

Lesson 8

HEAVEN

By Darrell Crow

Not So Basic Christianity — Study Guides For Discipleship

NOT SO BASIC CHRISTIANITY, Lesson 8,
Heaven, Copyright © 2022 by Darrell
Crow. Manufactured in the United States
of America. All rights reserved. No part
of this book may be reproduced in any
form or by any electronic or mechanical
means including information storage and
retrieval systems without permission in
writing from the publisher, except by a
reviewer, or students to support their
studies, who may quote brief passages
with credits of origination. Published
and distributed by Darrell Crow, 65 Hixon
St., Bellingham, MA 20219.

Heaven

LESSON 8

Not So Basic Christianity: Biblical Study Guides For Discipleship

By

Darrell Crow

Published by DCS Services
Copyrighted 2022

Lesson 8

Heaven

Table Of Contents

<u>Sections</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. First Discussion Questions	7
2.0 An Overview of Heaven	8
3.0 What Is Heaven Like	12
3.1 Heaven Is For The Godly	12
3.2 The Age Of Accountability	13
3.3 Thinking About Heaven Should Comfort Us	15
3.4 When Was Heaven Created	16
3.5 Where Is Heaven	17
3.6 How Far Away Is Heaven	19
3.7 Heaven Is A Real Physical Place	20
3.8 Heavenly Believers Are Observing Us Now	21
4.0 What Will We Be Like In Heaven	22
4.1 Christians Are With Jesus Immediately Upon Their Death	22
4.2 Believers Will Worship And Fellowship With God	24
4.3 Will We Be Ourselves In Heaven?	26
4.4 What Will We Look Like?	27
4.5 What Kind Of Body Will We Have?	28

Lesson 8

Heaven

Table Of Contents

Sections	Page
4.6 Will We Recognize People In Heaven?	29
4.7 How Old Will We Look In Heaven?	30
4.8 What Language Will We Speak	31
4.9 Will Our Bodies Be Male or Female	33
4.10 Will There Be Eating And Drinking?	34
5.0 What Will Life Be Like In Heaven	36
5.1 Will We Be Able To Sin In Heaven?	36
5.2 What About Marriage?	37
5.3 What About Culture In Heaven	38
5.4 Will We Sleep In Heaven	40
5.5 Will We Work Or Have Occupations In Heaven?	42
5.6 What About Clothes?	44
5.7 Will We Experience Emotions and Desires?	45
5.8 Will There Be Ethnic and People Groups?	46
5.9 Will We Remember Our Past Lives?	47
5.10 How will Space And Time Exist	48
5.11 Sun, Moon, Outer Space, Universe	49

Lesson 8

Heaven

Table Of Contents

<u>Sections</u>	<u>Page</u>
5.12 Will There Be Oceans?	51
5.13 Will Weather And Seasons Exist In Heaven?	52
5.14 Will Animals Exist?	53
6.0 What Will The New Heavens Be Like	54
3.4.1 Setting The Stage For Eternal Life With God	55
6.1 God's Holy City, Jerusalem Is A Really, Really Big Place	55
6.2 God Describes The Holy City of New Jerusalem	57
7.0 The Next Prophetic Event Is The Rapture	60
8.0 Final Discussion Questions	61

1.0 First Discussion Questions

1. Discuss your anticipation for Heaven.. What do you think it will be like? Does it change your concept of what it will mean to be happy?

2. Is there anything you're afraid of that causes you dread when you think of going to Heaven?

3. Who are you fearful you will not see there? What can you do about it now?

4. Does heaven sound like fun to you?

5. Does God sound like fun?

2.0 An Overview Of Heaven

Are you prepared for death? Better yet, are you prepared to enter heaven for all eternity?

Every single human being that's ever lived has a disease called mortality and the fatality rate is 100%. So unless Jesus comes now you also will fall victim to this disease. Every day some 250,000 people die and if the Bible is right each one will go either to Heaven or Hell.

Unfortunately, not all people believe this. In March 2011, Showbiz-spy.com published an article entitled, "Clint Eastwood On The Fence About God" The magazine reported,

The director {Eastwood} says making [the movie] Hereafter also moved him to ponder some of life's great unanswered questions.

"Of course, it would be wonderful to talk with my parents again, who are, of course, deceased. It makes the idea of death much less scary. But then again, if you think that nothing happens after you die, maybe it makes you live life better. Maybe you're supposed to do the best you can by the gift you're given of life and that alone," he said.

Willie Nelson attributes his musical success partially to reincarnation.

"I started out really young, when I was four, five, six writing poems, before I could play an instrument. I was writing about things at eight or ten years old, that I hadn't lived long enough to experience. That's why I believe in reincarnation, that we were put here with ideas to pass around.

Religious philosopher, John Hicks wrote,

"Those who consciously reject belief in God almost invariably do so because they cannot reconcile the idea of a loving all-powerful God with the suffering and wickedness in the world."

But what do you really **WANT** to happen to you when you die: Heaven, Hell, reincarnation, or what? (Reincarnation? Dying must be so much



fun, so let's die over and over again.).

This Lesson discusses (1) what is heaven like, (2) what will we be like in heaven, (3) living, (4) fellowshiping, and (5) ministering in heaven, and finally, (6) the New Heavens and New earth. For Believers, the afterlife should be something we desperately long for and heaven should comfort us when we meditate upon all God has revealed about heaven.

The primary message of the gospel has been that Jesus removed all barriers preventing us from living in eternity fellowshiping with God.

Yet, for many Christians the thought of death and heaven is still scary. Listen, Believers have banked everything on our faith in Jesus Christ that at the moment of death we shall find without fail the realization of our faith through God's grace. Either God is truth or we are the most pitiful of all humans to have existed by wasting our lives on a lie. Our life of faith meets truth at death and a lot of Christians are needlessly stressing about what should be an ardently longed for moment. It is my belief that these anxieties could be alleviated with a better, fuller understanding of heaven and the afterlife Jesus has planned and promised us.

Yes, Life is short. And, YES, Death is for sure. This is one of our legacies.

- Psalm 39:4-5 says *“‘LORD, make me to know my end, And what is the extent of my days; Let me know how transient I am.5“Behold, You have made my days as handbreadths, And my lifetime as nothing in Your sight; Surely every man at his best is a mere breath. Selah.*

Randy Alcorn in His Book, “Heaven”, says, *“The wise will consider what awaits us on the other side of this life that so quickly ends. God uses suffering and impending death to unfasten us from this earth and to set our minds on what lies beyond..... Most people live unprepared for death. But those who are wise will go to a reliable source to investigate what’s on the other side. And if they discover that the choices they make during their brief stay in this world will matter in the world to come, they’ll want to adjust those choices accordingly.”*

I believe the vast majority of people, somewhere deep down inside of themselves believe life does not end at death. They believe life continues to exist after death, but in a new realm whereby there’s an accounting of their life to determine their eventual destination.

Others are too afraid to think about it, some just ignore the question, some believe that God is such a loving God, and that as the embodiment and source of all love, His nature could not possibly send anyone to hell. Therefore they can live whatever kind of life they desire on earth because God will still bless them after death. Again God is love and that permits living outside of God’s will. Really? Others say that if evil exists, God does not; therefore they embrace the concept that everything is over at death. And it is surprising how many people believe that at death one is reborn to a new life and returned to earth in the form of a new earth baby to die again and again and again.

The Bible says we will all be taking a trip at the end of our lives. We will be leaving this world permanently and heading to a new world where we shall spend all eternity. What do we know about this new world? What if I tell you there’s a travel book that will supply you with reliable information and details about your new home, including precise di-

rections on how to get there. Would you read the book?

Most of us would answer, “Yes.” Nevertheless, while most people hope to spend eternity in heaven, few have studied the exciting details contained in the most reliable travel guide ever written: the Bible, the Word of God.

When we delve into the Bible and learn about Heaven, this should change our life. The place where believers will live for eternity is not some strange spiritual world where we will have wings, float on clouds, play harps, and sing songs all day long forever and ever. Heaven, instead, will be restored back to an Eden-like paradise.

Jesus constantly spoke of heaven and told us ...

- Heaven is a different place than earth. John 14:2 “2 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. “
- Heaven Is The Father’s Big House. 1John 4:2 “2 In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; “
- The only way to heaven is through Jesus: John 14:6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me”.
- Heaven is a place of joy and rewards: Matthew 25:23 His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.”
- Heaven Is A Place Of Treasures: Matthew 6:19-21
- Heaven Is A Place Of Justice: Luke 16:16-17
- Heaven Is A place of single community: Luke 20:34-38 Jesus said to them, “The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage, 35 but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage; 36 for they cannot even die anymore, because they are like angels, and are sons of

God, being sons of the resurrection. 37 But that the dead are raised, even Moses showed, in the passage about the burning bush, where he calls the Lord THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, AND THE GOD OF ISAAC, AND THE GOD OF JACOB. 38 Now He is not the God of the dead but of the living; for all live to Him."

When Christians think of heaven they automatically think of the present heaven where Christians go when they die. However, this is a temporary heaven that we live within until God completes His entire redemption Plan and all "is finished." Scripture is clear that after Christ returns at the end of the millennium, conducts the White Throne judgement and banishes the unredeemed to the Lake of Fire, He will re-create the heavens and earth. The last two chapters of Revelation reveals this re-creation and believers from all ages will be witnesses. God restores the world back to a sinless paradise which existed before the Fall of Man. 2 Peter 3:13 and Revelation 21:1 call this place the new heavens and new earth. It is this eternal home in which we shall spend eternity with God.

1. The air or atmosphere where the birds and satellites fly. Scientists say the earth's atmosphere extends 117,800 miles above the earth. After that we have rest of the universe.
2. The Universe contains the realm of the sun, moon, and stars; everything else in existence.
3. God's spiritual dwelling place. (While eventually God's abode came to be thought of as a spiritual place, it was still 'up there,' higher than the other heavens.)

Even though heaven is in some sense a present reality that we are experiencing, there is more to come. As believers look forward to life after death, we must keep two concepts squarely in focus.

1. Genesis 1:1, *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."*
2. 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."*

Therefore the current heavens and earth referenced in Genesis 1:1 are

temporary. Satan's and Adam & Eve's damaging sin and rebellion against God also infected the heavens as well. Once God fully deals with and eradicates sin, He will create a new heavens and earth. Most people believe this first "heavens" as the eternal home with God, but this is a mistake. Believers will indeed go to Christ in a place called heaven, but that's not where believers will spend eternity with God.

The final dwelling place of believers of all ages will be a re-created earth and a virtually indescribable city, New Jerusalem. This is where the promises and the joy that will be every believer's eternal inheritance are fulfilled.

What each of the heavens are like is basically unknown, but the benefits are the same. What we have learned about the benefits and life in heaven are discussed in the first part of this Study Guide. In the later half of we focus on God's description of the New Heavens and New Earth.

As to the New Heavens, Paul says in 1 Corinthians 2:9, "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, And which have not entered the human heart. All that God has prepared for those who love Him." 1 Corinthians 2:9

While we may not know what heaven is like, we can look forward to it with great expectation and joy. Heaven contains the inheritance for believers upon their death which is God's gift of eternal life with Him.

What a glorious, glorious future we have.

Unfortunately, we seem to have lost our focus that heaven is a very real destination for the saints, the believers. The following is quoted in John Richard Rice's book, *Bible Facts About Heaven*. Reverend Rice [1895-1980] was a Baptist evangelist and pastor and the founding editor of *The Sword Of The Lord*, an influential fundamentalist newspaper.

