

HEAVEN

**THE ETERNAL HOME OF
THE REDEEMED**

Introduction

- Two statements that I believe to be almost universally true:
 1. Everyone wants to know about heaven; and
 2. Everyone wants to go there.
- 80% of all people believe there is a place called heaven.
- Even in this skeptical age there is something deep inside the human heart that cries out - “There’s got to be something more this earthly life...”
- The pain and suffering.
- The 70 or 80 years on planet earth.
- Being born, living, dying, and then buried in the ground.

Introduction

- There is another fascinating statistic I should mention.
- Not only do most people believe in heaven, they expect to go there when they die.
- Do you think you will go to heaven when you die?
- Not very many people would say they aren't going to heaven.
- Whenever you talk about living forever somewhere, it would help to know for sure where you are going.
- After all, if you're wrong about heaven, you're going to be wrong for a long, long time.

Where is Heaven?

- The only things we can know for certain about heaven are the things revealed in the Bible.
 - Everything we need to know and everything we can know for certain about heaven.
1. Heaven (*Gk. Ouranos*) is a real place.
 - Jesus said - **“In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; For I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”** (John 14:2-3).
 - Three times in two verses Jesus calls heaven a place (*topos*).

Where is Heaven?

- Jesus refers to it as **"my Father's house"** – where God's abode is.
- **Mt 6:9 – "Pray then in this way, Our Father who is in heaven..."**
- It is the place appointed as the future abode of the righteous – **"Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great..."** (Mt 5:12).
- Paul says that **"Our citizenship is in heaven; from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ."** (Phil 3:20).
- It is to be populated with people out of every nation, an enormous city teeming with people (Rev 21-22).

Where is Heaven?

2. Heaven is an eternal place

- *Aionios* is the Gk word used to describe God – “...the eternal God..” (Rom 16:26).
- The same is used to describe the life we are to inherit – “...everlasting life...” (Jn 3:16)
- It is used also to describe the duration of Hell (Gk *Gehena*) – “... and these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord...” (II Thess 1:9).
- Just as Hell is eternal, heaven is “the eternal kingdom” (II Pet 1:11).

What Heaven is Like?

- Most of us have heard that heaven is a place where the streets are paved with gold, the gates are made of pearl, and the walls made of precious jewels.
 - Those images come from Revelation 21-22, which offers us the most extended picture of heaven in the entire Bible.
1. New Home for the Redeemed of God.
 - This world is our temporary home – “For here we do not have a lasting city, but we are seeking the city which is to come.” (Heb 13:14)
 - The earth and all that is in it will be destroyed when Christ return (II Pet 3:10).

What Heaven is Like?

- Therefore Christians must eagerly look forward to our new home. (II Pet 3:13)
- John in Revelation tells us - **“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth passed away...”** (Rev 21:1)
- **New (kainos) – in quality and character.**
- **Better than the first earth.**
- The newness will not lose its lustre - Everything will always be new & fresh.
- How do I know? – **“Behold, I make all things new”** (Rev 21:5) - In the eternal state, there will be a perpetual state of newness.

What Heaven is Like?

2. A New Life for the Redeemed of God

i. A new body – incorruptible

- Paul says – **“Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God...”** (I Cor 15:50)
- **A glorious body without sin and imperfection**
- **A resurrected body that will be imperishable**
- **“For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For indeed in this house we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven...”** (II Cor 5:1-2)

What Heaven is Like?

ii. A Perfect Life

- No more separation, no more tears, no more death, moaning and crying or pain.
- Such are associated with the first order of things and cannot follow us to our new home.
- That ominous fear of death will be gone. There will not be any funeral homes in Heaven.
- We will watch no hearse go down the streets of glory because Jesus defeated death.
- We will not experience sorrow or grief in Heaven.
- All the problems of this present life will pass away.
- The words “**have passed away**” indicate that we will never deal with these things again.

What Heaven is Like?

- And God shall wipe **E**
- Away all **T**ears
- From their ey**E**s
- And there shall be no mo**R**e death
- Neither sorrow **N**or crying,
- And there shall be no more pa**I**n
- For the former **T**hings
- Have passed awa**Y**

What Heaven is Like?

iii. Perfect Fellowship with God

- **God will tabernacle among men.**
- **Saints will have God's presence with them in this new creation.**
- **A new intimacy will exist between God and His people because sin will not be an issue in the relationship.**
- **In eternity, we will continuously experience the personal presence of God.**
- **We will see Him face to face – just as He is (1 Jn 3:2).**

Who will go to Heaven?

- **Those whose names are in the Lamb's book of Life.**
- **These are the redeemed of the Lord whose names are also written in Heaven (Heb 12:23).**
- **Washed in the blood of the Lamb.**
- **Rev 20:15 – “And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”**

Conclusion

- **Man is made like his Maker – a spirit being.**
- **The body will die but the spirit is immortal.**
- **Our lives are short on this earth.**
- **Time is valuable and we must therefore make preparation for eternity.**
- **Let us renew our inner man day by day –
“Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.” (II Cor 4:16)**