EXPOUNDING ON THE THIRD HEAVENS.

Query:

I have read through the Can Deeds or Works of a Man Take him to Heaven, (https://tryingthespirits.com/2019-07/can-deeds-or-works-of-a-man-take-him-to-heaven/) and also have gone through the first two parts of the Heaven and Earth study, (https://tryingthespirits.com/2019-10/god-created-the-heaven-and-the-earth/) and it is still unclear to me what "third heaven" is.

I understand Heaven and Earth (first) and New Heaven and Earth (both covered in the current Heaven and Earth study), but I am trying to understand the difference between the term New Heaven and Earth and Third Heaven.

I understand we are being made into the image of God through the Lake of Fire, and our old Heaven and Earth is being destroyed through that fire, and all things are becoming new (New Heaven and Earth) through that process....this all relates to our thoughts / mindset and our walk.

I hope I am conveying correctly what I'm trying to understand, which is what is third heaven, and why is it called "third" heaven.

My mind is wanting to label our old heaven and earth as "first/old/former", the new heaven and earth as "second/new", and then there is the "third" heaven....and so this is why I am struggling to understand the difference between the "second" and "third" heaven, as I would have thought they are the same.

End question.

Thoughts from Ayo Fabiyi:

I must admit I myself was baffled by the usage of that word “third heaven” for quite some time.

Thankfully with the greater understanding of the principles over the years, and holding fast to it in whatever topic the mind of the Lord is sought for, Scriptural words/usages and terms became much clearer. It led to other revelation I was not seeking, especially the hidden way the apostles were inspired to write the Scriptures.

I hope to explain further here how that seal was slowly opened to my understanding of the third heaven, and Lord willing it’ll be as transparent as glass for you also. Knowing that you understand many of the principles, the
two key ones I will ask all to first put before their eyes are these:

1. 1 Corinthians 4:6 (KJV)
   6 And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and to Apollos for your sakes; that ye might learn in us not to THINK [of men] above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another.

2. Proverbs 30:5-6 (KJV)
   Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him][..let us continue to trust what is written before us.]
   6 Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.

We will strive not to add, nor subtract, but HOLDING FAST only to the written word of God.

You said:

“I hope I am conveying correctly what I’m trying to understand, which is what is third heaven, and why is it called "third" heaven. My mind is wanting to label our old heaven and earth as "first/old/former", ✅ the new heaven and earth as "second/new", ❌

and then there is the "third" heaven....and so this is why I am struggling to understand the difference between the "second" and "third" heaven, ❌ as I would have **thought** they are the same.”

I’ll focus on answering the WHAT and WHY above, and WHERE also, keeping to only what is written, and hope the Spirit of Christ will cause us comprehend this hidden wisdom.

First off, it's clear you already have a great degree of understanding from all you said thus far and the principle. You see the inner workings of God in the creation of a new man.

The only thing to add / minor correction is the part I marked ❌ above to be precise which need tweaking.

Our old “heaven and earth” is the "first/old/former". That’s in scriptural alignment.

The correction comes in seeing AND CONFIRMING to our minds that the new heavens and new earth is the signified “third heaven”, and scriptural does NOT make a “difference between the "second" and "third" heaven”.

As with all things of Scripture, there are ONLY two sides, a double edged Sword that’s clearly differentiated in the absolute.
There are no three sides of a Word to differentiate.

The word “Heaven and earth” is no different, however signified. It does not matter.

It’s two sides- old vs New.

The new creation is the manifest presence of God, and is this “third heaven” the Scripture speaks of. When we say “new”...to us being created in His express image it is New, but NOT to the Father, which has been His dwelling realm from the beginning. We are entering into it in down payment of the Spirit.

This was foreshadowed all the way from Genesis.

I understand why you say ..” I am struggling to understand the difference between the "second" and "third" heaven, as I would have thought they are the same.”

I used to think about certain things in Scripture, ‘this must be that’... or ‘that must mean this’?....with no scriptural confirmation.

We are to no longer do that.
I hope you do not mind as I dig deeper than normal in this topic simply to realign our “thinking” to ONLY what is written.
It’s our natural thinking and logic that often leads us astray or a stumbling block to us.

The only action that clarifies it for and keeps us safe is to hold fast to the guideline principles like those two above, to not add or take away from “what is written”.

Regarding your thinking of the ‘second’ heaven, we can only suppose, assume it's obviously a realm of the Spirit, either
1. As you thought, the second heaven and the third heaven are the same?
OR
2. The ‘second’ heaven is a realm that we must go through FROM the first heaven and earth TO the Third heaven. OR
3. None of the above.
“Second” heaven is NOT spoken of.
“Second” heaven is NOT written about by any of the prophets and the apostles.

