



20 Beliefs Every Christian Should Know

Lesson 20 – Heaven: The Eternal State

Key Verse: Revelation 21:1

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer *any* sea.”

Overview

After the millennium and the great white throne judgment comes the eternal state, often referred to as Heaven. When you hear someone talking about Heaven, what comes to your mind? Many people think of Heaven as a place of fluffy clouds, angel wings, halos, and harps. They think Heaven will be a place where Christians will be lying on clouds while singing hymns (or modern worship songs) for all of eternity. But is that what the Bible teaches us about Heaven? In this study we will find out what the Bible teaches about our future and what we have to look forward to as children of God.

The Present Heaven: The Intermediate State

1. 2 Corinthians 12:2–4. How does Paul refer to the intermediate state? _____
2. Matthew 6:9. Who is the center of the third heaven? _____
3. Acts 1:11. Who else is in third heaven? _____
4. Hebrews 12:23. Who else is in the third heaven? _____
5. 2 Corinthians 5:8. What does Paul say happens when Christians die? _____

“The present Heaven is a temporary lodging, a waiting place until the return of Christ and our bodily resurrection.”

—Randy Alcorn, *Heaven*, pg. 44.

The Eternal State

1. Romans 8:21. What will happen to the curse on creation? _____
2. Revelation 21:1. What did John see in his vision? _____

3. Isaiah 6~~6~~⁵:17. What did Isaiah prophesy? _____
4. Psalm 148:3–6. What is meant by “new heavens”? _____
5. 2 Peter 3:13. What will dwell in the new heavens and new earth? _____

The New Earth: Replaced or Restored?

1. Revelation 21:1. What does John say about the first heaven and the first earth? _____

2. 2 Peter 3:7, 10–12. What does Peter say about the present heavens and earth? _____

3. Matthew 24:35. What does Jesus say will “pass away”? _____
4. Romans 8:19–21. What is the “hope” of creation? _____
5. Romans 8:22–23. What does Paul compare the future earth to? _____
6. Acts 3:20–21. What does Peter say will be restored? _____
7. 2 Peter 3:6. How does Peter describe the world during the flood? _____

“This terminology indicates that the universe is heading for a renewal in which the marred earth is fixed and made better than ever. A renewal view asserts that God, not Satan, achieves the final victory over God’s ‘very good’ creation (Genesis 1:31).”

—Gen. ed. John MacArthur, *Essential Christian Doctrine*, pg. 470.

Life on the New Earth

1. Revelation 21:1. What will be present? _____
2. Revelation 21:2. What will come down out of heaven? _____

3. Revelation 21:3. Who will dwell on the new earth? _____
4. Revelation 21:4. What will no longer be on the new earth? _____

5. Revelation 21:5–7. What will God give the thirsty? _____
6. Revelation 21:8. Who will not be on the new earth? _____

7. Revelation 21:22. What will be missing from the New Jerusalem? Why? _____

8. Revelation 21:23. What will illuminate the city? _____
9. Revelation 21:24–27. Who will come to the city? _____

10. Revelation 22:1–2. What two things will be in the city? _____
11. Revelation 22:3. What will be removed from the earth? _____
12. Revelation 22:5. What will God’s people do for all of eternity? _____

Application

1. In what ways does your thinking of Heaven need to change?
2. What truths about Heaven have you learned that make you long for it even more?
3. How does this truth of the eternal state give you hope?

“ . . . even more exciting is the fact that God’s fellowship with us will be unhindered. We will forever be able to interact with Him and worship Him as we were designed to do.”
—Wayne Grudem, *Christian Beliefs*, pg. 136.

