

HEAVEN & HELL



Theme: **Heaven is real, forever and better.**

WHY?

- 1) Everyone lives forever somewhere. (Eccl. 12:7; Matt. 25:46)
- 2) Jesus is the hope we have for the future. (Heb. 12:2)
- 3) Our citizenship is in heaven and we will be made like Jesus. (Phil. 3:17-21)
- 4) We have a mission! (Mark 16:15-16; 2 Tim. 2:10; Matt. 28:19)

WHAT THE BIBLE DOESN'T TEACH ABOUT HEAVEN.

- "I don't want to go to heaven and sit on a cloud playing a harp"
- "I guess God needed another angel"
- "I'll go to heaven because I've been good person"
- "Everyone goes to heaven"

WHAT THE BIBLE DOES TEACH ABOUT HEAVEN.

- **Our citizenship is in heaven and we will be made like Jesus.** (Phil. 3:17-21)

"To come to Thee is to come home from exile, to come to land out of the raging storm, to come to rest after long labour, to come to the goal of my desires and the summit of my wishes." - Charles Haddon Spurgeon

- **Jesus came to reverse the curse.** (Rom. 5:12-21)
- **Jesus paid the price / "ransom" for Heaven.**
 - Matt. 20:28 // **"even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."**
 - I Peter 3:18 // For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,
- **Jesus died for the joy that was set before Him.**
 - Heb. 12:2 // looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Q: What was the joy set before me?

- John 17:22-26 // **The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, 23 I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. 24 Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. 25 O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. 26 I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.**

A: The joy that Jesus set before Him was knowing that His church would be eternally joined and perfectly glorified as one through Him to the Father in Heaven.

Q: Why should we look forward to Heaven.

A: How we see our future determines how we live in our present.

- 2 Peter 3:13-14 // But according to His promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. 14 Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by Him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

- Phil. 3:14 // I press on toward the goal for the prize of the (heavenly) upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (The prize is the fullness of blessings and rewards in the age to come, most especially being in perfect fellowship with Christ forever.)

“Heaven is a reference point that gives meaning and hope to our present lives” - Randy Alcorn

THE REVELATION OF HEAVEN

- The book of Revelation was given by Jesus Christ to the Apostle John on the Island of Patmos around 90 AD, 60 years after Jesus ascends into Heaven.
- Jesus Christ appears to the Apostle John (The Revelation of Jesus Christ)
- The word Revelation means “Apocalypse” a disclosure of unseen heavenly or future realities.

Rev. 21:1 // Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

- God’s creation will be made new eliminating the fatal infection of sin.
 - All the earth is in “bondage to decay” but will be set free. (Rom. 8:19-23)

Rev. 21:2 // And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

- Heaven will be on the new earth (New Jerusalem).
 - Heaven will be a holy city (holy, pure, sinless)
 - Heaven is prepared by God (“I go to prepare a place for you” - John 14:3)

Rev. 21:3 // And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.

- God is near in Heaven.
 - God has always been pictured as distant or set apart: behind the veil of the holy of holies inside the tabernacle (Ex. 26:31-34), in the temple or on a throne (Psalm 47:8).
 - The greatest blessing of heaven will be unhindered fellowship with God. (Psalm 16:11)
 - In Heaven God will dwell with us. (Isa. 7:14)

Rev. 21:4 // He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

- God will reverse the curse that entered the world through human sin.
- A list of no mores:
 - No more death - no tears, no pain, no suffering, no hospitals, no funerals, no funeral homes, no caskets, no tombstones, no goodbyes, no sickness, no doctors, no dentist, no pills, no surgery, no broken bones, no wheel chairs, no headaches, no dry skin, no weak knees, no stomach viruses, no flu.
 - No more time, no feeling of being rushed or late, no looking ahead, no looking back, no counting time, no age, no old people, no young people.
- We will live in an endless, ageless state of perfect health forever, altogether moving forward into endless newness and fullness of joy.

Rev. 21:5 // And He who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

- In Heaven everything is always new. (Rev. 21:5; Isa. 65:17)
 - God makes all things continually new.

Rev. 21:6-8 // And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. 7 The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. 8 But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

HEAVEN ON EARTH: THE NEW JERUSALEM

NEW JERUSALEM WILL BE FILLED WITH THE GLORY OF GOD

• Rev. 21:9-10 // Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, “Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.” And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, 11 having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.

- The glory of God is brilliant, powerful, beautiful and lethal. (Ex. 33:18-23)
- The glory of God is every perfectly righteous and holy characteristic of God displayed in the seen and unseen.
- Heaven displays 100% of the glory of God unedited.

“The glory of God is the manifest beauty of His holiness.” - John Piper

NEW JERUSALEM WILL BE BIG

• Rev. 21:15 // And the one who spoke with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city and its gates and walls.

- Heaven on Earth will be big.

• Rev. 21:16 // The city lies foursquare, its length the same as its width. And he measured the city with his rod, 12,000 furlongs. Its length and width and height are equal. 17 He also measured its wall, 144 cubits by human measurement, which is also an angel's measurement.

- The New Jerusalem is likely a cube. (length and width and height are equal)
- The Most Holy Place in the OT sanctuary was a (20x20x20cbt) cubed room overlaid with gold, this was the place where God would descend to meet with His people. (1 Kings 6:20; Ezek. 41:4).
- 1 furlong = 600ft. (approximately 1/8 of a mile)
- 12,000 furlongs = 1,380 miles (approximately the distance between New York to Houston)
- Outer space is approximately 100 miles from the ground (SLIDE)

NEW JERUSALEM WILL BE BEAUTIFUL

• Rev. 21:18-21 // The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. 19 The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, 20 the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. 21 The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.



• Rev. 21:22-27 // And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. 23 And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. 24 By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, 25 and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. 26 They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations.

27 But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

The Bible describes what heaven will be like in two ways. The first way is what the garden of Eden was like before sin entered into creation (Genesis 1-2). The second way is what the new heavens and earth are described as being like at the end of time. If we pull together insights from these descriptions, heaven will be something like this:

- The wolf shall dwell with the lamb (Isa. 11:6-9)
- There will be no crying, death, mourning, or pain (Rev. 21:4).
- We will recognize and know one another (1 Cor. 13:12).
- It will be brand new (Rev. 21:5).
- It will be a place of beauty, with streets of gold and buildings of jewels (Rev. 21:15-21).
- There will be no night, and the light of the glory of Jesus will replace the sun (Rev. 21:23; 22:5).
- We will see Jesus face to face (1 John 3:2).
- There will be no sin or sinners there (Rev. 21:27).
- There will be no sickness (Rev. 22:2).
- There will be pure water and delicious food to enjoy (Rev. 22:1-2).
- We will worship Jesus (Rev. 22:3).
- Every blessing is free (Rev. 22:12).
- It will be a place of pure joy and pleasure (Psalm 16:11).
- Children will be playing in the streets (Zechariah 8:5).

“True freedom is getting to do whatever you want to do and not having to regret it in a thousand years.” That’s Heaven. - John Piper

Heaven will be full satisfaction and joy in God’s holy presence for all eternity.

WHAT IS OUR MISSION?

- **The mission of the church is to make disciples.**
- **The mission of the church is to glorify Christ.**
 - Matthew 28:19-20 // Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
 - Our joyful mission is to put Jesus on display to every nation.