As noble Bereans, we receive only what the Word says “with all readiness of mind” and search the Scripture which of the above #1, #2 or #3 is so. (Acts 17:11)

We must NOT think above what is written, nor add or subtract (=“second heaven”) to Scripture based on the result of our search.
A quick reminder- Scriptural use of numbers.

Before we search deeper for the revelation of WHAT and WHY it is called the “third heaven”, I must bring you to mind that this is not the first time certain Scriptural point is written numerically, but no continuing order given or asserted there MUST BE, as the natural man thinks.

Natural mind: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 etc.

1 followed by 2 or 2 preceded by 1,
3 followed by 4 or 4 preceded by 3
5 followed by 6 or 6 preceded by 5

If there’s 1st, there MUST BE another 2nd of the same thing.

If there’s 2nd, or second, it MUST be preceded by 1st or followed by third of the same thing.

This is one of the earliest revelation that opened up when I searched the truth of the heavens that most numbering in the Word are not as we once thought.

Because there’s number ONE, or FIRST.....

Because there’s TWO, or SECOND...

No where in all Scripture, or any of the principles are we taught that there MUST BE another of the same thing, if there’s a first, or a second, unless confirmed by the Word of God Himself.

Examples include:

1. First Love
2. First faith
3. First heaven and earth
4. Second death
5. First principles.
6. First begotten/ First fruit.
7. First resurrection.

In the places we are told there is a “first”, we must leave it alone for the Scripture to tell us, define it for us, not to be led by the natural mind to go above what is written.

Not to stray with imaginations that there must...might be...‘ifs’ and ‘but’s’ of “a second”? Or a third...to the twelveth?
Example includes:

1: First Adam - there is also a “second Adam”, who is the Last. We are specifically told. We should not then be looking for a third or fourth Adam.

An express and a shadow/type is the difference we are told between the two.

2. First Testament - we hold fast to the Scripture ONLY, and the other name is called the “new” Testament.

A reformation versus a shadow we are taught. We need not go above that.

3. Seven spirits of God.
We have access to God by “one Spirit”...(Eph 2:18, 4:3, 1Cor 6:17)
God is Spirit.

The Word of God Himself will define these for us. As some has gone astray in the world, the saints no longer go the way of speculations of searching for what possibly could be the 2, or 3, 4, 5, 6 spirits of God!

Rather, we work towards finding the meaning of what we are told, what is signified and written, rather than what is not written. What is certainly written we keep such as:

Zechariah 6:5 (KJV)
5 And the angel answered and said unto me, These are the four spirits of the heavens, which go forth from standing before the Lord of all the earth.

One Spirit...four Spirit...Seven Spirits... in the Sum, are all One unified Spirit of God.

Because we are told there’s a “first love” and “first faith”, we do not go inventing a new doctrine of “second love” or “second faith”.

Or trying to be spiritually wise, speaking out of our own worldly wisdom, inventing words like “seventh faith’ or ‘third death’.

Why is all these so important in the skillful discernment of Scripture?

It is to guide in the Truth and to guard us from introducing false doctrines unawares/ignorantly.

John 16:13 (KJV)
Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.
Because we are told there’s a “first resurrection”, truth seekers keep the principle of not adding or subtracting from the Word, and do not go about witty inventions of...“second resurrection” or third or whatever ignorance the natural mind can come up with. They do not “not speak of” themselves, only what the Spirit of Truth guides them in what is Written.

Another example is that because there’s a “second death” written, through comparing spiritual with spiritual, we are revealed what it is, what it does and when it takes place, how it is to be fulfilled now and the in the age to come.

The saints do not and are not supposed to start inventing evil doctrines of a ‘first death’ event for one group...“a second death” for another group with a separate event. Nor a ‘third’ or ‘fourth’ death.

That is not the Spirit of Truth guiding such speech and must be repented of.

There is also not a ‘second love’ or ‘second faith’ for another group.

Natural logic may all suggest that.
We are however to stay in the narrow way of only what is written, witnessed by the Sum of the Truth.

Without that spiritual understanding and practical application in our life, every man will remain spiritually scattered, each going their own natural way, not united in the one Spirit of the Lord.

Jeremiah 7:23-24 (KJV)
23 But this thing commanded I them, saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be *my people*: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you.
24 But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward.

With all that guidelines and many warnings of the consequences of straying from what it written, let us, God’s people, NOW truly search together an answer for your query...step by step, walking in the ways (principles) He has commanded, in ONLY what is written.

The third heaven REVEALED.

