barren. This is the setting for Lamentations. The historical background of Lamentations can be found in the time of Jeremiah. The book was written soon after Jerusalem's destruction at the beginning of the exile. Nebuchadnezzar laid siege to Jerusalem from January 580 BC to July 586 BC, and it fell*

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*on July 19. The city and the temple were burned on August 15. Jeremiah probably wrote these five elegies before he was taken captive to Egypt, by his disobedient countrymen, not long after the destruction. Now, here is the Christ of Lamentations. The weeping prophet Jeremiah is a type of Christ, the prophet who wept over the same city six centuries later. "Oh, Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her. How often I wanted to gather your children together as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings. But, you were not willing. See, your house is left to you desolate." That is from Matthew 23. Like Christ, Jeremiah identified himself personally, with the plight of Jerusalem, and with human suffering caused by sin.*

*Lamentations also includes elements that typify Christ's life and ministry as a man of sorrows, who was acquainted with grief. He was afflicted, despised, and derided by His enemies. The scripture says that He was bruised for our iniquities. He was pierced through for our transgressions and our sins. He was chastised. He was a man of sorrows and griefs. He carried the weight and the fullness of the repercussions of life. This is what He did, and He tasted death for all. He overcame death through His resurrection. Amen.*

The journey of life looks like this and this is personal over something that was very personal to Jesus. You see the plight and the heartbreak of the prophet who warned for years of the coming destruction. He was known as the "weeping prophet," the "wailing prophet," and one that really wasn't listened to. Yet, the Lord used him for His glory. Then here comes Jesus, with His heart laid bare, still contending for generations over His nation and over His people. Generations have gone by of God's desire for all to come to Him, to know that, "I am your God."

Humanity says, "Whom do I have in Heaven, but you? You are my God. There is nobody else I desire besides you. I have gone astray in my heart again and again. After other lovers, the lust, the flesh, the carnality of this world, the riches, and all that it has to offer and draws your heart from the true God." Ultimately you curse God, because of the troubles you have. The heart and flesh fail until the heart awakens to see. Jesus knew what was coming for Israel. He knew what was coming for His city, Jerusalem. But, He already sees Himself reigning and ruling from Jerusalem. It is amazing.

I had a major, major encounter of His heart, with this passage over His heart, and the depth of the pain in His weeping and sorrow as He wept over Jerusalem. But, He doesn't just weep over Jerusalem. He weeps over every soul that has not fully yielded themselves to Christ and His Lordship. To trust the Lord your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and strength, because He came to represent the Father. You hear it? It just breaks the heart of God.

We know that Jesus on the cross was literally God's broken heart pierced through, and we put Him there. Sin nailed Him there. Sin crucified Him. We know this. This is the gospel, that God, in His rich mercy and grace had a plan. That is why He says, "Let us press on to know the Lord, because He is coming. He is faithful. He is true. The Son is always going to rise on you. Let the Son of Righteousness rise. The Son of Righteousness shall rise. Let Him rise. When you go through the pits of your flesh, "Die already," okay? It is like, "Let Him have it, because He will win. He will resurrect you. It is amazing to me how God will move and work with our weaknesses.

In my own personal life, I had the propensity to infirmities, weaknesses, and fear. They go together. Fear and infirmity always go together, until you meet Jesus, the author and finisher of your faith. Until you come into that place of deliverance, where you can give that to Him,

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because if we are fearful, He is not in control. We are, right? It is just the truth. Until you know that lordship, you will be tormented all the days of your life. The enemy goes around like a roaring lion seeking who he might devour. But we were encouraged to stand fast and be strong, because the Lord's light on your life is greater. He will bring you to the truth. He will help you overcome your flesh and your weakness. I have always boasted in my weakness. Because, I know that God will be made strong through me. Truth! I choose the way of humility and the fear of the Lord, because with that come riches, honor and life. With the fear of the Lord and humility, come riches, honor and life. If you want to prosper in this life, fear God and keep His commandments and you will live. That is it. That is the summation. It is amazing how we go on to know the Lord.

