

# HEAVEN & HELL



Theme: **Top Ten Questions About Heaven**

## 1. WILL WE KNOW EACH OTHER IN HEAVEN? YES

- **People from every nation, language and time period will come together as the children of God knowing each other.**
  - Matthew 8:11 // **I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven,**
- **In heaven we will recognize and know by name people we've never met before.**
  - Matthew 17:1-3 // And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. 2 And He was transfigured before them, and His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became white as light. 3 And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with Him.
- Abraham, Lazarus, and the rich man were all recognizable after death. (Luke 16:19-31)
- David assumed that he would be able to recognize his son in heaven, despite the fact that he died as a baby. (2 Samuel 12:23)
- Just as Jesus was recognizable in His glorified body, we also will be recognizable in our glorified bodies. (John 20:16, 20; 21:12; 1 Corinthians 15:4-7)

## 2. WILL I STILL BE MARRIED IN HEAVEN? NO

- **There will be no new marriages in heaven.**
  - Matthew 22:29-30 // But Jesus answered them, **"You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God. 30 For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.** (a spiritual transformation into the full image of God)
- **Our earthly way of life is passing away.**
  - 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 // This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, 30 and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, 31 and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.
- Evidently, there will be no such thing as marriage or procreation in heaven simply because there will be no need for it. But we will know our friends, family and spouses.
- God is able to establish relationships of deeper friendship, joy, and love in the life to come.
- All heavenly relationships will be perfect without any secrets. (1 Cor. 13:12)

## 3. WHAT IS THE ROLE OF ANGELS IN HEAVEN?

### Q: What does the Bible say about angels?

- Angels help protect (Daniel 6:20-23; 2 Kings 6:13-17), reveal information (Acts 7:52-53; Luke 1:11-20), guide (Matthew 1:20-21; Acts 8:26), provide for (Genesis 21:17-20; 1 Kings 19:5-7), and minister to believers (Hebrews 1:14) and in general fulfill any task that God wills.

### Q: What does the Bible say about angels in heaven?

- Angels will be messengers.
  - Luke 1:19 // And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news.
- Angels will be worshippers. (Heb. 1:6; Isa. 6:3; Rev. 4:6-1, 7:11-12)
  - Revelation 5:11 // Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"

#### 4. WILL THERE BE PETS IN HEAVEN? NO

- God made both man (Genesis 2:7) and animals (Genesis 1:30; 6:17; 7:15, 22) having the “breath of life”; that is, both man and animals are living beings.
- The primary difference between human beings and animals is that humanity is made in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:26-27) with an eternal soul (Eccl. 12:7; Matt. 25:46), while animals are not.
- This difference possibly means that pet/animal do not continue in existence after death.
  - Ecclesiastes 3:20-21 // All go to one place: all are from the dust, and all return to dust. 21 Who knows the spirit of the sons of men, which goes upward, and the spirit of the animal, which goes down to the earth?

#### 5. WILL THERE BE ANIMALS IN HEAVEN? YES

- Like on earth animals display the creative genius of God in heaven. (imagine if you can animal that you've never seen before)
- There is no extinction in heaven.
- The book of Revelation mentions lions, calves, bears, eagle and horses. Jesus Himself will come out of heaven riding a horse. (Rev. 19:11)
- The animals of heaven will live in perfect harmony. (Isaiah 11:6-7, 65:25)

#### 6. WHAT WILL WE DO IN HEAVEN?

- **We will serve & worship God.**

In Matthew 4:10 Jesus, during His temptation in the desert, quotes Deuteronomy “You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve.”

- Rev. 22:1-3 // And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. 2 In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. 3 And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him.

- “Serving” consists of everything that God created us to do.

- **We will work.**

- In the beginning God blessed man with dominion over all the earth in the garden of Eden (Gen. 1:28-31) and ordered him to work it and keep it. (Gen. 2:15)

- After the fall of man, God cursed the ground and the work. (Gen. 3:17-19)

- In heaven all work will be redeemed, sinless, purposeful and totally enjoyable. (Rev. 22:3)

- In heaven we will never grow weary and we will feel perfectly satisfied and useful in all we do.

