

Pleasant Springs Church

12-Week Study · A Quantum Case For God

WEEK 9 OF 12

Additional Dimensions and the Heavenly Realms

M-theory's ten dimensions — and Paul caught up to the third heaven

THE BIG IDEA

We live in four dimensions: length, width, depth, and time. String theory's mathematics requires **ten dimensions (or eleven in M-theory)** for the equations to work. The extra dimensions, on the leading account, are *curled up* — folded so tightly into every point of space that we never directly perceive them. Scripture has always spoken of dimensions of reality we do not perceive: multiple *heavens*, *heavenly places*, the third heaven Paul was caught up to. The physics does not *prove* the heavenly realms, but it removes any scientific basis for dismissing them.

Newtonian physics works in three dimensions of space (length, width, depth) plus one of time, for a four-dimensional spacetime. Einstein's general relativity confirmed and refined this picture. For most of us, four dimensions is intuitive enough that we don't notice it; it is just *the way things are*.

But string theory's mathematics will not work in four dimensions. The equations require ten dimensions of spacetime to be consistent. M-theory, the broader framework that unifies several string theories, requires eleven. Where are the extra six or seven dimensions? The leading proposal, developed by Kaluza, Klein, and refined by string theorists, is that they are *compactified* — curled up at every point of space into structures so small (on the order of the Planck length, 10^{-35} meters) that no instrument we have built or could imagine building can directly detect them. The extra dimensions are there, the theory says, but they are folded out of view.

If string theory is correct, reality has *more* structure than our senses report. There are dimensions you cannot walk to, directions you cannot point in, layers of the world you cannot even *imagine* from inside four-dimensional experience. And once again, scripture has been describing exactly such a world for thousands of years.

SCRIPTURE

Pleasant Springs Church

12-Week Study · A Quantum Case For God

2 Corinthians 12:2–4 · Caught Up to the Third Heaven

Septuagint (LXX) / Greek New Testament

²οἶδα ἄνθρωπον ἐν Χριστῷ πρὸ ἐτῶν
δεκατεσσάρων· εἶτε ἐν σώματι οὐκ οἶδα, εἶτε
ἐκτὸς τοῦ σώματος οὐκ οἶδα, ὁ Θεὸς οἶδεν·
ἄρπαγέντα τὸν τοιοῦτον ἕως τρίτου οὐρανοῦ.
³καὶ οἶδα τὸν τοιοῦτον ἄνθρωπον... ⁴ὅτι ἠρπάγη
εἰς τὸν παράδεισον καὶ ἤκουσεν ἄρρητα ῥήματα,
ἃ οὐκ ἐξὸν ἀνθρώπῳ λαλῆσαι.

English Standard Version

²I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago
was caught up to the third heaven — whether in
the body or out of the body I do not know, God
knows. ³And I know that this man... ⁴was caught
up into paradise and heard things that cannot be
told, which man may not utter.

1 Kings 8:27 · Heaven and the Highest Heaven

Septuagint (LXX) / Greek New Testament

ὅτι εἰ ἀληθῶς κατοικήσει ὁ Θεὸς μετὰ ἀνθρώπων
ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς; εἰ ὁ οὐρανὸς καὶ ὁ οὐρανὸς τοῦ
οὐρανοῦ οὐκ ἀρκέσουσί σοι, καὶ πῶς ὁ οἶκος
οὗτος, ὃν ὠκοδόμησα τῷ ὀνόματί σου;

English Standard Version

But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold,
heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain
you; how much less this house that I have built!

Ephesians 6:12 · Heavenly Places

Septuagint (LXX) / Greek New Testament

ὅτι οὐκ ἔστιν ἡμῖν ἡ πάλη πρὸς αἷμα καὶ σάρκα,
ἀλλὰ πρὸς τὰς ἀρχάς, πρὸς τὰς ἐξουσίας, πρὸς
τοὺς κοσμοκράτορας τοῦ σκότους τοῦ αἰῶνος
τούτου, πρὸς τὰ πνευματικὰ τῆς πονηρίας ἐν τοῖς
ἐπουρανίοις.

English Standard Version

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but
against the rulers, against the authorities, against
the cosmic powers over this present darkness,
against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly
places.

Hebrews 4:14 · Passed Through the Heavens

Septuagint (LXX) / Greek New Testament

Ἐχοντες οὖν ἀρχιερέα μέγαν, διεληλυθότα τοὺς
οὐρανοὺς, Ἰησοῦν τὸν υἱὸν τοῦ Θεοῦ, κρατῶμεν
τῆς ὁμολογίας.

English Standard Version

Since then we have a great high priest who has
passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of
God, let us hold fast our confession.

Pleasant Springs Church

12-Week Study · A Quantum Case For God

Genesis 28:12 · Jacob's Ladder — A Portal Between Dimensions

Septuagint (LXX) / Greek New Testament

καὶ ἐνυπνιάσθη, καὶ ἰδοὺ κλίμαξ ἐστηριγμένη ἐν τῇ γῇ, ἧς ἡ κεφαλὴ ἀφικνεῖτο εἰς τὸν οὐρανόν, καὶ οἱ ἄγγελοι τοῦ Θεοῦ ἀνέβαινον καὶ κατέβαινον ἐπ' αὐτῆς.

English Standard Version

And he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it!

Revelation 4:1–2 · A Door Standing Open in Heaven

Septuagint (LXX) / Greek New Testament

¹Μετὰ ταῦτα εἶδον, καὶ ἰδοὺ θύρα ἀνεωγμένη ἐν τῷ οὐρανῷ, καὶ ἡ φωνὴ ἡ πρώτη, ἣν ἤκουσα ὡς σάλπιγγος λαλοῦσης μετ' ἐμοῦ, λέγουσα· ἀνάβα ὦδε... ²καὶ εὐθέως ἐγενόμην ἐν Πνεύματι, καὶ ἰδοὺ θρόνος ἔκειτο ἐν τῷ οὐρανῷ...