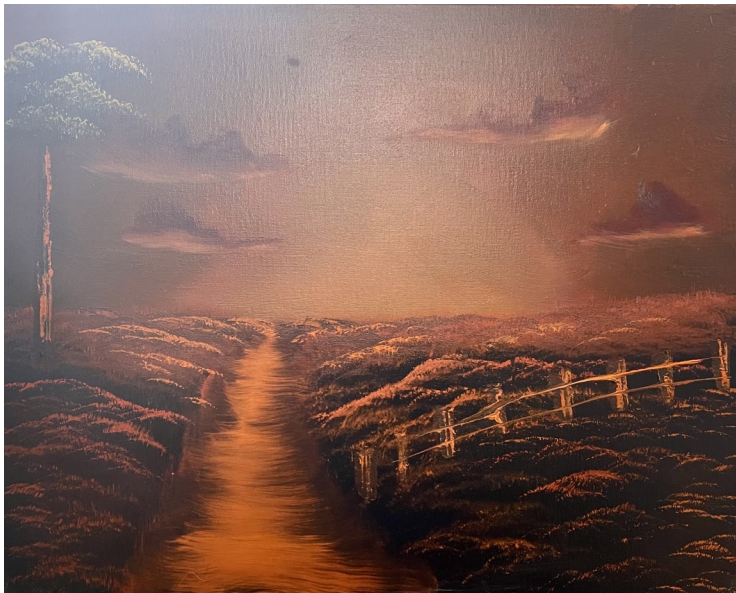
"The human heart longs for an assurance of a blessed, immortal place where the good, the forgiven, the blessed are at home with God; when sin, disappointment, human failure, heartache, disease, and death are forever ended.

Recent years have seen more confusion in the minds of people about Heaven and less understanding of the Bible doctrine concerning Heaven. This is a big woe for the clergy in general today. There is a tremendous lack of preaching on death, Hell, Heaven and judgement.

Modernism and worldliness have discouraged the flabby, soft-living hirelings of the Pulpit in preaching about death and the things which follow death. But you cannot dismiss Hell without dismissing Heaven. You cannot dismiss or ignore the fate of the unrepentant sinner and teach the saved the glories that await the redeemed of God. The so-called "social gospel" lays stress upon this life and not on the next. In many quarters it is considered old-fashioned and passe to urge people to prepare to die.

Social Security, better housing, relief for the tenant farmers, worker rights, special interest groups, minority right, sexual preference mandates, better living conditions for the poor, the care of underprivileged children have all occupied so much of the teaching and preaching of these modern days that preachers have left poor, hungry-hearted people ignorant about heaven."

John R. Rice, D.D., LittD, Bible Facts About Heaven, Pgs 10-11



3.0 What Is Heaven Like

3.1 Heaven Is For The Godly.

Only believers will inherit heaven and live eternally with God.

John 3:16, the gospel in a nutshell verse says, *“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”*

God knows that no one really wants to go to hell. Mankind’s desires are for a comfortable, happy paradise, but on our own terms. God has shown us that what’s standing between us and heaven is sin and our rejection of Him as the Lord God Almighty. God wants us to recognize that our own sin has destroyed any relationship between God and us. There is nothing we can do to earn our way into heaven.

- *For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; [9] not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. Ephesians 2:8–9*
- *But what does it say? “THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART” --that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, [9] that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; [10] for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. Romans 10:8–10*

You can make sure you go to heaven today by deciding to choose to accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. Whenever anyone sins and rebels against God they are immediately doomed to eternity in hell separated from God. But this is not God’s will or desire. His desire is as stated in John 3:16 above. I don’t know if we can fully comprehend the amount of love God has for each and everyone of us. God chose to send His only Son to pay the penalty for all of our sins. God is a holy and just God and the penalty for sin is eternal separation. When Jesus died on the cross He paid that penalty in full for all of mankind. Therefore no one need go to hell because of their sins, but their lack of faith and dis-

belief in God will sentence them for sure.

Ephesians 2:8–9 reinforces that we are saved by God’s Grace which is enacted when we believe and confess Jesus as Lord and Savior as instructed in Romans 10:8–9.

The penalty for Sin will not go unpaid and you can have your Lord and savior pay the penalty, or you can choose to pay it yourself through stubborn rejection of God. Your choice. All you would have to do is pray to God what Romans 19:8–9 instructs. You can do that right now before another moment elapses and assure that you will spend all eternity with God Almighty. Personally, I’d like to see you in heaven.



3.2 The Age Of Accountability

There is another group of people I believe we will see in heaven. Babies and the mentally undeveloped.

The “Age Of Accountability” refers to the time in a person's life when he or she is sufficiently developed to mentally understanding the gospel and can make an informed decision to love God, exercise faith in God and to trust Jesus Christ for salvation. This level of maturing differs with each child. This would include unborn infants, young children and the mentally impaired.

This question is asked frequently by grieving parents mourning the loss of a young child. I asked God this question myself when my 2 1/2 year old son suffered with Leukemia.

The question of the destiny of these souls is not specifically addressed in the Bible. But praise God He has given us guidelines in the scriptures making this a relatively easy question to answer. The best one can do is weigh the matter in light of Scripture and then trust God who is both loving and just.

Although the Bible does not use the term "Age Of Accountability," the question of infant death is alluded to in 2 Samuel 21-23. King David had committed adultery with Bathsheba, who got pregnant and delivered a baby that later died. After mourning the baby, David said:

He said, “While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, ‘Who knows, the LORD may be gracious to me, that the child may live.’ [23] But now he has died; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me.” David was confident that when he died he would go to be with his son, who was in heaven. David trusted that God, in His kindness, would not blame the baby for his father's sin.

Let's review some other verses, make a few observations and see if God will direct our thoughts concerning unborn infants, young children, and the mentally impaired.

The biblical bases for original sin are generally found in the following passages, the first and last of which explain why the sin is described as

"original":

- *Genesis 3, the story of the expulsion of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden;*
- *Psalms 51:5, "I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me"; and*
- *Paul's Epistle to the Romans, 5:12-21, "Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned..."*

Man was born only with the ability-to-sin and does not have the ability to live a life totally pleasing to God. We have all inherited this devastating human nature from our parents, etc... all the way back to Adam and Eve. Psalm 51:5 assures us that all mankind has inherited this human nature.

Premise #1: Unborn Infants. Young children, and the mentally impaired have all inherited this sin nature and cannot escape it.

Ezekiel 18:4 says, “Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine. The soul who sins will die.”

Premise #2: If a soul sins, it is eternally separated from God.

Premise #3 If a soul does not sin, it spends eternity with God.

Premise #4: The Ability-To-Sin leads to sin, but is not sin.

- Sin is anything that is contrary to the law or will of God. For example: if you lie, you have sinned. Why? Because God has said not to lie (Ex. 20:16). If you do what God has forbidden, then you have sinned. In addition, if you do not do what God has commanded, you sin (James 4:17). Either way, the result is eternal separation from God (Is. 59:2). Sin is lawlessness (1 John 1:3) and unrighteousness (1 John 5:17). Sin leads to blindness (John 9:41) and death (Rom. 6:23). Paul, in the book of Romans, discusses sin. He shows that everyone, both Jew and Greek, is under sin (Rom. 3:9). He shows that sin is not simply something that is done, but a condition of the heart (Rom. 3:3,10,11,12).

In Ephesians Paul says that we are “by nature children of wrath” (Rom. 2:3). Yet, “while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly” (Rom. 5:6).

Premise #5: The law is a set of regulations established by God Almighty stating how believers are to live and not to live.

Premise #6: To obey the law, one must have the ability, the mental capacity to understand the law.

Premise #7: To obey the law one must have their mental ability sufficiently developed so that one can without excuse choose to obey or disobey the law.

Let’s look for a moment at our cornerstone gospel verses. John 3:16, the gospel in a nutshell verse says, *“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”*

Premise #8: One has to have the ability to believe in Jesus. This means understanding and comprehending who God is, what is sin, the need for salvation and Christ’s work on the cross, and what happens if one rejects the Gospel.

- *For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. Ephesians 2:8–9*

Premise #9 One has to have the ability of understanding salvation and propitiation.

But what does it say? “THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART” –that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, [9] that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; [10] for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. Romans 10:8–10

Premise #10: One has to have the ability to make allegiance to God and understand what is an oath.

Premise #11: One must be capable of understanding the concept of physical and spiritual death.

Premise #12: The mental ability must exist to understand righteousness and salvation.

It is my considered opinion that all 12 of these premises must be developed sufficiently in order for an unborn infant, child or a mentally deficient individual to achieve the Age of Accountability. The best one can do is weigh the matter in light of Scripture and then trust God who is both loving and just.



3.3 Thinking About Heaven Should Comfort Us.

The knowledge of and thinking about heaven should comfort every believer and terrify the lost. There is no sorrow that the knowledge of heaven cannot heal. This is especially noticeable the older we become. From birth, man is doomed to decline until death. Heaven is the other side of death for the saved whereas Hell is the other side of death for the unrepentant sinner. No second chances. No reincarnation. There is only one shot at life.

As people age, daily life becomes increasingly difficult. This world loses much of its appeal as each ages. Our hearing and eyesight start to recede, it hurts more and more to get up in the morning, rheumatism, arthritis, Alzheimer, loss of strength, and unfortunately many of our body parts are more susceptible to disease, deterioration and eventual failure. Physical death is the inevitable end to our lives.

Old questions should resurface inviting us to reconsider life choices. What is Heaven like? Am I worthy to enter Heaven? Just how far away is heaven?

My wife and I often plan a vacation. In this process, we review the travel documents, map out what we'd like to see, activities we would like to do, people to see and we put together a schedule of what, when, how,

where we will do all the things we've identified.. Thinking about and planning our vacation makes this very real to us, even though we have yet to embark.

When we finally arrive on vacation, we are flat out happy. This vacation has been very real to us for a long time and at long last we are experiencing the vacation. In the same manner we should be meditating about our upcoming trip to heaven. We need to build that anticipation, that yearning and longing for heaven right now.

The reality, the anticipation of heaven will comfort every Christian, especially during persecution, tribulation, and difficult times. Life is short and Heaven does await us.

God has made provision in Heaven for those who trust In Him. Share this magical gospel everywhere

- *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. [3] 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. [4] And you know the way where I am going." [5] Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?" [6] Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. John 14:2-6



3.4 When was Heaven Created?

Genesis 1:1 says God created the heavens. When was heaven created? When was hell created? Was heaven and/or hell created before or after the fall of Lucifer and his angels?

I have prepared a chart to help us define the “when.”

A number of Biblical scholars have tried to answer this question and the following answers appear to be the predominate thinking. The premises here is as follows:

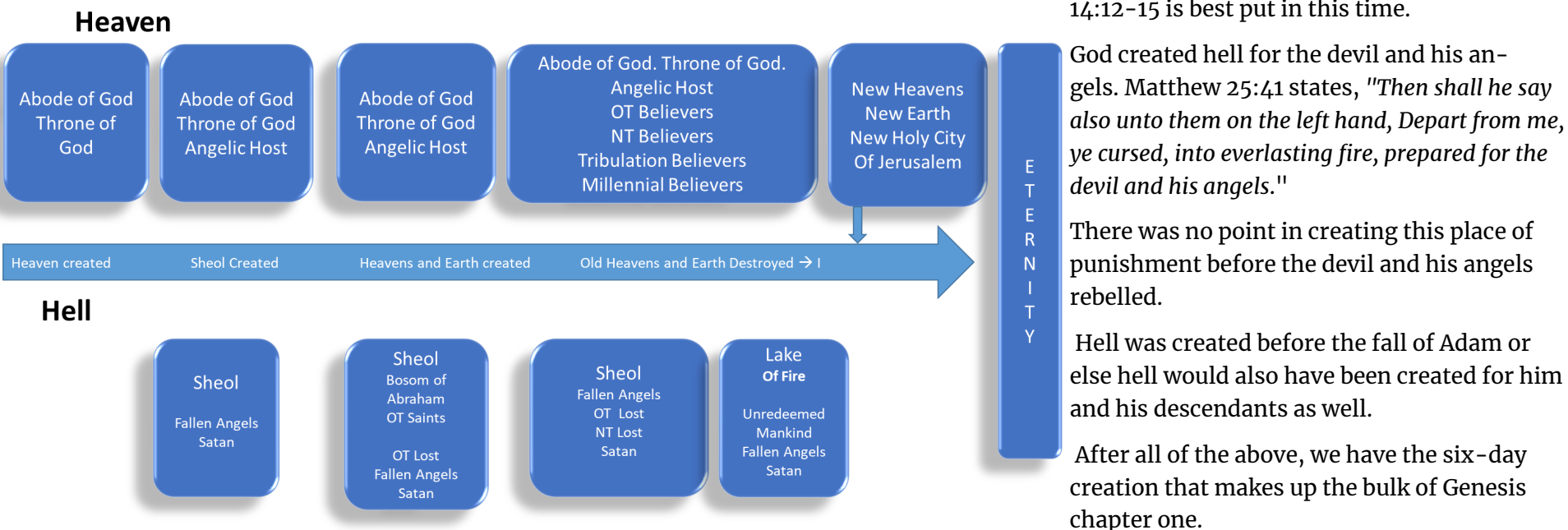
- 1) Heaven was either created in layers or the word “heaven covers multiple spiritual realms, much like Earth’s atmosphere is composed of several layers with definite boundaries stretching 109,000 miles up from Earth’s surface.
- 2) Therefore another premise would state that the creation of heaven consisted at several “events.” Time is a by-product of creation so it would be impossible to state with absolute certainty that the layers, or heavens were created at different times.

