



2ND CORINTHIANS



The image features a background of ancient stone ruins with intricate carvings. Overlaid on this is a large, white, serif font text '2ND CORINTHIANS'. The text is centered and framed by two decorative, symmetrical geometric patterns made of white lines, one above and one below the text. The patterns consist of interlocking arches and lines, resembling a stylized architectural motif.

The Throne
and
the Thorn pt. 1

2nd Corinthians 12:1-7

Recap:

- Worldly
- Unimpressed With Paul
- Confused about ministry and purpose

2 Corinthians = A Call to be a
Counter-Cultural-Cruciform Community

2 Corinthians 12:1-7 NKJV

(1) It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord:

2 Corinthians 12:1-7 NKJV

(2) I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago--whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows--such a one was caught up to the third heaven.

2 Corinthians 12:1-7 NKJV

(3) And I know such a man--whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—

(4) how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

2 Corinthians 12:1-7 NKJV

(5) Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities.

2 Corinthians 12:1-7 NKJV

(6) For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me to be or hears from me.

2 Corinthians 12:1-7 NKJV

(7) And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.

v. 32-33 - what a let down...

A Basket Case- (Acts 9:19-25)

2 Cor. 12:10 NKJV Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

v. 1 - Visions and Revelations of the Lord

- There is a supernatural world
- God often speaks through visions, revelations, and dreams
- Paul had received 6 visions **Acts 9:3; 16:9; 18:9; 22:17; 23:11; 27:23**

- 1.** Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist, had a vision of an angel (Luke 1:8-23).
- 2.** Jesus' transfiguration is described as a vision for the disciples (Matthew 17:9).
- 3.** The women who came to visit Jesus' tomb had a vision of angels (Luke 24:22-24).
- 4.** Stephen saw a vision of Jesus at his death (Acts 7:55-56).
- 5.** Ananias experienced a vision telling him to go to Saul (Acts 9:10).
- 6.** Peter had a vision of the clean and unclean animals (Acts 10:17-19 and 11:5).

- 7.** Peter had a vision of an angel at his release from prison (Acts 12:9).
- 8.** John had many visions on Patmos (Revelation 1:1).
- 9.** Paul had a revelation of Jesus on the road to Damascus (Acts 22:6-11 and 26:12-20).
- 10.** Paul had a vision of a man from Macedonia, asking him to come to that region to help (Acts 16:9-10).
- 11.** Paul had an encouraging vision while in Corinth (Acts 18:9-11).
- 12.** Paul had a vision of an angel on the ship that was about to be wrecked (Acts 27:23-25). - Guzik

v. 1 - Visions and Revelations

- These are often prone to misunderstanding, misapplication
- Are never to be used to validate somebody's ministry, to supersede the importance of the word, or gauge spirituality or maturity

v. 2 - I know a man in Christ...

What is required to see Heaven?

Fourteen years ago:

Stoning in Lystra (**Acts 14:9-10**)

His return to Tarsus (**Acts 9:30**)

10yrs. in Syria and Cilicia (**Gal. 1:21-2:1**)

time in Antioch (**Acts 13:1-3**)

v. 2 - caught up to the third heaven

The first is the atmosphere...

The second, the starry heaven...

And, thirdly, the place of the blessed, or the throne of the Divine glory.” (Clarke)

(See Isa. 6:1; Rev. 4:1-2)

NOTES

“**first heaven**” (Deut. 11:11; Psa. 104:12; Isa. 55:10)

“**second heaven**” (Psa. 8:3; Isa. 13:10)

“**third heaven**” (Psa. 33:13–14; Isa. 66:1; Matt. 6:9; Heb. 7:26; Rev. 11:19)

- <https://www.gotquestions.org/Paul-third-heaven.html>

- <https://www.gotquestions.org/out-of-body-experience.html>

v. 2-3 -I do not know...God knows (x2)

What is important?, what can we trust?

Not experience, but the Word

John 17:17 NKJV "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth."

v. 4 - Paradise Inexpressible

Paradise is a reference to Heaven and the Garden of Eden, the completion and restoration of all things

(Gen. 2:8-9; Isa. 51:3; Ezek 36:35; Luke 23:43; Rev. 2:7; 22)

v. 5-7 - of myself I will not boast

Where is your focus?

What are you living for?

By who's standard do you live?

(1 Cor 13; 2Ti 2:15; 2 Pt. 1:19)

“What is important are not the transcendent moments when he has become spiritually airborne, but his obedience in the daily chore of preaching the gospel faithfully despite “weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and difficulties” (12:10).”

- Garland

“The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face shine upon you,
And be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you,
And give you peace.”

Numbers 6:24-26 NKJV



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The image features a background of ancient stone ruins with intricate carvings and columns. Overlaid on this is a central white text '2ND CORINTHIANS' flanked by two large, symmetrical, white-outlined geometric patterns. These patterns consist of interlocking lines forming a complex, lattice-like structure with pointed, arch-like shapes at the top and bottom.

Resources/ bibliography

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6. <https://www.gotquestions.org/Paul-third-heaven.html>
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