**Great Assemblies in the Bible**
*by Kevin Maxey*

It is exciting to hear the roar of a football crowd, to feel the thrill of a gathering parade, and to see the applause of a packed auditorium. We enjoy being a part of great assemblies. Have you ever imagined what it would have been like to be present at some of the momentous gatherings described in the Scriptures? What can we learn from the assemblies mentioned in God's word?

**Assembly at Mount Sinai**
We read of an earth-quaking assembly at Mount Sinai. Moses led the Hebrew slaves out of Egypt to meet God at Mount Sinai. "Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain" (Exod. 19:17). Israel came to receive God's law and to enter into a most holy covenant. This was no insignificant assembly for God was present. Picture this vivid description: "Now the mountain was completely in smoke, because the Lord descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly" (Exod. 19:18). The roaring account continues, "Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off" (Exod. 20:18). Envision the smoke, hear the thunder, and feel the ground quake. Imagine being a part of this thunderous assembly!

**Assembly at Mount Carmel**
We read of a fiery assembly at Mount Carmel. Elijah boldly challenged Jezebel and her eight hundred and fifty idolatrous prophets to a contest on Mount Carmel. "Send and gather all Israel to me on Mount Carmel, the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal, and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table" (1 Kings 18:19). Two altars were made; one to Baal and one to Jehovah. All Israel assembled to see who would answer. "Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up water that was in the trench" (1 Kings 18:38). After witnessing this consuming fire from heaven the assembly shouted, "The Lord, He is God! The Lord, He is God!" (1 Kings 18:39). This assembly saw the power of the one true God.

**Assembly at Christ's feet**
We read of several memorable assemblies at Christ's feet. Imagine being among the number who heard Jesus speak in person. The multitudes were astonished at the words Christ spoke during His sermon on the mount (Matt. 5-7). Imagine being in the number who witnessed Him heal the sick (Luke 6:17-19). Then there was the multitude of over five thousand that Jesus fed (John 6:11). Picture the horror of witnessing the mob that violently cried out, "Crucify Him!" (Luke 23:21). What about the multitude that mocked our Lord as He disgracefully died on the cruel cross (Matt. 27:39)? Yes, there were many memorable assemblies around the feet of our Savior.

**Assembly at Pentecost**
We read of a redeemed assembly in Jerusalem on the day Pentecost. Just days after Jesus ascended into heaven, a great multitude of Jews met to celebrate the Pentecost. This same day, the Spirit fell on the apostles who then preached the inspired message of the kingdom to all who were present. That significant day marked the beginning of the Lord's church, as three thousand souls repented and were baptized for the remission of their sins (Acts 2:41, 38). Days later the number grew to five thousand (Acts 4:4). Imagine joining in the joyous worship of such an assembly!

**Assembly at the Judgment day**
We read of a all inclusive assembly on the judgment day. Every person will be present at this largest assembly of all time. "All nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them" (Matt. 25:32). John describes this enormous gathering, "I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away . . . I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and the books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works" (Rev. 20:11-12). All will be judged in this assembly. Even you will participate in this gathering. Are you ready for this coming assembly?

**Assembly in heaven**
We read of a glorious assembly in heaven. The Bible speaks of a blessed people who will assemble around the throne of God forever. "God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying; and there shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away" (Rev. 21:4). Who will assemble within these heavenly gates? "Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city" (Rev. 22:14). Will you be numbered in this heavenly assembly?

**Assembly of the saints**
We read of an assembly of the saints here on earth today. Though we were not apart of the great assemblies recorded in the Bible, we can be apart of a great assembly today. That is the assembly of the saints; the church (Eph. 1:22-23).

Before you can be among the assembly in heaven, you must belong to the assembly of the saints here on earth. Only the Lord can add you to this assembly. "The Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved" (Acts 2:47). The previous verses explain this number of the saved included those who received the word (41), believed (44), repented and were baptized for the remission of their sins (38). Take these same steps and God will add you to the assembly of His saints today.

Once you are added to the assembly of the saints, you receive the benefits of fellowship with God and your brethren. You must not forsake this important assembly. "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching" (Heb. 10:25). Do you continually put other interests before meeting with the saints? You should look forward to assembling with your brethren. "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go into the house of the Lord'" (Psa. 122:1). What a privilege it is to assemble!

In eternity there will be two assemblies; one in heaven and one in hell. In which assembly will you be? God invites you to join His heavenly assembly today.