- 3) The six days of creation do not mention the creation of God's heaven or the creation of hell. Neither do they mention the creation of the angelic beings.

First, God created His heavens. This is recorded in Genesis 1:1. Heaven is the third heaven mentioned by Paul in *2 Corinthians 12:2*, “*I know 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, God knows--such a man was caught up to the third heaven*” At this time, God also created the original earth. This should not surprise us since there is going to be a new earth one of these days.

Second, God created the heavenly beings. There was no need to create the angels before there was a heaven or if you will, a place for them to dwell. This creation would include the creation of Lucifer before he sinned.

Third, in this initial world, God gave Lucifer rule but his fall led to the entire destruction of that world. This doctrine is controversial, but it will explain the problems you are dealing with and others as well. The pride and fall of Lucifer as described in *Isaiah 14:12-15* is best put in this time.



- (Cont'd from previous page) [4] was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which a man is not permitted to speak.
- Revelation 4:1-2 After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, like the sound of a trumpet speaking with me, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things." 2 Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne was standing in heaven, and One sitting on the throne.

Current thinking is that the existing heaven exists where both the spiritual and the physical can co-exist. We know that heaven now contains Jesus in a resurrected body, God, the angels and the souls of all believers as well as possibly Enoch and Elijah who did not die and were taken straight up into heaven.

We also know that when all prophesy has come to fulfillment the new heaven and the new earth will be joined together.

So where is heaven today?

As intriguing as the question may be, we are simple unable to answer it at the moment. We only know where heaven will be when all believers will be with God for all eternity in the New heaven on the new earth.

For Christian heaven will be wherever Jesus goes. Jesus is now with His Father. But one day Jesus will come and receive us and take us to heaven just prior to the rapture.

Then after a honeymoon in heaven Christ must come to reign on earth.

In Matthew 25:31 we are told, "But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. When the Lord Jesus comes to reign on earth, His bride (Christians) and all believers will come with Him.

1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18 describes the coming of Christ and the raising of the Christian dead and living. The statement closes with these words and so shall we ever be with the Lord wherefore comfort one another with these words, "where Jesus goes we go."

When He reigns on earth, we shall reign with Him. In Revelation 5:10, we hear the praises of redeemed saints in heaven and they said that Christ "has made us unto our God kings and priests and we shall reign on the earth with Jesus.

The scripture says, "If we endure, we will also reign with Him, If we deny Him, He also will deny us" 2 Timothy 2:12. Revelations 20:6 says this, "Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

For 1000 years, heaven for the Christian is going to be on earth. That happy reign of Christ is mentioned in Isaiah 11:1-16 and in Micah 4:1-8, Isaiah 11: 5-9, Isaiah 35:5-6.

At the end of the thousand year when the last sinner will be judged. The earth forever will be purged by fire, and New Jerusalem will descend from God out of heaven. Our heaven will consist of this wonderful city on a new earth surrounded by a new firmament. There will be no light because God and Jesus shall be the light of the city!

And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, 4 and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away." Revelation 21:4-5



3.5 Where Is Heaven

In the Old Testament the Hebrew word *šamayim* is the primary word translated as heaven. It means the “region above the earth: the heavens: place of the stars, sky, air; heaven: the invisible realm of God.”

In the New Testament, the Greek word *ouranos* is the primary word translated as heaven. This word is defined as “sky, air, firmament, any area above the earth; heaven(s), the place of sun, moon, and our universe, and heaven, in which God dwells.”

Both of these words are used in a variety of ways often referring to the earth’s and the Universe’s physical realm. But they also refer to the supernatural realm of God’s abode.. The sky is ‘up there,’ outer space is ‘up there.’ But God’s throne is also ‘up there,’ beyond the stars (Job 22:12). In ancient Hebrew thought, the heavens consisted of everything ‘up there.’ At first mankind believed heaven was just out of sight, but reachable. Many believed that they could build a huge ladder that would take them right into heaven. They wouldn’t need God. Therefore, just after the great flood a number of people settled in the land of Shinar, one of the cities in Babylon founded by King Nimrod.

- *Genesis 10:9–10. He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; therefore it is said, “Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the LORD.” 10 The beginning of his kingdom was Babel and Erech and Accad and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.*

The location of the tower of Babel was in ancient Mesopotamia on the eastern bank of the Euphrates River. Bible scholars believe that the tower was a type of stepped pyramid called a ziggurat, common throughout Babylonia.

- *Genesis 11:1–4 Now the whole earth used the same language and the same words. 2 It came about as they journeyed east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. 3 They said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks and burn them thoroughly.” And they used brick for stone, and they used tar for mortar. 4 They said, “Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven,*

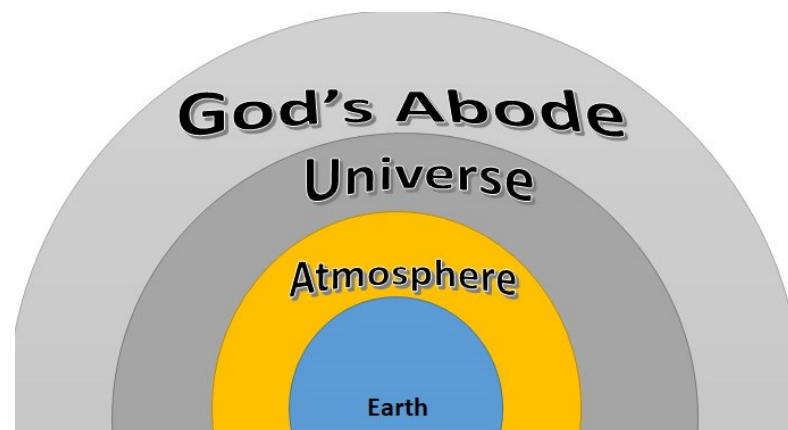
and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.”

Heaven is much further than man’s efforts to ever reach.

We can conclude from the textual usage of *šamayim* and *ouranos* throughout scripture that heaven is divided into three regions.

We know that it is “up” somewhere away from this planet. Jesus went up to heaven. Elijah was taken “up” into heaven. Even Paul when he received special revelation was caught up to the third heaven, and also references being caught “up” in Paradise. John, the beloved apostle was commanded “up” to heaven for God’s revelation of things yet to come.

- *Acts 1:9 And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.*
- *2 Kings 12:11 As they were going along and talking, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire and horses of fire which separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind to heaven.*
- *2 Corinthians 12:2–4 I know 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, God knows--such a man was caught up to the third heaven. [3]And I know how such a man--whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, God knows--*



3.1.6 How Far Away Is Heaven?

The distance between our physical earth and God's heaven is measured in time, not miles.

Paul the apostle used the phrase "absent from the body" in 2 Corinthians 5:6-8. Paul states that he is confident in his eternal destiny and longs for the day when he can be "absent from the body" and be present with the Lord he loves and serves. To be "absent" from one's body simply means to die because, at death, the spirit is separated from the body and moves into its eternal abode—either heaven with the Lord or in hell separated from God for eternity. At death we are immediately transported to our destination. It is not a matter of transportation, rather transporting to God, meaning we travel timewise.

I remember back in the mid-1970's, my wife and I were visiting our 2-year old son at a hospital in San Francisco. He had a very serious infection of Leukemia ALL, Stage 3 and his survival was at risk. (50% chance of surviving 5 years).

After one of our visits we were standing in the hallway waiting for the elevator and was talking about our son. My wife mentioned how desperate she felt, and I reassured her that Ben would go straight to heaven if God so chose to take him.

Seconds later I felt a little tug on my shirt sleeve. I looked down and saw the charming face of a young girl who had overheard us asking, "Mister, I heard you talking about heaven, how far away is heaven"

I knelt down and said I can help you understand how far away heaven is. Honey, put your hand on your right chest. How far away is heaven or hell? What do you feel in your chest right now, sweetheart?

With big eyes she looks at me and says she feels her heart beating.

"That's right," I said. "How far away is heaven or hell? Just one heartbeat away. Just one heartbeat. And Heaven is the bestest, most wonderful, magical place ever."

Always live knowing that heaven and hell are just one heartbeat away.

In one heartbeat Christ can bring us home to heaven. We will leave all our discomfort, pain, disappointments and failures behind on this old planet. But what a joy that will await us, all throughout eternity

One of the greatest sermons I've ever heard was in the Fall of 1972 and is only 5-lines long:

Life Is Short

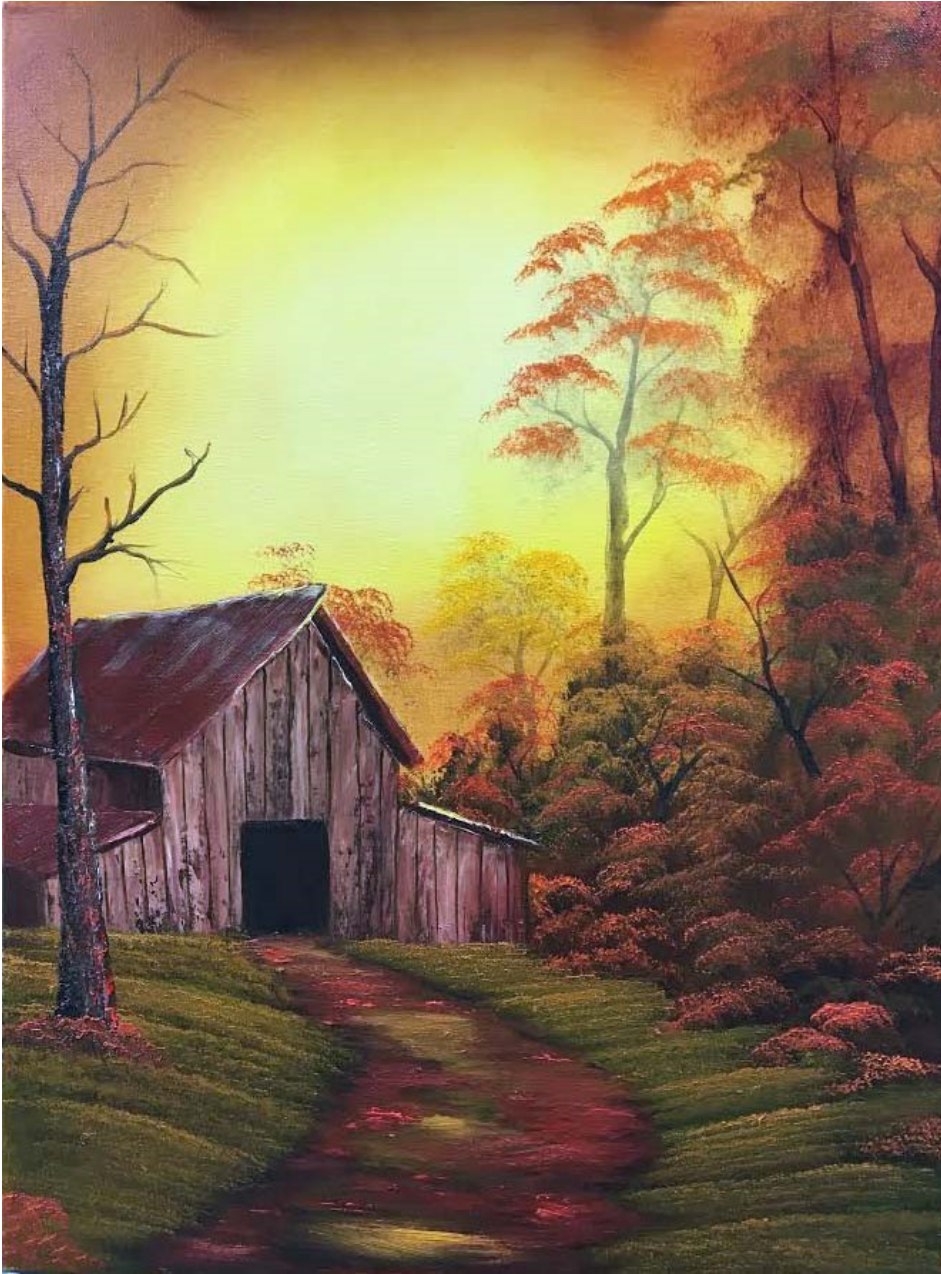
Death Is For Sure

Hell is forever

Jesus Is The Answer

Heaven Awaits You.