Comparing spiritual words with spiritual, we learn WHAT is in the third heaven, what events occur from there... and eventually what other names it is signified as.

The throne of God.

The third heaven is where the throne of God is.
We are told the Father sits on the throne there, just as the Son. Revelation 3:21 (KJV) To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.
Revelation 12:5 (KJV) And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.

Hebrews 8:1-2 (KJV)
1 Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; 2 A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.

It is a throne of grace... of judgment.

Hebrews 4:16 (KJV) 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Since we know it’s where the Father dwells, we can discern then it’s the highest realm of the Spirit, of the heavens.

Deuteronomy 10:14 (KJV) Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the Lord's thy God, the earth also, with all that therein is.
Nehemiah 9:6 (KJV) Thou, even thou, art Lord alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee.

The heaven of heavens is dark saying for the innumerable hearts and minds in the First Adam the Lord has created through Jesus Christ. These are all summarized with one spirit in the “first heaven and first earth”, of the terrestrial creation of God- this natural world/Cosmos.

The things that are made (Rom 1:20) reveals the innumerable heavens, great multitude in Mankind, having a natural veil of the physical heavens, the universe, the galaxy, all out in space that Scientist are still discovering to this day.
But to disciples, we know now that is a veil that keeps hidden the things of God, the Way unto the holiest of All, the full presence of the Spirit of the Father in Christ Jesus is not manifest to us while these physical veil is still standing in our hearts and minds. (Heb 9)
Revelation chapter 4 reveals details of the true heaven, the celestial dwelling place of God, signified events of what goes on in “the third heaven”, confirming it is a realm of “the Spirit” where “One” sits.

Revelation 4:2 (KJV) And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.
In this highest realm... the first earth and first heaven are NO MORE. There is NO PLACE for flesh and blood.

Revelation 20:11 (KJV) And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

Revelation 21:1 (KJV) And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

Now, we are told the kind of people that is, was and will dwell there:

Revelation 2:7 (KJV) He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

How do we connect that the paradise of God is the third heaven..?

Holding fast to the principles, we only have to believe what is spoken and written:

2 Corinthians 12:2-4 (KJV)
2 I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.
3 And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;)
4 How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

Caught up to the third heaven..INTO the paradise of God. Unspeakable words spoken in that place, the third heaven...."in the Spirit". We have these unspeakable words signified again by John:

Revelation 4:5 (KJV) And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: [...=unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter...] and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

Now if we can connect where Christ sat AFTER His unique resurrection, “the FIRST resurrection”, then we can get more clarity on the third heaven, the paradise of God ...WHEN Christ overcame in the flesh and ascended. All that has physically died before Christ and without the second coming of Christ to this day have NOT yet ascended to this realm of the Spirit, the throne of God.
No Man has been EXALTED to the Father.
No Man has overcome the flesh, “raised up” to ascend to this higher realm... without Christ.
Acts 2:32-34 (KJV)
32 This Jesus hath God **RAISED UP**, whereof we all are witnesses.
33 Therefore being **by the right hand of God EXALTED**, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.
34 **For David is not ascended into the [third] heavens:** but he saith himself, The Lord [=Father..] said unto my Lord, [=..Christ ..] Sit thou on my right hand,

The shedding of the Holy Spirit of God is FROM the throne...the right hand of God where we are told Christ is seated. Thus comparing spiritual with spiritual, **where** the overcomer of the flesh dwell are where Christ dwells.

Christ went from having **mortal sinful flesh** like us, the children (Rom 8:3, Heb 2:14) what we've already established as signified and labelled as "our old heaven and earth- "first/old/former". He went from a mortal realm subject to death...to an immortal realm **not** subject to death, but LIFE of God. We are told the (signified) tree of Life is the only place Life is found, where the overcomers are.

Adding all these together....we can now discern EXACTLY what, and where this third heaven is, paying very close attention to this hidden chapter.

2 Corinthians 5:1 (KJV) **For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, [=our old heaven and earth- "first/old/former"...]** we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, **eternal in the heavens...**

Where and what is this “heavens”? 

......2 Corinthians 5:4 (KJV) **For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life...**

So this new clothing, new heaven has LIFE in it...(=tree of Life) and no more burden of DEATH. Mortality is swallowed up!

......2 Corinthians 5:6 (KJV) **Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, [=our old heaven and earth- "first/old/former" NOW...] we are absent from the Lord:...[..the right hand of the Father, the throne of God "eternal in the heavens".]

Being “home in the body”..."this tabernacle" is what Peter signified here as:

2 Peter 3:7 (KJV) **But the heavens and the earth, which are NOW, [=“whilst we are at home in the body”...] by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.**
The transition from the first to where God dwells (highest heaven) is through JUDGMENT - dissolving the old heaven and earth through destruction/death, that is the signified “second death” for Christ to appear in His express, glorious form.