- **We will rule with Christ.**

- Rev. 22:5-4 // They will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. 5 And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

- 2 Timothy 2:12 // if we endure, we will also reign with Him; if we deny Him, He also will deny us;

- We will rule as righteous kings and queens, by the authority given by God, over all creation just as it was in the garden of Eden. (Gen. 1:26-31)

- We will judge angels. (1 Cor. 6:3)

- We should all be eagerly looking forward to that final day when we are seated at the right hand of the Father with our Savior Jesus Christ.

#### 7. WHAT REWARDS WILL WE RECEIVE IN HEAVEN?

- 1 Corinthians 2:9 // But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”

- Matthew 16:27 // For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.

- **Rewards will be given to the faithful.**

- Matthew 20:16 // “So the last will be first, and the first last.”

- The faithful serve from a heart of gratitude in response to God's grace.

Matthew 25:21 // 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'

• **God will give us heavenly crowns.**

- **The Imperishable Crown:** Faithful endurance wins a heavenly reward that will never pass away. (1 Corinthians 9:24-25; Matthew 6:19-20; 1 Peter 1:3-5)

- **The Crown of Rejoicing:** "He (God) 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." (Revelation 21:4)

- **The Crown of Righteousness:** Faithfully enduring the discouragements, persecutions, sufferings, or even death, we know our reward is in the work and righteousness of Jesus Christ. (2 Timothy 4:8; Philippians 3:20)

- **The Crown of Glory:** God will crown us with glory making us citizens of His kingdom. (1 Peter 5:4; Philippians 3:20; Romans 8:18)

- **The Crown of Life:** We have the amazing promise that comes only to those who come to God through Jesus: "And this is the promise that He has promised us eternal life" - 1 John 2:25

- James 1:12 // Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

## 8. WHEN CHRISTIANS DIE DO WE GO STRAIGHT TO HEAVEN? YES

• Once a believer has died, though his or her physical body remains on the earth and is buried, at the moment of death the soul/spirit of that believer goes immediately into the presence of God with rejoicing.

(2 Cor. 5:6-10; Phil. 1:23; Luke 23:43)

- 2 Cor. 5:8 // "we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord"

- Phil. 1:23 // "to depart and be with Christ for that is far better"

- Luke 23:43 // Jesus said to the thief who was dying on the cross next to him, "Today you will be with me in Paradise"

## 9. DO BABIES THAT DIE GO TO HEAVEN?

• **We believe every child is a blessing from God.**

- Psalm 127:3 // Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward.

- Jeremiah 1:5 // "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

- Psalm 139:13 // For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. 14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

- When David's infant child died (2 Samuel 12:16-23), he had complete confidence that he would go to his child in heaven after his life was complete. "I shall go to him, but he will not return to me."

• **We believe that our God is loving, gracious, merciful and just, "not willing that any should perish" (2 Peter 3:9) and that He will not condemn souls to hell that do not willingly reject Him as Lord and Savior.**

- Matthew 19:14 // but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."

• **We believe it is appropriate to conclude that the souls of children are immediately in the presence of God when their lives are cut short by any means of death.**

## 10. HOW DO WE KNOW FOR SURE WE ARE GOING TO HEAVEN?

• **God gives to those who believe in Jesus eternal life.**

- 1 John 5:11-13 // And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

- Ephesians 2:8-9 // For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

- God sent His Son to save us from the curse of sin, death and eternal hell without Him.
  - John 3:16 // “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.
- Jesus (the Son of God) gave up by choice His perfect sinless life on the cross, God poured out His wrath against sin on Jesus and *“made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”* - 2 Corinthians 5:21
- The Holy Spirit seals those who believe in Christ as their Savior *“for the day of redemption”* (Ephesians 4:30)
- We are all sinners and we must repent of that sin and live faithfully for Jesus to receive eternal life with God in Heaven. (Romans 3:23, 6:23; Mark 1:15; Matthew 24:13)
  - Romans 3:23 // for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
  - Mark 1:15 // and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”
  - Matthew 24:13 // But the one who endures to the end will be saved.