3.7 Heaven Is A Real Physical Place

Heaven is a place, a very real, literal place. Twice in John 14:2-3, Jesus

called Heaven a place.

- *Luke 10:19-20* Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will injure you. [20] Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven“
- *John 14:2-3* 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. 3 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.
- *Revelation 21:15* The one who spoke with me had a gold measuring rod to measure the city, and its gates and its wall. 16 The city is laid out as a square, and its length is as great as the width; and he measured the city with the rod, fifteen hundred miles; its length and width and height are equal.

This place is in the Father’s House of many mansions. These mansions are in the Holy City, New Jerusalem which God describes in Revelation 21 & 22.

Jesus told His disciples that He would go ahead of them and prepare many mansions for His own redeemed saints.

Jesus is also saying that wherever Jesus is, we shall be as well.

Christians are known to experience deep joy in their faith when they realize in their hearts that Heaven is a real, literal, actual, and blessed PLACE,

Heaven is a real place, a place as literal and concrete as the house you sit in today, as physically real as the city which you live in today.

3.1.8 Heavenly Believers Are Observing Us Now

I recently read an article published by Compelling Truth that stated,

People sometimes make references to a loved one "looking down" on them from heaven. Funeral eulogies often contain a statement such as, "I know he is looking down on us right now and smiling." But is this possible, according to the Bible?

Some have sought to find this particular meaning in Hebrews 12:1, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses..." Are these "witnesses" a group of saints looking down from heaven? Not likely. The contextual reference is to the saints of Hebrews 11 who have set an example worthy of following today. They are "witnesses" in a symbolic sense only.

In Jesus' story of the rich man and Lazarus, there is no indication that Lazarus could see the activities of people on earth (Luke 16:19-31). There are martyrs in heaven in Revelation 6:10 who cry out for God to avenge their deaths; yet, even in that passage, there is no definite statement that they are observing life on earth.

In short, the Bible makes no explicit statement regarding whether or not humans in heaven can view earthy activities

Do your loved ones in heaven know what's happening on earth worldwide?

My answers to Compelling Truth's statements are provided later in this section.

Wouldn't you want to know how your friends, family and others are doing and whether or not they come to know the Lord Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior? God says there is great joy in heaven whenever anyone becomes saved. Even if you don't see it yourself, you are going to hear about it. And our first question will be, "Who was it? Who was it?" Everyone of us will be burdened for others to say YES to the gospel message. Say yes to Jesus and see soul after soul receive eternal life. Oh yes, I am quite sure this will be a dominant topic with both angels

and saints. Certainly, those in Heaven know what's happening here. Let's take another view of Saul's transgression.

In 1 Samuel 28 we see that the prophet Samuel has died and gone on to be with the Lord. King Saul, backslidden and out of the will of God, went to the witch of Endor and asked that Samuel might be brought back to advise him. This is so forbidden by God, but for some reason God allows it.

Saul's answer in 1 Samuel 28:16-19 Samuel said, "Why then do you ask me, since the LORD has departed from you and has become your adversary? 17 The LORD has done accordingly as He spoke through me; for the LORD has torn the kingdom out of your hand and given it to your neighbor, to David. 18 As you did not obey the LORD and did not execute His fierce wrath on Amalek, so the LORD has done this thing to you this day. 19 Moreover the LORD will also give over Israel along with you into the hands of the Philistines, therefore tomorrow you and your sons will be with me. Indeed the LORD will give over the army of Israel into the hands of the Philistines!"

The first premise is that since Samuel knew why things were happening to Saul, he knew what was happening to Saul.

The second premise is that Samuel knew what was the sin of Saul.

The third premise is that in admonishing Saul for his rebellion against God directly indicates knowledge of Saul and his shortcomings.

The fourth premise is knowing what would happen on the next day indicates Samuel knew the purposes of God and His plans for King Saul.

Let's revisit the rich man and Lazarus mentioned in Compelling Truth.. The rich man was concerned that his family would end up in hell and was begging Abraham to send special messengers to warn them. Abraham replied that if they didn't believe Moses and all of the prophets already sent, neither would they accept warnings from a special messenger, even if one was to arise from the dead.

In short, the Bible makes no explicit statement regarding whether or not humans in heaven can view earthy activities, but scriptures certainly has revealed several events that could be explained only by knowledge of events occurring here.

4.0 What Will We Be Like In Heaven

4.1 Christians Are With Jesus Immediately Upon Their Death

How long does it take for a believer that dies to travel to heaven?

The Catholic Church teaches that the souls of believers are sent to an intermediate place called purgatory for a fixed period of time whereby these souls pay for their sins. Each sin committed accrues so many years or days in this purgatory which is like a mini-hell. If on earth enough prayers are said and Masses conducted, that soul can have years trimmed off until they eventually are freed from purgatory to heaven. The priests would charge to conduct the mass for the dead and pray on behalf of these souls.

This evil doctrine is not taught in the Bible and tries to replace God's salvation of grace by faith with a salvation by works and salvation by the church preempting redemption by the blood of Christ. It is used to extort money from many Catholics to shorten the period of suffering of their loved ones in the Catholic Church's imaginary purgatory.

Shame on them, there is not one word in the Bible indicating anybody ever goes to an intermediate state between heaven and hell. The term purgatory and limbo or its concept are not found anywhere in the word of God.

There are others who teach soul sleeping. They teach when a Christian dies, their souls go to sleep and does not wake until the resurrection of the church saints. Perhaps that idea arose from the Bible's statement in *1 Thessalonians 4:14* God says *For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.*

Many, many scriptures make it clear that the soul of a Christian does not sleep at death.

Scriptural proof that believers go immediately to heaven:

One of the thieves being crucified with Jesus, turned, confessed, acknowledging he was a sinner and appealed to Jesus as his Lord and begged. "Remember me!" With loving forgiveness Jesus turned to the thief and said today you will be with me in paradise. "That believer entered into the paradise of God with Jesus.

There are those who mistakenly believe that paradise and heaven are not the same.

Enoch walked with God and God took him. In simple language we are told how Enoch went to heaven. God took him, so Enoch went to be with God immediately.

- *2 Kings 2:11* says, "As they were going along and talking, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire and horses of fire which separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind to heaven."
- *Luke 16-23* Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried. *23 In Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom.).*
- *Luke 23:39-43* One of the criminals who were hanged there was hurling abuse at Him, saying, "Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!" *40 But the other answered, and rebuking him said, "Do you not even fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? 41 And we indeed are suffering justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." 42 And he was saying, "Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!" 43 And He said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise."*

Paul, the apostle said to be absent from the body for a believer Christian is to be present with the lord. And 2 Corinthians 5:8 he says by divine interpretation. we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.

Every believer who is absent from the body is immediately present with the lord Jesus in heaven. As Lazarus we shall be carried straight forward to Jesus by Angels.

The Bible clearly describes what happens after death and the two possible eternal destinations everyone faces. For believers in Jesus Christ, after death their souls/spirits are taken to heaven because their sins are forgiven by having received Christ as Savior (John 3:16, 18, 36). For believers, death is to be "away from the body and at home with the Lord" (2 Corinthians 5:6-8; Philippians 1:23). The soul/spirit of a person is separated from the body at death and goes immediately into the presence of God, while the physical body remains in the grave "sleeping."

1 Corinthians 15:50-54 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 speak of a time when the souls of believers will be reunited with their glorified bodies. This occurs at the Rapture of the church, just prior to Christ's Second Coming to earth, when "the dead in Christ will rise first" which is all those who died in faith. At this resurrection of believers, the physical body is resurrected, glorified, and then reunited with the soul/spirits which are in heaven already. This reunited and glorified body-soul-spirit will be the possession of believers for eternity in the new heavens

and new earth (Revelation 21-22).

For those who do not receive Jesus Christ as Savior, death means everlasting punishment of their souls/spirits in hell. However, at death, their destiny is similar to that of believers in that they go immediately to a temporary holding place to await the resurrection of bodies fit for an eternity in hell. Luke 16:22-23 describes a rich man being tormented

immediately after death. Revelation 20:11-15 describes all the unbelieving dead being resurrected, judged at the Great White Throne judgment, and then being cast into the lake of fire. Unbelievers, then, are not sent to hell (the lake of fire) immediately after death, but rather are in a temporary realm of judgment and condemnation.

Therefore, after death, a person resides in a "temporary" heaven or hell. After this temporary realm,

at the final resurrection, the location of that eternal destiny and the body in which they exist change. Believers will ultimately be granted entrance into the new heavens and new earth (Revelation 21:1), while the ultimate fate of unbelievers is the lake of fire (Revelation 20:11-15). Man's final destination is based entirely on whether he belongs by faith to Jesus Christ. Those for whom Christ died will spend eternity with Him (Matthew 25:46; John 3:36). If you have not put your faith in Jesus Christ, don't delay. "Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2



4.2 Believers Will Worship And Fellowship With God

Worship of God is central to our existence in heaven, not because it is commanded, but in awe, in respect and peace with joy that will exist beyond our imagination.

Many Christians have the idea that all we will do in Heaven is worship God, sing songs and play harps. Whereby some of these activities may be true, this is not the sole definition of worshipping God. Using the skills and abilities that God gave us in a way that glorifies him is also worship. Remember that God gave mankind the dominion mandate before the Curse entered our world. That was to be a part of our worship of and fellowship with God. I recently took up gardening and I felt so fulfilled as I planted, then nurtured, and finally harvested the vegetables and the flowers blooming.

Our lives on the New Earth only have meaning within the context of worshipping and fellowshiping with God, and that includes all his gifts – food, crafts, animals, friendships, etc.

That Life will be one wholly devoted to the worship and service of God, an unending Sabbath of peaceful rest and joyful praise. The disruptions and brokenness in the relationship between God and his people will be ended. All toil and burdensome [labor] will give way to gladhearted service of God. The Bible says we'll be doing many other things—eating, working, relaxing, learning, etc. And yes, because all that we do will show our appreciation for God in an act of worship that will never end.

Worship involves more than singing and prayer. We're commanded, "Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances" (1 Thessalonians 5:16–18). We know that God expects us to do many different things on Earth, such as work, rest, and spend time with our families. So if we are to be joyful, pray, and give thanks all the time, we must worship God even while doing other things. The heavenly life of God's people will be one of unending, thankful worship. This worship

will take place within the setting of the new heavens and earth. It will be willingly and joyfully central to us in heaven.

- *Revelation 19:5–7* And a voice came from the throne, saying, "Give praise to our God, all you His bond-servants, you who fear Him, the small and the great." [6] Then I heard something like the voice of a great multitude and like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns. Marriage of the Lamb⁷ Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready."
- *Nehemiah 9:6* "You alone are the LORD. You have made the heavens, The heaven of heavens with all their host, The earth and all that is on it, The seas and all that is in them. You give life to all of them And the heavenly host bows down before You.