Notice thus far, ALL the Scriptures written continue to contrast the FIRST heavens and earth against the final dwelling place where God dwells, the THIRD heaven, paradise of God. Where Christ is sat at the right hand of God-where overcomers dwell.

Nothing written or even suggested about another realm of the Spirit scripturally called “second” heaven. This is not only because there’s no letter written to say that, but more because the usage of the words are proving there is only one spiritual transition, a process from one terrestrial realm of the spirit to a higher and final realm.

Revelation 22:18-19 (KJV)
18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:
19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

Paul continues to reveal this hidden mystery:

......2 Corinthians 5:10 (KJV) For we must all [in that earthly tabernacle, to be dissolved through judgment ..] appear before the judgment seat of Christ, [THE THRONE..] that every one may receive the things done in his body, [our old heaven and earth- "first/old/former" NOW..] according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad...
2 Corinthians 5:11 (KJV) Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, [which is the dissolving of the first heavens and earth, this mortal BODY..] we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.....

......2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV) Therefore if any man be in Christ, [..There it is !!! From the first/old/former creation, going through a process of Judgment to... "in Christ"..] he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Here we are told...piecing it all together “little by little”, that from when the FIRST Heavens and earth are NO MORE...NO MORE SEA...the very next thing is....a New Creature.
A new creature dwelling in “the new heavens and earth.”
With a New Testament (unspeakable words the natural man cannot utter, tongues of angels.)
New mind, New Body, New Song...New covenant...behold, “all things are become NEW.”
NOT into an intermediate second realm then a third realm that becomes New. No, we go from old....:to New.
That new creation where overcomers are being gathered is confirmed again to us, and is in.....:

2 Corinthians 5:19 (KJV) To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world [...the first heaven and earth/ Kosmos..] unto himself, [...wherein is the third heaven, manifest glory and presence] not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

The final frontier, highest realm is this place signified as the third heaven, is confirmed over and over and over again from the Old Testament to the New Testament, and is in...

Ephesians 1:9-10 (KJV) Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: 10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: [...the paradise of God, third heaven.]

Again, the Spirit gives us witness where this third heaven is:

Colossians 1:20 (KJV) And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in [...the first..] earth, or things in [...the first..] heaven.

The gathering “unto himself”, is the gathering of overcomers INTO the paradise of God, ascending, being exalted, raised up far above ALL the first heaven and earth. FLESH AND BLOOD will not be gathered in, but destroyed through the event that ushers in Life, that is, the second death.

John 3:31 (KJV) He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from [...the third..] heaven is above all.

Ephesians 4:10 (KJV) He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.

Christ being on the right side of the Father is “FAR above all heavens”, and the “heaven of the heavens” spoken of throughout are all in the FIRST realm of death, the terrestrial. The spiritual translation (Col 1:13) from the first realm to the highest - the third- is explained by Peter.
Let us note again, there is NOTHING spoken of addressing a “second” intermediate heaven to the third, though natural logic may assume so. We go from the [first/old/former] heaven and earth to...."new heavens and a new earth".

2 Peter 3:10-13 (KJV)
10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.
11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,
12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?
13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

So the “little book” begins to be opened with greater details and far greater clarity to them now. The singleness (simplicity) in Christ will once again be revealed by the end.

2 Corinthians 11:3 (KJV)
3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity [G572: singleness] that is in Christ.

That simplicity of understanding the heavens stems from the single truth that the natural man (flesh and blood) has and will not be raised up, exalted nor ascend to the paradise of God, which is the third heaven. Spoken in tongues of angels, the first heaven and earth will be no more, in due time. Flesh & Blood cannot inherit the kingdom of the third heaven.

John 3:13 (KJV) And no man hath ascended up to [. the third.] heaven, but he that came down from heaven, [. to the FIRST.] even the Son of man which is in heaven.

Christ’s heart and mind is in God- the right hand of God. When, or as we ascend to Christ in God, the same event with Paul is, was and will take place with all men. Paul’s experience of being caught up from the first to the third was an example of what will follow with all men, all sinners. (1Tim 1:15-16)
He was “caught up” to the third heaven, shown in a moment of time. Comparing spiritual words again, the Scripture reveals to us adding another witness where this heaven, paradise of God is in:

2 Corinthians 12:2-4 (KJV)
2 I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.....
3, 4 How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

Revelation 12:5 (KJV) And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up UNTO God, and to
his throne.
1 Thessalonians 4:17 (KJV) Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

There we have another confirmation that the spiritual realm Paul was caught up INTO is in the Lord, unto God, "in the air". The third heaven is also signified, labeled in hidden wisdom as "the air". A positive form of the Word "air", as opposed to the negative usage of "the air" that the dragon is given to rule for a "short time". (Eph 2:2) Harmonizing all that is written together, the paradise of God, the new creation, the throne of God, the third heaven, Life of God are all located in Christ Jesus.