English Standard Version

¹After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, 'Come up here...' ²At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven...

Acts 7:55–56 · Stephen Sees Heaven Opened

Septuagint (LXX) / Greek New Testament

⁵⁵ὑπάρχων δὲ πλήρης Πνεύματος Ἁγίου, ἀτενίσας εἰς τὸν οὐρανόν, εἶδε δόξαν Θεοῦ καὶ Ἰησοῦν ἐστῶτα ἐκ δεξιῶν τοῦ Θεοῦ, ⁵⁶καὶ εἶπεν· ἰδοὺ θεωρῶ τοὺς οὐρανοὺς ἀνεωγμένους.

English Standard Version

⁵⁵But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶And he said, 'Behold, I see the heavens opened.'

Hebrews 13:2 · Entertaining Angels Unawares

Septuagint (LXX) / Greek New Testament

τῆς φιλοξενίας μὴ ἐπιλανθάνεσθε· διὰ ταύτης γὰρ ἔλαθόν τινες ξενίσαντες ἀγγέλους.

English Standard Version

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

THE BIBLICAL CASE

Jacob's Ladder — The Bible's Most Vivid Dimension-Portal

Pleasant Springs Church

12-Week Study · A Quantum Case For God

Genesis 28:12 is, after the careful reading Zetzing invites in chapter 7, a stunning passage. Jacob lies down to sleep at Bethel with a stone for a pillow. He dreams. And what he sees is not a metaphor but an opening — a *ladder* (Hebrew *sullam*; LXX *klimax*) set on the earth, its top reaching into heaven, *and the angels of God ascending and descending on it*. Two things are remarkable. First, the traffic is two-way: angels are coming *down* from the higher dimension as well as going back up. Second, Jesus quotes this passage to Nathanael in John 1:51 and applies it to *himself*: *you shall see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man*. Christ is the Ladder — the personal door through which the higher dimension touches ours. If string theory's extra dimensions are real, then Genesis 28 and Revelation 4 and Acts 7 are descriptions of moments when those dimensions briefly opened to human view.

The Biblical 'Heavens' (Plural)

The Hebrew word translated «heaven» (*shamayim*) is grammatically plural. The Greek *ouranoi* is also frequently plural in the New Testament. Scripture speaks of *heaven and the highest heaven* (1 Kings 8:27), *heavens* through which Christ has passed (Heb 4:14), and Paul's *third heaven* (2 Cor 12:2). Christian tradition has long understood multiple layers: the atmospheric heaven (where birds fly), the stellar heaven (where stars wheel), and the heavenly realm of God's throne. Modern physics does not give us a one-to-one map between these and string theory's extra dimensions; it simply removes the modern objection that *only four dimensions exist*. If physics now admits seven extra dimensions are mathematically necessary, the door is wide open for the biblical claim that reality has more structure than our senses report.

Compactification and Why You Don't See It

The standard physics answer to *where are the extra dimensions?* is the analogy of a garden hose. From a distance, a hose looks one-dimensional — just a line stretching across the lawn. Up close, you can see the second dimension wrapped around it (the circumference). At every point of the hose's length, there is a tiny circular dimension. If you were an ant on the hose, both dimensions would be obvious. If you were a human standing in the doorway, only the length would register. String theory says the universe is like that, but with seven extra circular (and more complex) dimensions wrapped around every point of spacetime — so small that nothing we have can «see» them. They are there. They explain a great deal of the mathematics that does work. They are just invisible.

What Daniel Saw Behind the Curtain

Daniel 10 records a remarkable scene. The prophet has been fasting and praying for three weeks; an angel finally arrives and explains the delay: *The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me* (Dan 10:13). Spiritual conflict, in a dimension we do not see, with consequences in a kingdom we do see. Paul's «heavenly places» in Ephesians 6 work the same way. The world has more dimensions than our eyes reach. Some of those dimensions are crowded.

Pleasant Springs Church

12-Week Study · A Quantum Case For God

THE CONVERGENCE

Modern string theory requires extra dimensions for its mathematics to work. Scripture has always spoken of multiple heavens, heavenly places, and realities behind the curtain of our four-dimensional perception. The physics does not *prove* the biblical heavens, but it dissolves the modern objection that *only four dimensions can exist*. The world is structurally richer than our senses report — in both books.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When you read «heaven» in the Bible, do you usually think singular or plural? Does the biblical plural change how you imagine it?
2. Paul was caught up to the «third heaven.» What do you think he experienced that he was not permitted to describe?
3. If string theory requires ten dimensions, what does that suggest about the limits of our common-sense intuitions about «reality»?
4. Ephesians 6:12 says our struggle is in the «heavenly places.» What does that change about how you understand spiritual warfare?
5. Daniel 10 shows a delay in the heavenly realm affecting events on earth. Have you ever sensed that something larger than the visible was at work in your circumstances? Tell the story.

CLOSING PRAYER

Pleasant Springs Church

12-Week Study · A Quantum Case For God

*Lord of heaven and the highest heaven, you fill all dimensions, perceived and unperceived. You have made a world that is far richer than what our five senses report. Forgive us when we have imagined the seen world to be all there is. Make us alert to the unseen — both the angels who minister and the powers we wrestle. Clothe us in your armor today. And bring us at last to the dimensions Paul could not put into words, where we shall see you face to face. Through Jesus Christ our great high priest, who has passed through the heavens. **Amen.***

Week 9 of 12 — A Quantum Case For God, a Pleasant Springs Church discipleship series. The complete 12-week study, and every other lesson, is at ps-church.com/discipleship/quantum-case-for-god