Revelation 4:6–11 and before the throne there was something like a sea of glass, like crystal; and in the center and around the throne, four living creatures full of eyes in front and behind. [7] The first creature was like a lion, and the second creature like a calf, and the third creature had a face like that of a man, and the fourth creature was like a flying eagle. [8] And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease saying "HOLY, HOLY, HOLY IS THE LORD GOD ALMIGHTY, WHO WAS AND WHO IS TO COME [9] And when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, to Him who lives forever and ever, [10] the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying, [11] "Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created."

- *Revelation 7:11–12* And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, [12] saying, "Amen,

blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever. Amen.”

- *Revelation 11:16 And the twenty-four elders, who sit on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God,*
- *Revelation 22:8-9 I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed me these things. 9 But he said to me, “Do not do that. I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brethren the prophets and of those who heed the words of this book. Worship God.”*
- *1 Peter 2:8-9 But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God’s OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;*
- *Isaiah 51:11 So the ransomed of the LORD will return And come with joyful shouting to Zion, And everlasting joy will be on their heads. They will obtain gladness and joy, And sorrow and sighing will flee away.*
- *Luke 2:13-14 And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.”*
- *Revelation 5:8-14 When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. 10 “You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.”*
Angels Exalt the Lamb 11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing.” 13 And every created thing which is in heaven and on the

earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, “To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.” 14 And the four living creatures kept saying, “Amen.” And the elders fell down and worshiped.

- *Revelation 7:11 And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,*
- *Revelation 15:2-3 And I saw something like a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, holding harps of God. 3 And they sang the song of Moses, the bond-servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, “Great and marvelous are Your works, O Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Your ways, King of the nations!*
- *Revelation 14:3 And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no one could learn the song except the one hundred and forty-four thousand who had been purchased from the earth.*
- *Philippians 2:11 so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father*
- *Daniel 7:14 “And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations and men of every language Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed.*
- *Hebrews 1:6 And when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says, “AND LET ALL THE ANGELS OF GOD WORSHIP HIM.”*

4.3 Will We Be Ourselves In Heaven

Many Christians are concerned that we will not be ourselves in heaven. However, this kind of thinking is not what the Bible teaches us. To answer the question of “what will we look like,” is simpler than most realize.

Remember that Jesus was recognized after he resurrected. He didn’t become someone else.

Elijah and Moses were still Elijah and Moses at the Transfiguration of Christ,

Jesus spoke about us eating with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the Kingdom of God (Matthew 8:11).

Lazarus is still called by his name in the present heaven (Luke 16:25).

All believers names are also written in the book of life (Revelation 21:27).

The names of the apostles and tribes of Israel are on the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:12, 14).

Randy Alcorn, (1954-) is an American Evangelical Christian author and founder of Eternal Perspective Ministries, a non-profit Christian organization. He is a New York Times bestselling author, of more than 60 books. His works have been translated into 70 languages and have sold 10 million copies. makes an excellent point in his book, Heaven::

After the return of Jesus, not only is the physical world transformed, but so are our bodies. Yes, we will have physical bodies throughout eternity, and we will live on a physical world in a physical universe. In fact, they are the very bodies you have right now, but with all the marks of sin and the curse removed (the same thing for the earth and universe). Understanding this helps us to answer some of the greatest and most meaningful questions a human being can ask: “What do we do in heaven? What will life be like on the New Earth?”

Scripture does give us a detailed look at what life is going to be like in heaven, although the Bible will frequently mention what is not in eter-

nal heaven., like those features of life that are the result of sin and the curse of God. For example, Revelation 21:4 tells us, “He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”

Referring to Revelation 21:1-4 Marc Venema a columnist at CTV News, has said:

“If we weren’t ourselves in the afterlife, then we couldn’t be held accountable for what we did in this life. The Judgment would be meaningless. If Barbara is no longer Barbara, she can’t be rewarded or held accountable for anything Barbara did. She’d have to say, ‘But that wasn’t me.’ The doctrines of judgment and eternal rewards depend on people’s retaining their distinct identities from this life to the next.”

Quite simply, we have to retain who we are and who we were in order for heaven (and hell) to make any sense at all. We will be the same person in heaven as we were in this life (except without sin, of course).



4..4 What Will We Look like

We will be recognizable as ourselves.

So irrespective of how God alters any of us for eternity, we will still have names and fellow believers and even the angelic hosts will recognize who we are.

The Bible does not provide much details of what we will look like physical/spiritually in the next life, for example our age which we cover elsewhere in this chapter. Many believers claim we will bear some resemblance to what we look when we were around 30, and this I feel in my heart will probably be true. *1 John 3:2* says, “We know that when He [Jesus] appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.” So in heaven it appears that everyone will easily recognize us as we are after God has glorified us. Yes! We will be recognizable.

We do know that in whatever ways our initial life has caused damage to our appearance as a result of our sin nature, health, hereditary malformations, indulgences, accidents, etc. anything that has been altered as



a result of sin will not be carried over into our appearance in the next life. *(Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned -- Romans 5:12)* Sin will no longer be with us, for we will be made after the holiness of Christ (*1 John 3:2*).

Remember Jesus was recognized.

The same for ...

Moses

Abraham

Elijah

Lazarus

The rich man,

And so will you.

4.5 What Kind Of Body Will We have

Jesus in heaven has a physical body, a body of flesh and bones of material substance *Acts 1:11* *They also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."* Note that the angels said this same Jesus. The very same Jesus whom the apostles witness ascending into heaven will return. Jesus had been resurrected and his body consisted of spirit and flesh

Enoch in heaven has a physical body. Remember, he never died. Rather, we are told, *Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.* *Genesis 5:24.* In *Hebrews 11:5* we are plainly told that Enoch was not found because God had translated him. *By faith Enoch was taken up so that he would not see death; AND HE WAS NOT FOUND BECAUSE GOD TOOK HIM UP; for he obtained the witness that before his being taken up he was pleasing to God.*

The scripture clearly state that Elijah with a living human body who went to heaven without dying and is now living in heaven with his own body. *2 Kings 2:10-13* *He said, "You have asked a hard thing. Nevertheless, if you see me when I am taken from you, it shall be so for you; but if not, it shall not be so."* [11] *As they were going along and talking, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire and horses of fire which separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind to heaven.* [12] *Elisha saw it and cried out, "My father, my father, the chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" And he saw Elijah no more. Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them in two pieces. did not go down into the earth* As the lord took Enoch so God took away Elijah.

Enoch and Elijah are in heaven with their physical bodies. Of all mankind only these two men do we know definitely went to heaven without dying. Therefore we know there are at least three beings in heaven Jesus Enoch and Elijah who have physical bodies. The bodies of Enoch and Elijah are not resurrected bodies they never died so they could not be resurrected.

What about our resurrection bodies?

Our resurrection bodies will be the same ones that we have now, but free from the devastating effects of sin. In any case, there are two things to remember when we discuss this topics: It will be our formula for understanding what we will look like.

- 1) Jesus' resurrection body and
- 2) What did God create before sin came into the world.

And there may even be more resurrected bodies in heaven than these three. Note that there is a difference between a body that is brought back from the dead and one which is resurrected. Those whom are raised from the dead will eventually die after completing their lives here on earth. The resurrected will never die again and will live in heaven.

In *Matthew 27:52-53* we are told *The tombs were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; 53 and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection they entered the holy city and appeared to many.* Were these Resurrected bodies that they kept and now enjoy in heaven until all things are completed. Scripture is not entirely clear if these persons were simply brought back to life or are clearly resurrected visiting loved ones prior to returning to heaven..

Ephesians 4:8-10

The Bible is silent about our age in heaven. Since, Jesus's body was 33 years old when He went back into heaven, Biblical scholars say our bodies will also be 33 years old. We do know we will be like Jesus. And 33 years old is also thought to be the optimal age for our bodies here on earth, and so, some people believe that we will all be about 33 years old in heaven.

4.6 Will We Recognize People In Heaven?

I am looking forward to heaven AND I am looking forward to seeing family and friends who have gone on to be with the Lord before me. We will be able to see, know, and spend time with them for all eternity, although our primary joy will be in worshipping and fellowshiping with our blessed Lord and Savior. But our worship and the wonders of heaven will be even more enjoyable because we can praise and worship in the company of other Christians, especially those we loved and enjoyed on earth.

Although the Bible doesn't have many references to seeing and recognizing others in the afterlife, there are a few.

- 1) When Samuel was called back from the dead, he appeared visibly to Saul and to the witch of Endor in 1 Samuel 28:12. Samuel who was deceased was recognizable by Saul and the witch and vice versa.



- 2) The second illustration I think of is the story of the rich man and Lazarus. Abraham, Lazarus, and the rich man were all recognizable after death by each other. In Hell Lazarus lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom, although there was a great chasm fixed between heaven and hell.
- 3) When David's infant son died, David declared, "I shall go to him, but he will not return to me" (2 Samuel 12:23). David assumed that he would be able to recognize the baby in heaven as his son, not a generic soul indistinguishable from all other souls.
- 4) John saw under the altar the souls of them that had been martyred for their testimony during the tribulation. Revelations 6:9 if the souls now in heaven do not have physical bodies they certainly appear visibly and are recognizable to men. These souls are the Tribulation saints.
- 5) After His resurrection, Jesus was recognized by many people including His disciples ((John 20:16, 20; 21:12), and since we will inherit glorified bodies like His (1 John 3:2; 1 Corinthians 15:49, 53), we can assume we will know and recognize one another as they recognized Him. Many people say they can't imagine heaven without their loved ones who have died without Christ.
- 6) The disciples recognized Moses and Elijah on the Mount of Transfiguration. *Six days later Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up on a high mountain by themselves. 2 And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light. 3 And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. 4 Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, I will make three tabernacles here, one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah." 5 While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!" 6 When the disciples heard this, they fell face down to the ground and were terrified. 7 And Jesus came to them and*

touched them and said, "Get up, and do not be afraid." 8 And lifting up their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus Himself alone. 9 As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, "Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man has risen from the dead." 10 And His disciples asked Him, "Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" 11 And He answered and said, "Elijah is coming and will restore all things; 12 but I say to you that Elijah already came, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they wished. So also the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands." 13 Then the disciples understood that He had spoken to them about John the Baptist. Matthew 17:1-13 .

4.7 How Old Will We Look In Heaven?

What about our age? How old will we be after the resurrection? The Bible does not tell us exactly what age we will be for eternity. However, there are a few different things to consider. Scientific studies show us that humanity reaches his peak sometime in the twenties or thirties. After this time, our bodies' ability to maintain itself declines. It is when this happens our bodies begin to literally die. It takes years, but aging after our peak is, in fact, a process of decay and death, something Scripture looks negatively on.

It is also worth remembering that Adam and Eve were created with apparent age. They did not go through childhood, and they were not created old and hunchback. Jesus was resurrected while in his thirties, and it is pretty safe to assume that he will not grow old and wither away.

All of this brings us to another question: what about infants and small children who died young. I have already written about the salvation of children in another article, so here I want to talk about what age they will be resurrected. One scholar states:

"This issue [about age at the resurrection] caused the spilling of much theological, especially during the Middle Ages....By the late thirteenth century, the church's emerging consensus was this: 'As each person reaches their peak of perfection around the age of 30, they will be resurrected, as they would have appeared at that time – even if they never lived to reach that age.' Peter Lombard's discussion of the matter is

typical of his age: 'A boy who dies immediately after being born will be resurrected in that form would have had if he had lived to the age of thirty.' The New Jerusalem will thus be populated by men and women as they would appear at the age of 30...but with every blemish removed."

That last sentence is very important. Some people look much older, and are sickly at the age of thirty. This does not mean they will be sickly in heaven. We will be free from disease and other effects of sin in the Restored World. No longer will people have cancer, diabetes, and mental or other physical disorders. We will be resurrected with young and healthy bodies like they were although we do not know exactly what age we will be at the resurrection, it is obvious that we will be young and healthy. We also must remember that being tall or short is not sinful. I'm sure there will be both in heaven although people who were tall or short because of diseases and genetic mutations will have those disabilities removed. What height they will be in heaven is anyone's guess, but it will be according to God's original purpose for them if that disease never occurred.