It is in Christ, the fullness, the highest realm of heaven dwells.

Colossians 1:19 (KJV) For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell.

Summary of Part 1

To summarize this part, it may be more logical to the natural man to say that:

1. the second heaven and the third heaven are the same OR

2. The ‘second’ heaven is a realm that we must go through FROM the first heaven and earth TO the Third heavens.

But as obedient servants of Christ, we will rather keep to what is written, what the Law, the Scripture supports, what we have evidence for and conclude that it is:

#3. None of the above. Not #1 or #2.

“Second” heaven is NOT spoken of.
“Second” heaven is NOT written about by any of the prophets and the apostles.

So why written as the letter “third” heaven?
Not second heaven or Last heaven?
This leads us to the next section -

Part 2 - Why is it called the third heaven?

Keeping to only what is written, it becomes clearer that God names things in Scripture for several reasons, and none of those names is without signification, often hidden in the Sum of the Word.
1. After their meaning/interpretation.
For example, Emmanuel means:
Matthew 1:23 (KJV) Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

2: After their purpose:
Jesus is so named...

Matthew 1:21 (KJV) And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for [=Gk: because...] he shall save his people from their sins.

...because He is a Saviour.

3: After their nature/virtue
Jerusalem:
Early Hebrew name being “Salem”, which means:

Hebrews 7:2 (KJV) To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace;

Other name of places includes Babylon, Nazareth, Israel.
They are all so named after one reason or another.
With regard to the heavens, this is a realm of the spirit. They are not just called one name in the Word.
The name “first heaven”, from all we have learnt thus far, we can discern it is so named not only because it’s the first realm of the spirit, a spiritual place. But also because of its nature contrasted with God’s nature.

Those who dwell in either realm are called “the heavens”.

Deuteronomy 32:1 (KJV) Give ear, ye heavens, and I will speak; and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth.

Job 15:15 (KJV) Behold, he putteth no trust in his saints; yea, the heavens are not clean in his sight.

The differentiation of which realm one dwells, aside from naming it first/old/former world, "Jerusalem below" is by whether the inhabitants have been THROUGH THE FIRE or not.
The inhabitants of the new world, the paradise of God, (=the overcomers) are also called “the heavens”…but notable difference is that they are also called..."the third part”.
The dwelling place of “the third part”, having the express image of God, a consuming fire, is called “the third” heavens.
The new heaven and new earth have “the third part” inhabiting it.

Revelation 12:12 (KJV) Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabiters of the [..first..] earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath
but a short time.
Those that are to rejoice are not “the heavens” of the first realm, but those that have been through the seven plaques, the lake of fire which is the second death, that have suffered the loss of all things of the old world, and are now dwelling in “the third heaven” with God.

Revelation 18:20 (KJV) Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.

Where does the Scripture hide that connection between “the third part” and “the third heaven”?

Let us go back to the prophecies of Zechariah.

Zechariah 13:8-9 (KJV) 8 And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the Lord, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein.
9 And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The Lord is my God.

The “third part” are those who comes through the fire (even the baptism of fire=fiery trials=Lake of fire) bringing them to LIFE (not cut off to die) who becomes God’s people.

There is a fiery process in place these “third parts” go through to become God’s people.
This most certainly includes living by all the words that proceeds out of the mouth of God. (Matt 4:4) There is no other Way.
Revelation 8 gives a more detailed signification of the process “the third part” goes through.
Paul himself, a member of the third part, was caught up to the third heaven through the fiery trials that came upon him.

2 Corinthians 12:2-4 (KJV) I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third [G5154] heaven.....

G5154- THIRD Transliteration: tritos Pronunciation: tree'-tos Definition: From G5140; third; neuter (as noun) a third part or (as adverb) a (or the) third time thirdly: - third (-ly). KJV Usage: third (56x), thirdly (1x). Occurs: 57

The THIRD PART of the "OURANOS"...the Sky/Air.

It is through great trials, great tribulations that we, once terrestrial creatures, enter into the third heaven.
Again, ONLY “the third part”, those chosen of God at their appointed time, whether this age or the next, are granted access to the paradise of God,
through the Death, that is, the second death. 

Revelation 9:18 (KJV) By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, [...which makes up the lake of fire, the second death..] which issued out of their mouths.

