

It is used 284 times in the New Testament. The Authorized Versions translates *Ouranos* 268 times as "heaven," 10 times as "air," 5 times as "sky," and once as "heavenly." We shall not examine all these 284 cases! However, perhaps the examination of two of these cases would be helpful.

Philippians 1:21-24 -- "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labor, yet what I shall choose I know not. For I am in a strait between two, having a desire to depart and to be with Christ, which is far better. Nevertheless, to abide in the flesh is more needful for you."

Now someone may have noticed that the word *Ouranos* is not used in this passage. I hasten to point out, however, that chapter 3, verse 20, states: "For our citizenship is in *Ouranos*, from where also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ." Paul desires to depart from the flesh and to be with Christ, who is presently in *Ouranos*.

2 Corinthians 5:1-9 -- "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the *Ouranos*. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from *Ouranos*. If so be that, being clothed, we shall not be found naked. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened; not that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life. Now he that hath wrought us for the very same thing is God, who hath also given unto us the earnest of the Spirit. Therefore, we are always confident, knowing that, while we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord. (For we walk by faith, not by sight). We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. Wherefore, we labor that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him."

In these passages, we learn that disembodied existence for the believer means an existence in the very presence of our Lord Jesus Christ, an existence in *Ouranos*.