4.8 What Language Will We Speak?

The Bible has quite a bit to say about language, from creation to the end.

The creation account in Genesis 1 and 2 does not indicate the creation of language, but instead God uses language as the creating action:

- *Genesis 1:3* Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.
- *John 1:1-3* In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [2] He was in the beginning with God. [3] All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

The Bible tells us that before the Tower of Babel there was only one language. Multiple languages came about because of sin. As essential as language apparently is to God's being, it is striking that He used the confusion of language to put an end to the rebellion by mankind against His command to "fill the earth") at Babel according to the story in Genesis 11:1-9. . So it is reasonable to speculate that when God removes all sin and rebellion from existence that only one language will be spoken. God may remove all the different languages that currently exist or God may allow the different languages to continue to exist.

- *Genesis 1:28* God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.
- *Genesis 9:1* And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.

Genesis 11:1-9 Now the whole earth used the same language and the same words. [2] It came about as they journeyed east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. [3] They said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and burn them thoroughly." And they used brick for stone,

Gift Of Tongues

The first miraculous manifestation of the gift of tongues is described in Acts 2:1-4. To the amazement of the crowd in Jerusalem, the disciples were proclaiming the wonders of God in a language they had not learned. Knowing that the disciples were all Galileans, the people asked in amazement, "And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?" (Acts 2:7-11) The gift of speaking in languages unknown to the speaker was the outward sign that the Holy Spirit had now been given to all believers, just as Jesus had promised in John 14:15-20 and Acts 1:4-5. Once the main purpose for this miraculous gift had been accomplished, its predominance began to subside. The book of Acts shows that in each instance, tongues was for the purpose of validating that the Holy Spirit had indeed come from God.

and they used tar for mortar. [4] They said, "Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth." [5] The LORD came down to see the city and the tower

which the sons of men had built. [6] The LORD said, "Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they began to do, and now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them. [7] Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, so that they will not understand one another's speech." [8] So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of the whole earth; and they stopped building the city. [9] Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of the whole earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of the whole earth.

In 1 Corinthians 13:1 Paul references the tongues of angels. Some believe this verse represents the gift of tongues which is meant to glorify God by validating that the Holy Spirit had indeed come from God.. Others believe that this verse is referencing a language spoken in heaven that, apparently, could be learned by believers.

1 Corinthians 13:1 *If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.* . The first premise is that the tongues of men means the language spoken by mankind. The second premise is that the gift of tongues is the utterances of the Holy Spirit and since the word angels are used, would lend its true meaning to the language spoken by angels. The third premise is that only "language" makes sense because Paul's point is irrespective of what we say, if we do not have love, our words are nothing more than noise.

Yet, a language will be spoken in heaven. Whether one or multiple lan-

guages no one can say with absolute knowledge. I believe since multiple languages represents judgement, God will establish a language system. This much is certain, communication with each other is all part of our worship and fellowship in heaven. And there will be new names.

Although the Bible does not address this directly, there are three passages that imply both the use of language and a significant improvement upon it.

Isaiah 62:2 says The nations will see your righteousness, And all kings your glory; And you will be called by a new name Which the mouth of the LORD will designate.

Revelation 3:12 says, "He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My

new name.

Revelation 2:17 says "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it.'



4.9 Will Our Bodies Be Male or Female

Concerning gender, it is significant to realize that Christ was still a

male after his resurrection. He didn't become a female or an "it" after coming back from the grave. Since Paul tells us that our bodies will be like his there is no reason to think that we will lose our gender. As noted earlier Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Elijah, Moses, and Lazarus were still male in the afterlife. Also, God created male and female before the curse was put on creation. Being male and female is a part of being human. We will not lose that.



4.10 Will There Be Eating And Drinking?

When thinking about Heaven most Christians do not typically think about whether or not we will eat and drink on the New Earth. Most assume that there would be no point. If we are going to have perfect bodies, then why would we need to eat? Besides there are a couple of passages that seem to say that eating will not be a part of the Kingdom of God.

Romans 14:17 says, “The kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” This passage, however, is not about Heaven. The context of the passage is concerning how Christians should not make other people stumble over what we eat and drink in this life.

A second passage is 1 Corinthians 6:13 which says, “Food for the stomach and the stomach for food’ – but God will destroy them both.”

This verse is once again about a Christian’s freedom and not to abuse it. It is in the general context of sexual immorality. It does not seem likely that it is referring to the New Earth (especially in regards to the following points that I am about to make). However, there is some evidence that there will be food and drink in the Restored World.

1. Jesus told the disciples that they would “eat and drink at my table in my kingdom” (Luke 22:30). Jesus ate food after his resurrection (Luke 24:42–43; see also Acts 10:40–41).
2. In Luke 22:18, Jesus says, “For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God

comes.” Matthew 26:29 words it as “I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

3. Revelation 19:9 speaks about Christians eating the wedding supper, and Matthew 8:11 tells us that Christians will eat with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

It is possible that Revelation 19 and Matthew 8 are speaking figuratively. However, Luke 22:30 specifically says that the apostles will eat, sit on thrones, and judge the twelve tribes of Israel. Matthew 26:29, along with Luke 22:30, make the most sense if Christ is referring to his second coming, and not some other event.

Concerning Jesus eating food after his resurrection the famous evangelist Billy Graham says, “It wasn’t that Jesus was hungry, for He was no longer subject to human needs. I believe He ate with them for two reasons: to prove His bodily resurrection and for fellowship with His disciples. When He was last with them, they fellowshiped around the table and shared the Passover meal.”

Although I agree with what is said, I do not think any of these disprove that we will eat on the New Earth. Most people think we will not because of two reasons: 1) Heaven will only be “spiritual,” and 2) our bodies will be perfect. Yet, there is nothing evil about food. God created food before the Curse. Eating and drinking is one of the many pleasures that God created for us to enjoy. Yes, in Heaven we will not be overweight or underweight – we will be healthy. Yes, God has the power to give us unlimited energy. Even so, that does not mean that food will be taken away. Adam and Eve lived in a perfect world with perfect bodies, yet God specifically told them to eat (Genesis 3:2).

However, this raises an issue. It is clear that humans and animals were vegetarians before the Fall (Genesis 1:29–30). Meat eating was not given by God until after the Great Flood (Genesis 9:3). Yet, Romans 8:19–23 (*For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. 23 And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.*) specifically says that the Curse will be removed from all of creation, including the animals. This is a good reason to believe that humanity and animals will once again be vegetarian. The issue that I alluded to above has to do with the fact that Jesus ate fish after his resurrection. Randy Alcorn explains the problem, and solutions, well:

“Jesus ate fish in a resurrected body. However, that was on an unresurrected Earth, still under the Curse. Hunting and killing animals is legitimate and sometimes necessary on the present Earth. However, to the degree that hunting animals involves their fear, suffering, or death, it

wouldn’t fit with the biblical description of the New Earth, where not only people but also animals live in peace and harmony: ‘The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox...They will neither harm nor destroy’ (Isaiah 65:25). We’re told animals’ eating habits will change—why not ours?

I believe that the Bible does teach us that we will eat and drink in the New Earth. And considering that the Curse will be removed, it is safe to assume we will no longer be killing and eating the flesh of animals, who will also be free from the curse. We won’t eat and drink because we need the calories – we will do so because it is a joy and pleasure that God created for us to do together.



5.0 What Will Life Be Like In Heaven

5.1 Will We Be Able To Sin In Heaven

I would like to start with a simple topic: will we be able to sin in Heaven? Of course, the answer is no. Romans 6:23 says that “the wages of sin is death.” Yet, death will no longer be a part of the world after Christ’s return (Revelation 21:4). Christ died *once* to deal with sin and death (Hebrews 9:26–28; 10:10; 1 Peter 3:18). Sin will not have any part in the new heavens and new earth.

The reason why I bring this subject up is that some people will ask how we can have free will when we cannot sin. Some people may take it as far to think that Heaven won’t be any fun if we cannot sin. First off, Scripture is clear that while we are under the Curse we are *slaves* to sin. It is only after Christ’s return that we will be truly *free* like we never have been before.

Also, “We’ve fallen for the devil’s lie. His most basic strategy, the same one he employed with Adam and Eve, is to make us believe that sin brings fulfillment. However, in reality, sin robs us of fulfillment and makes lives empty. Sin doesn’t create adventure or expand life, it eliminates hope and inevitably leads to boredom. When there’s fulfillment, there’s beauty, when we see God as he truly is – boredom becomes impossible. Those who believe that excitement can’t exist without sin are thinking with sin-poisoned minds. Drug addicts are convinced that without their drugs they can’t be happy, but all addicts are miserable.

The Bible tells us plainly that Christians in heaven will be righteous (1 Corinthians 5:21), and that we will be resurrected “incorruptible” (1 Corinthians 15:52). The Holy Spirit will make us perfect to the point where we will never want to sin, and He will give us the power to never

choose to do wrong. There will be no temptation on the New Earth.[\[1\]](#)

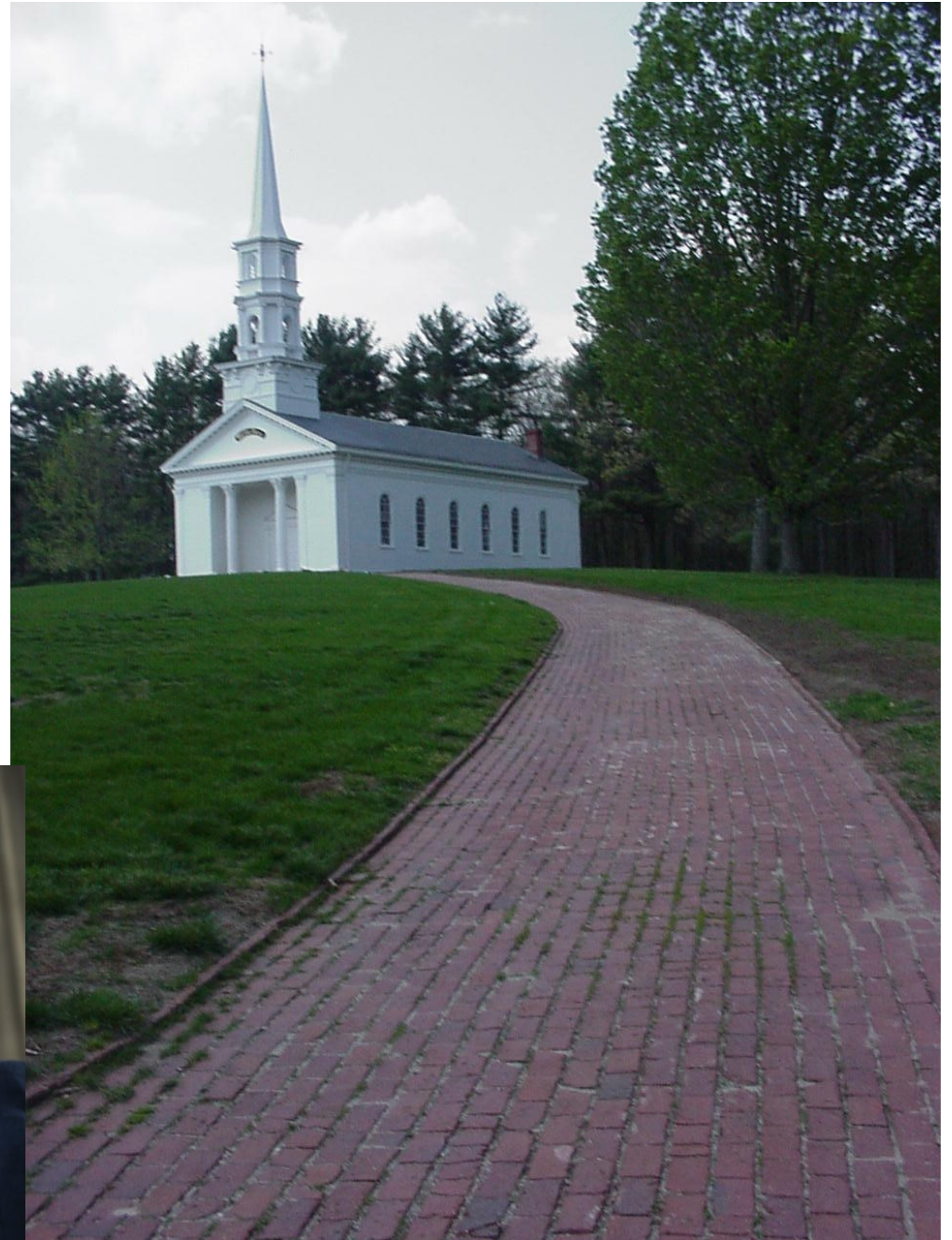
Yet, God is the one who created fun. He is the one who made the universe, animals, meadows, oceans, and everything else. He created all the things that we have fun with fun.