Revelation 21:8 (KJV) But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Through the second death, being killed by fire & brimstone and smoke, “the third part” enter where...

Revelation 21:2-3 (KJV) 
2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 
3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, [...God’s people, the third parts are brought through the fire..] and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

Adding all together, where God dwells with His people- the third parts- the overcomers- is the paradise of God, the “third” heavens. The “third heaven” is thus signified, (comparing spiritual with spiritual, not going above what is written) because it is where God dwells with His people, where the “third parts” are brought into to see His face as He is.

Conclusion

So throughout Scripture, the contrast of the first heaven is not with a second heaven, but with an heavenly realm that God’s people who are brought through the fire dwells, the third heaven.

Revelation 22:14 (KJV) Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, [...“which is in the midst of the paradise of God”Rev 2:7, the third heaven..inhabited by overcomers..] and may enter in through the gates into the city.

The other name for that dwelling place of God’s people, where that city of overcomers, “the third part” is:

Revelation 3:12 (KJV) Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

Galatians 4:26 (KJV) But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.
I hope there is greater clarity now to see that the highest realm of the Spirit, where we “see God as He is”, the express image, is the signified “third heaven”, that is also symbolized as the “new heavens and earth”, where righteousness dwells.

By fixing our eyes on the letter of Scripture, whether it’s the word, first, second, third, up to big numbers like 1000, 144,000, the veil remains in the reading of the Word of God. When we, as ministers of the New Testament, turn from natural logic and to holding fast to the principles of Christ, such as seeking and comparing for the usage of those words or numbers, then the seal opens up.

I too once thought differently not too long ago. Rather than think the second heaven and third heaven are the same, (#1 option above) I learnt from our old school the second heaven must be the heaven we go through from the first to the third, where spiritual warfare takes place.

It made sense to me for so long, and in a logical way, I guess can easily be believed. I understand.

However, my refuge is now stronger in the Lord, His Word to hold fast to what is written. I stand to be corrected if any can teach us / correct us with nothing but the Word about a “second” heaven.

Likewise a “second” resurrection.

Likewise a “first” death that destroys the carnal mind.

Not boasting of ourselves, but to only know the mind of the Lord on what is written. It is our hope the seals continue to be loosed in our hearts and minds.

Revelation 5:9 (KJV) And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

Your fellow third part entering the third heaven day by day,

~Ayo

From Mitch:

Regarding the third heaven, I always thought about it as the final step in the process of salvation.

While there is no mention of a second heaven, we do have the progression from the sea to the earth to the heavens.

The sea and the earth are still carnal so they really are the same, even though outward appearances change. I think that is your point Ayo.
John 3:6
6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Thee are only two things, flesh and spirit. God’s ways and man's ways.

Isaiah 55:8-9
8 “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD.
9 “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

Luke 13:32
And He said to them, “Go, tell that fox, ‘Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I shall be perfected.

The third day and the third heavens are Speaking of the same thing, right?

It seems to me that there are two things going on.

#1. Scripture speaks of a transition from old to new, flesh to spirit, earthly to heavenly. So there are only two things.

#2. There is a three step process to go from earthly to heavenly: sea, earth, heavens: Egypt, Babylon, New Jerusalem.

The earth and Babylon are still old and carnal, even though they are a progression from the sea and Egypt.

I think this is similar to the issue regarding the second resurrection. There is no ' second resurrection, but there are three harvests within that one resurrection.

There are only two states for man: flesh and spirit, and there are three steps to get from flesh to spirit.

There is no mention of second heaven because, as Ayo demonstrated, there are only two states: old and new. Yet other symbols reveal the process to get there. The third heaven is just another way of saying the New Jerusalem.

Mitch.

From Roderick

I'd like to thank you all for your contributions. Ayo, thank you for this very thoughtful answer that the Lord gave you to share.
Also thank you Mitch for putting your response together to show the connection with three and perfection. Both notes complements well with one another in the spirit. I will try to add my thoughts to add to what has been said to hopefully build a clearer picture of how the Lord wants us to understand what Paul is saying so that we may be edified.

I'll try my best to answer these questions that were presented as precisely as I can. Here are three of the four questions and my thoughts.

1. **What does the third heaven represent?**

2. **What does the third in the third heaven represent**

3. **What does the number 14 represent?**

These questions are based on these set of verses that Paul wrote experience and wrote being inspired the spirit of God.

**2 Corinthians 12:1-5 KJVA**

It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord. I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such a one caught up to the third heaven. And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) how that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. Of such a one will I glory: yet of myself I will not glory, but in mine infirmities.

Let's begin.