Lamentations 3:19-22, subtitled "Jeremiah's confession of faith"

You hear the turning through the whole drama with the wailing, the mourning, the defeat, and dealing with fallen humanity. The Spirit of God comes again, like that moment in the middle of my despair, and that is just one story. "Whom have I in Heaven but you?" He says, "Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed." It is just His mercy. Yes, because "His compassions fail not," and you have to always remember this. You may consider yourself to be a very compassionate person. But, the Lord is perfect. He is compassion. It is one of His names, "Jealous, Merciful, Gentle, Compassionate, Kind, Long suffering," that is who He is. They knew it.

Lamentations 3:23-24

"Your mercies are new every morning. So, let us press on to know the Lord, because He is rising. The Son is rising on me every morning." Say, "Every morning." "Great is your faithfulness." It all turns back to Him. To Him all glory and praise will go, and He settles that. You know, "the Lord is my portion, says my soul." That is your mind, will, and emotion. My soul says, "You are my portion," so, "I will hope in Him." God is the strength of my heart, and my portion forever. He is our inheritance. He is our hope. He is our all in all. He is our Father. "The Lord is my inheritance." Where is your inheritance? In God, Jesus, and the great Holy Ghost. The Kingdom of Heaven, and all that is His, is mine. The Lord is my portion. Yes, you hear that? That is where you settle it in your spirit. Your spirit man rises up to lay hold of this. Those who have an ear to hear.

1 John 3:1-3 NKJV

Truth. *He is my portion and my inheritance. We shall be like Him, as we see Him as He is.*

Matthew 5:8 NKJV

You do not get a pure heart apart from the Holy Ghost. We had a heart transplant at conversion. The Holy Ghost is the one that purifies our heart, mind, emotions, and our will.

1 Peter 2:20-21 TPT

*"For what merit is it to endure mistreatment for wrongdoing? Yet, if you are mistreated when you do what is right, and you faithfully endure it, this is commendable before God. In fact, you were called to live this way, because Christ also suffered in your place, leaving you His example for you to follow."*

You say, "Well, I didn't sign up for that." Yes, you did when you made Jesus Christ your Lord and Savior. Scripture says, "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I that lives. Christ is living in me. The life that I live, I live by faith in the Son of God, who died and gave Himself for me." That is the power of our salvation, the cross. But, He didn't stay there. Hallelujah. He was raised for glorification. We are justified, redeemed, glorified, and seated with Him in heavenly

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places. You were “called to live this way, because Christ also suffered in your place. Leaving you His example to follow.”

I Peter 2:22-25 TPT

*“He never sinned and He never spoke deceitfully. When He was verbally abused, He did not return with an insult; when He suffered, He would not threaten retaliation. Jesus faithfully entrusted Himself into the hands of God, who judges righteously. He Himself carried our sins in His body on the cross, so that we would be dead to sin and live for righteousness. Our instant healing flowed from His wounding. You were like sheep that continually wandered away, but now you have returned to the true Shepherd of your lives—the kind Guardian who lovingly watches over your souls.”*

We sang of this all morning. The Spirit of the Lord is here. If you have an ear to hear, then hear what the Spirit is saying. This is absolutely glorious. “Let us press on to know the Lord.” He is our portion.

II Timothy 4:6-8 NKJV

*“For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only, but also to all who have loved His appearing.”*

Hosea 6:3 NASB 1995

*“Let us know, let us press on to know the Lord. His going forth is as certain as the dawn; and He will come to us like the rain, like the spring rain watering the earth.”*

Malachi 4:2 NKJV

“The Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings.” Amen.

Revelation 21-22

You can skip to the end of the Bible, and see that reward and what the new Jerusalem is going to look like. See what the eternal portions are really going to look like with Him. Amen.

Let's stand and honor His Word to us from start to finish today. Father, we love you. We thank you for being our God. We honor your word, that you are faithful and true. You are faithful and true. Please, Lord, impart to us by your Spirit, the revelation knowledge of Jesus. Lord Jesus, please continue to give us revelation of your passion. We thank you for it. In Jesus' mighty name. Amen.