5.2 What About Marriage

Since Heaven will be a physical world, where we will live in physical bodies, it is logical to think that many things from this world will continue on throughout eternity. However, the only clear thing that Scripture says that was a part of God's original creation, but will not be a part of the New Earth is marriage. Jesus says in Matthew 22:30, "At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage..."

How can this be? Many cannot think of life without marriage and everything that it entails. However, Christians should not despair about this. We must remember that marriage was created by God before the Curse. It was pronounced as "very good." It seems obvious that because of this, it is unlikely that God, who created us for marriage, would take something so important away from us without replacing it with something better. God is not going to remove something for no reason at all.



5.3 What About Culture In Heaven?

The work that we do ties in with human culture. Revelation 21:24 records for us something very interesting: “The nations will walk by its light [God’s light], and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it.” What exactly are the nations and the kings bringing into the New Earth? Let me quote one scholar:

“It has been plausibly suggested that it [Revelation 21:24] describes the way the new creation will receive all the appropriate fruits of human culture and development that have been produced throughout the course of history. Every legitimate and excellent fruit of human culture will be carried into and contribute to the [splendor] of life in the new creation. Rather than the new creation being a radically new beginning, in which the excellent and noble fruits of humankind’s fulfillment of the cultural mandate are wholly discarded – the new creation will benefit from, and be immensely enriched by, its receiving of these fruits. Far from being an empty and desolate place, the new creation will be enriched with the sanctified fruits of human culture. Nothing of the diversity of the nations and peoples, their cultural products, languages, arts, sciences, literature, and technology – so far as these are good and excellent – will be lost upon life in the new creation. Life in the new creation will not be a starting over, but a perfected continuation of the new humanity’s stewardship of all of life in the service of God.”

In the beginning mankind was given the mandate to rule over the earth and to develop a culture that glorified God. Sadly, because of our fall into sin, that mandate has never been fully carried out, at least in the way God intended.[5] However, sin and the Curse will be removed and mankind will finally be able to fulfill God’s commands without the temptation to do wrong. Our minds, our bodies, our relationships, and our environment will be restored to what God originally intended. Scholar Anthony Hoekema speaks about the potential for the continuation of human culture on the New Earth, the following way:

“The possibilities that now rise before us boggle the mind. Will there be “better Beethoven” on the new earth, as one author has suggested? Shall we then see better Rembrandts, better Raphaels, better Consta-

bles? Shall we read better poetry, better drama, and better prose? Will scientists continue to advance in technological achievement, will geologists continue to dig out the treasures of the earth, and will architects continue to build imposing and attractive structures? Will there be exciting new adventures in space travel? Shall we perhaps be able to explore new Perelandras [Perelandra is a book by C.S. Lewis]? We do not know. But we do know that human dominion over nature will then be perfect. Our culture will glorify God in ways that surpass our most fantastic dreams.”

He continues:

“[I]n the life to come various types of people will retain their unique gifts. These gifts will develop and mature in a sinless way, and will be used to produce new cultural products to the everlasting glory of God’s name. In the resurrection we shall retain our individuality, but in a heightened way. This means that we shall not only still possess the gifts God gave us, but that our potential for exercising these gifts will then be realized to the full—as it never was in this life.”[7] Revelation 21:24 tells us that not only kings, but nations will come into the Holy City. This implies that all the different cultural contributions of different ethnic groups will no longer be in competition with each other, “but will harmoniously enrich life in the Holy City. Christ, who is the lamp of that city, will then draw all these cultural products into his service, for the glory of his Father.”

Kings in the days of Bible were more than political rulers; they were the representatives and bearers of the cultures of the nations over which they ruled. John is here speaking about the cultural and artistic contributions of various national groups which shall then have made their home in the [New] Jerusalem.”[9] Life on the new earth is a restoration of all things, not the elimination of all things. Those things that are removed from the world are sinful. Art, music, literature, technology, and many other things that are good will continue to exist on the New Earth. I wonder if I will be able to sit down in Heaven and read one of my favorite books – J.R.R. Tolkien’s The Hobbit. I guess I’ll find out someday

5.4 Will We Sleep In Heaven

Sleep is a physical necessity for our earthly bodies. Without sleep, our brains stop working correctly, and our bodies refuse to cooperate. The sleep-wake cycle is just another of the many cycles God has put into place on the earth—others include the cycle of the changing seasons, day and night, and the water cycle. These cycles are part of life on this planet. However, after death, we will be in a different realm. Upon death, those who are “in Christ” will be immediately with Him but will not yet have their completely restored bodies. We must wait for the resurrection to receive those. Most likely, in the interim, after death and before the resurrection, our souls will not need sleep; rather, we will enjoy unbroken worship and joy in the presence of the Lord.

- *2 Corinthians 5:8 “we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.”*
- *1 Corinthians 15:40 “There are also heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is one, and the glory of the earthly is another.”*
- *2 Corinthians 4:14 “knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and will present us with you.*
- *John 5:28–29 Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, 29 and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.*

“Sleeping” in heaven—the spiritual realm where we await the resurrection—may not even be possible or necessary. Jesus described the temporary resting place for the righteous as being “near Abraham” We will have some type of body, and we will recognize each other. We will have some knowledge of the affairs on earth. But we should take careful note of the reactions of human beings who saw God in His glory as did

Isaiah, Moses and John. Living in the manifest presence of the Lord God Almighty will change everything. The things of earth, including sleep, will no longer have the same value to us.

- *Luke 16:22–24. Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham’s bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried. 23 In Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom. 24 And he cried out and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame.’*
- *Luke 16:27–28 And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, that you send him to my father’s house-- 28 for I have five brothers--in order that he may warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’*
- *Revelation 6:9–10 When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained; [10] and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”*
- *Isaiah 6:1–5 “In the year of King Uzziah’s death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. [2] Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. [3] And one called out to another and said, “Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory.” [4] And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke. [5] Then I said, “Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a*

- man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.”
- Exodus 33:20–23 But He said, “You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live!” [21] Then the LORD said, “Behold, there is a place by Me, and you shall stand there on the rock; [22] and it will come about, while My glory is passing by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock and cover you with My hand until I have passed by. [23] Then I will take My hand away and you shall see My back.

Revelation 1:17 When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, “Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last.

However, God created human beings to inhabit a physical realm. He intends to restore all things as new. At the resurrection our spirits, which have been with Christ, will be reunited with our restored bodies. We will then inhabit the new, completely restored earth with Jesus (Eternity will be spent living in perfect bodies on a perfect earth with Jesus as our undisputed King. In the eternal state, sleep may again be part of our experience, as could eating and drinking. But sleep will not be necessary due to exhaustion or weakness because our bodies will be perfect like Jesus’ body after His resurrection The fact is that we don’t know enough from Scripture to state definitively whether or not we will sleep in heaven, during the millennium, or in the eternal state. That’s one of the thousands of questions we will have answered in heaven. One thing is for sure: when we first see Jesus, sleep will be the last thing on our minds.

- Acts 3:21 *whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time.*
- Luke 14:15 *When one of those who were reclining at the table with Him heard this, he said to Him, “Blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!”*

- Revelation 19:9 *Then he said to me, “Write, ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.’” And he said to me, “These are true words of God.”*
- Isaiah 65:17 *“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former things will not be remembered or come to mind.*
- Revelation 21:1–2. *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. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.*
- Luke 24:41–42 *While they still could not believe it because of their joy and amazement, He said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” 42 They gave Him a piece of a broiled fish;*

God is going to make up for all the heartbreak that has occurred in this life. We are essentially going to have a second chance to live the lives that we always wanted and were meant to have – a life filled with happiness and joy with God. The Apostle Paul says it perfectly, *“In this way they will lay up treasures for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life” (1 Timothy 6:19).*



5.5 Will We Work Or Have Occupations In Heaven?

Have you ever wondered “what job will I have in heaven”? If you have, you’re not alone. As believers, we want to know about heaven and what will take place there. Though most of us are fearful of death, we look forward to our lives in heaven and the future that will be ahead of us. The only things we know for certain about heaven is what is revealed to us in Scripture.

In one sense, we are assured that heaven will be a place of perfect peace and rest. Scripture tells us in *Revelation 14:13*, “*They will rest from their labor.*” On the other hand, the Bible also tells us that we will have work to do in heaven. *Revelation 22:3* says, “*His servants will serve Him.*” For those of us who have spent a great amount of time working on earth, the idea of working in heaven may seem frustrating but it shouldn’t be. We should rejoice and be glad in it. There are no shortage of tasks in heaven but the work we will be performing will be to the glory of God.

The idea of working in heaven is foreign to many people. Yet, the Bible clearly teaches it. When God created Adam, He “took the man and put Him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it” (*Genesis 2:15*). Work was part of the original Eden. It was part of the perfect human life. God Himself is a worker. He didn’t create the world then retire. Jesus said, “*My Father is always at His work to this very day, and I, too, am working*” (*John 5:17*). Heaven too will be a place where we serve and work. Revelation mentions this several times; how we will be serving God. That is why God gave us work to do in the garden. Work will not be all we do in heaven. We will be worshipping God AND God will be fellowshiping with us. When God created Adam and Eve they first fellowshiped then they work.

In “When God made Adam, He made him a creature of creativity, with a desire to work. He gave him a job, to keep the garden of Eden, and to study the animal kingdom, so he could give all the animals names,”

Blaine, MN and author of numerous published sermons, writes. “Adam was made a botanist and zoologist the day he was created. God made man to study and to have dominion over his environment. He gave him both physical and mental work, for both are vital to the joy of living.” In a sermon titled, “Occupations in Heaven,” Pease, points out that heaven will be a place, not only of eternal enjoyment, but of eternal employment.

We may not know specially what positions we will have in heaven from Scripture, but what we are assured of is that these jobs will be exciting and fulfilling. When we enter heaven, we will serve God in creative, joyful and satisfying ways.

I bet many people had to take a double glance at that question. The idea that we will work in Heaven sounds horrible. Will we really get up every day just so we can go to a job to pay the bills? First off, to say that work in itself is evil is wrong. God is the original worker. He was working when he created the world. Secondly, God gave Adam work to do while in Eden before sin come into creation. *Genesis 2:5* says that God “took the man [Adam] and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.” *Revelation 22:3* tells us that we will serve Christ on the New Earth. To serve someone means to be active and to accomplish tasks.

We also need to realize that it was the curse that made work mundane and toilsome (*Genesis 3:17-19*). Work was originally meant to be something that we loved to do, however, sin ruined that. Today, we get up, go to work, come home, pay some bills, go to sleep, and repeat. Yes, there may be a few other activities in that schedule, but for the most part, there is not much else. And to top it all off, no matter how hard you work, you still die and leave everything behind. Please understand, I do not say all of those things to make you feel depressed. It is the result of sin that all of this has happened.

Yet, we need to remember that work was created as a good thing. Who doesn’t like the feeling after a day’s hard work? Who really likes to be unemployed? Not many. However, this leads us to the next question

Glenn Pease, Pastor of New Beginning Community Church in

related to work: what kinds of jobs will we have in Heaven? Naturally jobs that are directly connected with sin and death will not exist in Heaven. There will be no need for doctors and nurses, military personnel, firefighters, police officers, etc. Since there will be no sin in the world at that time these kinds of professions will not exist.