**What does the third heaven represent?**

I'm assuming we all understand and have established that the third heaven is the abode of Christ in the realm of the spirit. We have also established that the mind of God is higher than the minds of the earthly men. We have also agreed that the third heaven is also called Paradise in which we are caught up in the Spirit as we are being rise with Christ. Christ right now has been exalted above all nations and everything that was made. This also means he has the highest mind and all his ways are perfect and just. Another important point to remember is that there are two heavens; the old heaven that is a shadow of the true heaven where the father and son dwells.

**1 Peter 3:18-22 NCV**

Christ himself suffered for sins once. He was not guilty, but he suffered for those who are guilty to bring you to God. His body was killed, but he was made alive in the spirit. And in the spirit he went and preached to the spirits in prison who refused to obey God long ago in the time of Noah. God was waiting patiently for them while Noah was building the boat. Only a few people—eight in all—were saved by water.
And that water is like baptism that now saves you—not the washing of dirt from the body, but the promise made to God from a good conscience. And this is because Jesus Christ was raised from the dead. Now Jesus has gone into heaven and is at God’s right side ruling over angels, authorities, and powers.

**Ephesians 1:20-23 KJVA**

which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: and hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

It is these new heavens (the heavenly things themselves, the body of Christ) that are being presented as an acceptable sacrifice to God. We all will partake of Christ's death and also will partake of his resurrection. We are all Partakers of the one bread:

**Hebrews 9:23-24 KJVA**

It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

**1 Peter 2:5 KJVA**

ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

We offer our bodies as a living spiritual sacrifice by denying worldly lusts and always attaining to the transformation and renewing of our mind in the spirit.

**Romans 12:1-2 KJVA**

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.

**What does "the third" in the third heaven represent?**

Ayo express well that the third represent the third part that goes through the fire. This harmonizes with how we are to offer the true spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus. This is the renewing of our mind.
I will hopefully expound on it a bit more regarding both its positive and negative meanings of the third in its spiritual relationship with heaven. Three symbolizes a whole that can be either full of light or full of darkness.

**Luke 11:34-36 KJVA**
The light of the body is the eye: therefore when thine eye is single, thy whole body also is full of light; but when thine eye is evil, thy body also is full of darkness. Take heed therefore, that the light which is in thee be not darkness. If thy whole body therefore be full of light, having no part dark, the whole shall be full of light, as when the bright shining of a candle doth give thee light.

The third symbolizes the one bread or one body of Christ that is being purified through the fire until all of it is leavened in truth aka risen to Life. The third heaven is the throne our hearts and minds that must be renewed so the whole body is full of light.

**Zechariah 13:9 RSV**
And I will put this third into the fire, and refine them as one refines silver, and test them as gold is tested. They will call on my name, and I will answer them. I will say, 'They are my people'; and they will say, 'The Lord is my God.'

**Psalm 12:6 KJVA**
The words of the Lord are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

Let's look at this parable carefully. The three measures of meal is symbolized by the whole body or one bread that the yeast (the eye of light) symbolized by God's spirit of Truth) will make rise (righteous by faith). Remember, the light of the body is the eye. If this light is Christ, then the whole body is full of light.

**Matthew 13:33 KJVA**
Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal [dough] till the whole was leavened [rise to life like bread that rise from yeast = Christ word].

**1 Corinthians 10:17 KJVA**
For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread.

**Luke 13:21 CEVU**
It is like what happens when a woman mixes yeast into three batches of flour. Finally, all the dough rises."

Three positive represents the third part (we are all partakers of one bread) that comes threw the fire. Christ descends to the lowest part and is the same that ascended into the highest parts so that he fills all things.
This is filling the whole body (the three measures with the light of Christ) until all is redeemed and made perfect in the third day. The three in it's positive is the whole body full of light.

**Ephesians 4:9-13 KJVA**
(Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, (that he might fill all things.) And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ =[the one bread we are all partakers of]: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

The Christ filling up all things is Christ healing his whole body through faith. Healing is making all reach the unity of faith and the knowledge of the Son of God.

**Luke 13:32 KJV**
And he said unto them, Go ye, and tell that fox, Behold, I cast out devils, and I do cures to day and to morrow, and the third day I shall be perfected.

**Daniel 10:3 KJVA**
I ate no pleasant bread, neither came flesh nor wine in my mouth, neither did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled.

**Matthew 9:22 KJVA**
But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour.

**Are we perfected?**
We have to remember we have a down payment of the Spirit in this earthen vessel and are waiting for the full redemption of the body. = **Made full of Light**.
Plainly said until we are complete in Christ and all the old leaven has been removed, burnt away by the fire. Until then, we must press on. We must follow unto the resurrection of life.

