

Heaven

1/10/2021

New series: Heaven, Hell and everything in between.

The million-dollar question. If you died today would you get into Heaven?

Eschatology- is the study of the last things.

Things that fit into Eschatology are things like Heaven, Hell, Jesus's second coming, Jesus teaching about the kingdom of heaven, and what happens to us when we die are all examples of things that fit under eschatology.

It's not about just the end, but everything that connects or leads to eternity.

#1 How do you get to heaven? Other than a handful of people in scripture having visions revealed by God through work of the Holy Spirit. The current rate for entry to heaven or hell is by Death. It is a given. It is not really a matter of how. It is when? And we do not know when we will die.

-When we die. Physical death is the separation of the soul, including the spirit, from the body.

Ecclesiastes 12:7 NIV

*7 and the dust returns to the ground it came from,
and the spirit returns to God who gave it.*

What do we do while we are on earth?

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

13 Now all has been heard;

here is the conclusion of the matter:

Fear God and keep his commandments,

for this is the duty of all mankind.

14 For God will bring every deed into judgment,

including every hidden thing,

whether it is good or evil.

Heaven:

Is Heaven real? YES.

How do we know? 1. Scripture and 2. Jesus.

Will animals be in heaven? Yes.

Isaiah 11:6-9

6 The wolf will live with the lamb,

the leopard will lie down with the goat,

the calf and the lion and the yearling together;

and a little child will lead them.

7 The cow will feed with the bear,

their young will lie down together,

and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

8 The infant will play near the cobra's den,

and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.

Which direction is heaven? It's up.

What if you live in the US or live in China?

How many heavens are described in the Bible?

-I have heard people refer to locations as heaven on earth, but what does scripture say.

-The First Heaven

Genesis 1:20 ESV

20 And God said, "Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens."

-The Second Heaven-

Genesis 1:14-17

14 And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, 15 and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth." And it was so. 16 And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. 17 And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth,

-Paul wrote about the third heaven.

2 Corinthians 12:2-4 (Amplified Bible)

2 I know a [a]man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know, [only] God knows—such a man was caught up to the [b]third heaven. 3 And I know that such a man—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, [only] God knows— 4 was caught up into [c]Paradise and heard inexpressible words which man is not permitted to speak [words too sacred to tell].

A. *2 Corinthians 12:2 Paul had this experience prior to beginning his missionary journeys.*

B. *2 Corinthians 12:2 The dwelling place of God, called Paradise by Jesus and also by Paul (v 4).*

C. *2 Corinthians 12:4 Paul apparently uses "Paradise" as an equivalent of the third heaven, the dwelling place of God (cf Luke 23:43).*

Luke 23:43

43 Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Does God live in Heaven?

Psalm 11:4

The Lord is in his holy temple;

the Lord is on his heavenly throne.

He observes everyone on earth;

his eyes examine them.

What does the Bible say about Heaven?

John 14:2-3 (NIV)

2 My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

Revelation 7:9-10

9 After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. 10 And they cried out in a loud voice:

*“Salvation belongs to our God,
who sits on the throne,
and to the Lamb.”*

Revelation 7:15-17

*15 Therefore,
they are before the throne of God
and serve him day and night in his temple;
and he who sits on the throne
will shelter them with his presence.*

*16 ‘Never again will they hunger;
never again will they thirst.*

*The sun will not beat down on them,’[a]
nor any scorching heat.*

*17 For the Lamb at the center of the throne
will be their shepherd;*

‘he will lead them to springs of living water.’[b]

‘And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’[c]”

Revelations 21:9-11

9 One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." 10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. 11 It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.

Revelation 21:18-19

18 The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass. 19 The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald,

Revelation 22:1-5

Eden Restored

22 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb 2 down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. 3 No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. 4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5 There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

God-1 John 5.

5 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

Us- Matthew 5:16

16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Who gets into heaven?

John 14: 5-7

5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you really know me, you will know[a] my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

John 14:15-21

15 "If you love me, keep my commands. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be[a] in you. 18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. 20 On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. 21 Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them."

Hebrews 9:24-28

24 For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with human hands that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence. 25 Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own. 26 Otherwise Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But he has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. 27 Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, 28 so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

1 Peter 1:3-9

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, 9 for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

John 17:1-3

After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:

“Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. 2 For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. 3 Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.