This is the mind-set we must have.

"i count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do , forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before. I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

**Philippians 3:10-14 KJVA**
that I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; if by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. **Not as though I had already attained, either**
were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before. I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

It's until every high thought that exalts itself against the knowledge of God is cast down and every proud eye (carnal mind) is removed, so that we can fully be made complete as the full man.

Matthew 5:29 KJVA
And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

2 Corinthians 10:5 KJVA
casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

What does this number 14 represent symbolize?

Ernesto present a partial study in this a few months ago.
It Harmonize perfectly with everything regarding our going through the fire and been freed from death through Christ.

The number 14 (positive) in the scriptures signifies the death of death--our release from the bondage of death through death. It’s through 14 that Christ delivers us from death through his sacrifice as our Passover. Passover, the day the Lord brought Israel out from under the bondage of the Egyptians, is celebrated on the 14th day of the first month.

Partial Study Notes on the number 14.

By Ernesto Rivera.

I’m going to begin this study with what we find in the book of Matthew. Matthew lists Christ’s entire genealogy beginning with Abraham, but it’s verse 17 that reveals the hidden gem.

Mat 1:17 NASB  So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations.

The number 14 in the scriptures signifies the death of death--our release from the bondage of death through death. It’s through 14 that Christ delivers us from death through his sacrifice as our Passover. Passover, the day the Lord brought Israel out
from under the bondage of the Egyptians, is celebrated on the 14th day of the first month.

**Num 28:16 NASB** 'Then on the fourteenth day of the first month shall be the LORD'S Passover.

**Exo 12:51 NASB** And on that same day [...] the LORD brought the sons of Israel out of the land of Egypt by their hosts.

**Exo 11:4-5 LOGOS** 4 And Moses said, “Thus says the Lord: ‘About midnight I will go forth into the midst of Egypt. 5 And every firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sits on the throne, even to the firstborn of the female servant that is by the mill, and to the firstborn of all cattle.

The first born of Egypt typifies our flesh and the carnal mind. That which is first is natural, not spiritual.

**1Co 15:46 LOGOS** However, that which is spiritual is not first, but that which is natural, then that which is spiritual.

**1Co 2:14 LOGOS** But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

The natural man is who we are in our beginning. We are, by reason of birth, carnally minded vessels of death. There is no good thing in us. Not in our thoughts...

**Rom 8:6-8 AKJV** 6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. 8 So then they that are in the flesh [...carnally minded...] cannot please God.

**Gal 5:19-21 AKJV** 19 Now the works of the flesh [...] are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, jealousies, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 Contentions, murders, drunkenness, revelings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

...and definitely not in our flesh, since our bodies are also of the earth.

**1Co 15:44 AKJV** It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body [...that does not receive the things of the spirit...], and there is a spiritual body.
Rom 7:24-25 AKJV 24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death [...this natural body, non-spiritual...]? 25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

Christ, who is our "14th day of the first month", is the only way that the old leaven of death can be purged out from within us.

1Co 5:7 Clean out the old leaven [...carnal mind, body of death...] so that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed.

1Co 15:20-21 AKJV 20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept. 21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

Heb 2:14 Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death [...his Passover sacrifice/rising from the dead...] He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, Heb 2:15 and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.

The number 3 typifies completion. A three fold cord typifies the completion of a witness.

Ecc 4:12 KJV And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

2Co 13:1 LOGOS This will be the third time I am coming to you. "By the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established."

Christ resurrected on the third day.

Joh 2:19-21 WEB 19 Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” 20 The Jews therefore said, “It took forty-six years to build this temple! Will you raise it up in three days?” 21 But he spoke of the temple of his body.

The Lord commanded that Israel keep 3 harvests per year. Three times were they to present themselves before the Lord--the feast of unleavened bread, the feast of weeks, and the feast of tabernacles.

Exo 23:17 NET At three times in the year all your males will appear before the Lord GOD.
2Ch 8:13 BBE Offering every day what had been ordered by Moses, on the Sabbaths and at the new moon and at the regular feasts three times a year, that is at the feast of unleavened bread, the feast of weeks, and the feast of tents.

These three harvests complete the year, which typifies the three harvests that will complete all the ages.

1Co 15:22-28 KJV 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits [...the feast of unleavened bread...]; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming [...the feast of weeks...]. 24 Then cometh the end [...the feast of tents...], when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. 25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. 27 For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith, all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. 28 And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all [...completion of all... “]

The genealogy of Matthew points to Christ's history as a foreshadow of the completion of his life, death, and resurrection. This history is a shadow of the good that was to come through Christ.

End.

Roderick/Ernesto