So what kinds of jobs will exist on the New Earth? It is interesting to note that the very first person in Scripture to be filled with the Spirit was a craftsman. Exodus 31:1-6 tells us that a man named Bezalel was filled with the Spirit and chosen by God to make artistic designs for the Tabernacle. It is said that God gave Bezalel the skills, abilities, and knowledge to be a craftsman.

God is the one who gives us our skills and talents. He is the one who gives us the abilities to be writers, teachers, scholars, doctors, designers, engineers, musicians, artists, and everything else. There is nothing inherently evil with many different kinds of careers and skillsets.

Genesis 1 tells us that God gave mankind the dominion mandate. We were supposed to spread out through the earth from Eden, and take dominion over the earth. To take dominion does not mean to “dominate” like many believe. We are to take care of God’s creation. This requires different kinds of work, including the ability to learn. Yes, we will learn in Heaven. Many Christians assume that we will know everything, but Scripture never says this. Only God knows everything. Since God is infinite and eternal, it is unlikely we will ever come to the end of learning. [1]

My dream job is to be a Professor and writer. I love to do research and teach others what I have learned. I truly believe that these are some of the things that I will be doing throughout eternity. Although I have a degree in Theology, there are other things that I love as well, including Zoology (the study of animals), botany (plant biology), and Geography. Will I be doing any of these? I think I probably will. In part 2 of this article, I wrote about how we will probably travel through the universe. Will we be able to visit other planets and study them? If so, I’ll be one of the first to sign up and go on an adventure to learn as much as I can.

You will continue to use your gifts and skills throughout eternity. If you currently work in a job like medicine or crime, which will no longer exist in Heaven because they are dependent on the Curse, you will use your skills for something even better. We will use our talents, skills, and interests (which God gave us) to do the work of God and glorify him.

The popular evangelist Billy Graham said about work in Heaven, “God never intended for people to be idle and unproductive – on earth or in Heaven. Heaven is about serving – not ourselves, but Jesus Christ...”[3] We will create new things, study the world, and do the kinds of work that we love and is pleasing to God. We will never have to worry about hating our jobs in Heaven.

One major difference between work on earth and work in heaven is that we won’t grow tired or weary with our work in heaven. Work became a burden following Adam and Eve’s rebellion against God but the minute we enter heaven, the curse is lifted. We will be delighted in our work there.

Conclusion

In Heaven, we will work, but it will be a meaningful job that you will love and that will glorify God. For the first time in history, we will be free from sin to use our skills and God-given abilities to do things that we cannot imagine. We will build, create, and learn in ways we never dreamed possible. There will also be a continuation between human culture today and in the New Earth. The good things that mankind has created will not be removed, but restored and redeemed along with mankind.

5.6 What About Clothes?

Since God created Adam and Eve naked, it can be assumed by Christians that we will be naked once again in Heaven. However, Adam and Eve were innocent, not righteous as we will be (1 Corinthians 5:21). Also, remember that Adam and Eve did not even know of their nakedness be-

fore they sinned (Genesis 3:7). We will retain our memories in Heaven so we will know if we are naked or not. However, as I have noted more than once, there will be a continuation of human culture in Heaven, and Jesus presumably wore clothing after his resurrection (or was he running around in his birthday suit?).



5.7 Will We Experience Emotions and Desires?

Scripture tells us that God experiences emotions.

He loves, enjoys, laughs, takes delight, rejoices, and even becomes angry, jealous, happy, and glad.

Emotions themselves are not sinful. Anger and jealousy, for example, are aimed at sinful actions, but many others are not.

Revelation 21:4 tells us that there will be no more crying and that God will wipe away our tears, but not all tears are bad. There are tears of joy, which every Christian will have on the first day of the new heavens and new earth. The tears that God will take away are the tears that result from pain and misery.

Scripture does tell us that there will be laughter in heaven (Luke 6:21), and of course, we will be joyful and happy there as well.

People in the next world, both the saints in heaven and the lost in hell will retain all their senses. Even though prior to our resurrection when our bodies are reunited with our souls, we will still retain all our senses. We will see as if we had eyes, we will hear as if we had ears, we will speak and taste as if we had tongues and mouths, we will smell as if we had noses, and we will feel as if we had skin.

Reread the rich man and Lazarus account. The rich man in torment SAW Abraham and Lazarus. They SPOKE, they HEARD, one FELT misery and torment and the other FELT joy and comfort.

- 1) In Acts 6, we read of the first martyr of Christianity, Stephen, who was a deacon in the early church at Jerusalem who aroused the anger of various synagogues by his teachings. Accused of blasphemy at his trial, he made a speech denouncing the Jewish authorities who were sitting in judgment on him and was then stoned to death. Dying Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, SAW Jesus standing on the right hand of God in Heaven, and SAID in Acts 7:59 *They went on stoning Stephen as he called on the Lord and said, "Lord Jesus, re-*

ceive my spirit!" 60 Then falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" Having said this, he fell asleep.

- 2) *disciples heard this, they fell face down to the ground and were terrified. 7 And Jesus came to them and touched them and said, "Get up, and do not be afraid." 8 And lifting up their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus Himself alone. 9 As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, "Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man has risen from the dead." 10 And His disciples asked Him, "Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" 11 And He answered and said, "Elijah is coming and will restore all things; 12 but I say to you that Elijah already came, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they wished. So also the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands." 13 Then the disciples understood that He had spoken to them about John the Baptist. Matthew 17:1-13.*



5.8 Will There Be Ethnic and People Groups?

Will there be ethnic and people groups?

The Bible tells us that God has redeemed people from different tribes and people groups. Why would God erase these distinctions in heaven? Will he make black people white, or white people black? Will he take away the characteristics of Asians or other groups? Personally, I do not think so. Jesus didn't stop being a Jew after he resurrected. It is also unlikely that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob will stop being Hebrews. They will always be Middle Easterners. We will still be Scots, Russians, Koreans, Polynesians, Indians, Arabs, etc. on the Restored Earth. It is not sinful to be Chinese, Hispanic, or English.



This is a very sensitive topic for many. How can heaven be heaven if we remember this life? What about loved ones who have gone to hell? Many suppose we will not remember this life or others because of Isaiah 65:17: "Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind." I'll let Alcorn do the talking:

"However, this verse should be viewed in context. It's linked to the previous verse, in which God says, 'For the past troubles will be forgotten and hidden from my eyes.' This doesn't suggest literal lack of memory, as if the omniscient God couldn't recall the past. Rather, it's like God's comment to Jeremiah: 'I...will remember their sins no more' (Jeremiah 31:34). It means God chooses not to bring up our past sins or hold them against us. In eternity, past sins and sorrows won't preoccupy God or us."

Christians in the present heaven clearly remember their lives on earth (Revelation 6:9-11). Jesus also promised in Luke 16:25 that those in heaven will be comforted. "The comfort implies memory of what happened. If we had no memory of the bad things, why would we need comfort? How would we feel it?"[10]

In fact, recalling the bad things that happen in this current life will actually intensify God's mercy and love, and will allow us to fully experience the glory and perfection of heaven. "As such, we will ever remember the greatness of God's grace in redemption."

What about remembering loved ones who are in hell? This is a tough issue for everybody. First, it should be noted that Revelation 6:9-11 tells us that Christian martyrs in heaven remember the way they died and they even cry out for justice. J.I. Packer says it well:

God the Father (who now pleads with mankind to accept the reconciliation that Christ's death secured for all) and the God the Son (our appointed Judge, who wept over Jerusalem) will in a final judgment express wrath and administer justice against rebellious humans.

God's holy righteousness will hereby be revealed; God will be doing the right thing, vindicating himself at last against all who have defiled

him...God will judge justly, all angels, saints, and martyrs will praise him for it. So it seems inescapable that we shall, with them, approve the judgment of persons-rebels-whom we have known and loved."

I know that many do not like this, but it is nevertheless biblical. In heaven, we will have God's perspective on things. Hank Hanegraaff notes that it will be "as though we will be in a courtroom with full awareness of the scenes that have played themselves out in the course of human history. And we will know with certainty that the Judge of heaven and earth has taken every converging factor into perfect consideration. We will know that we know that the judgments of God are altogether right and true-that they comport with perfect love and perfect justice. In eternity we will likewise fully comprehend that all who are in hell are there because they spurned the relationship that could have been theirs."



5.10 How Will Space And Time Exist?

Will we live in a spatial world? Will time exist? Since many people think that heaven is some kind of spiritual realm where we will float around forever, they think there will be no more time or space. Heaven is to be some kind of state, not a place.[1] Some may even go as far to say that we will be able to be in multiple places at the same time since there will be no space.

I'll come right out and say it – there is nothing biblical about the idea that there will be no space and time in heaven. People who believe this have either never read their Bibles or want to interpret it out of context. Remember what I said in part 1, a good way to think about heaven is to remember Christ's resurrection body, and to think about what God created in his "very good" creation before sin entered it.

There is absolutely no reason to believe that the resurrected Jesus was in multiple places at the same time. He was flesh and blood (Luke 24:39) and he occupied both space and time after his resurrection. Eden was a real place in space and time, and so will the restored Eden. Space is not evil. It was pronounced "very good" at the beginning, and it will continue to be good for all eternity.

You'll often hear that we never have enough time in this world, and that is a bad thing. There is even an old Arab proverb that says, "Everything fears Time, only the pyramids laugh at it." This is, of course, a reference to the Egyptian pyramids and how they continue to stand after countless generations. Since we have so little time in this life before we die, we fear it and want to get as much done as we possibly can. This is the way an unbeliever thinks. A Christian should never entertain such thoughts. There is no such thing as "the end of time." Time will continue on forever.

Some Christians get the idea of no more time in Heaven by a single verse in The King James Version of the Bible. It translates Revelation 10:6 as "there should be time no longer." However, the correct way to translate the verse is "There will be no more delay." This is the way other Bible versions translate it (see the NIV for example). The context

of this passage is not the end of time, but the judgments coming on the earth during the tribulation and the second coming of Christ.

There are actually passages in Scripture that specifically mention time in Heaven. Luke 15:7 notes that there is rejoicing in heaven when one sinner repents. Revelation 6:10-11 has Christians in heaven asking God "how long" will it be before Christ's judgment on the wicked. Although these are speaking of the present heaven, this shows that even now, Christians in heaven are living within time. Time is required to know "when" a person accepts Christ and repents.

However, there are places in Scripture that mention time will continue on forever. Paul speaks of Heaven as "the coming ages" in Ephesians 2:7. Note that he said "ages" (plural) and not "age" (singular). God says in Genesis 8:22 that day and night will never cease as long as the earth endures. Remember, the earth will exist forever. Bible scholar Randy Alcorn summarizes the "problem" of time very well:

"But time isn't the problem, the Curse is. Time isn't the enemy, death is (1 Corinthians 15:26). Time predated sin and the Curse. When the Curse is lifted, time will remain. Without the Curse, time will never work against us. We won't run out of it. Time will bring gain, not less. The passing of time will no longer threaten us. It will bring new adventures without a sense of loss for what must end...Buddhism, which knows no resurrection, teaches that time will be extinguished. Christianity, solidly based on a resurrection of cosmic dimensions, teaches time will go on forever. For too long we've allowed an unbiblical assumption ('there will be no time in Heaven') to obscure overwhelming biblical revelation to the contrary. This has served Satan's purposes of dehumanizing Heaven and divorcing it from the existence we know. Since we cannot desire what we can't imagine, this misunderstanding has robbed us of desire for Heaven."

5.11 Sun, Moon, Outer Space, Universe

What about Outer Space?

One of the biggest wonders of God's creation is outer space. There are billions upon billions of stars in the universe. There are galaxies, planets, comets, and many other things that make up the heavens. Genesis 1:1 tells us that "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." The Hebrew word for heaven is used for everything above the earth: the atmosphere, the sun, moon, and stars, and everything else in outer space.

"To help us understand the size of the universe let's take a look at how long it would take for us to travel across it. The maximum speed possible according to Einstein's theory of special relativity is 186,000 miles per second. That's fast! 'Taking off, you could circle the earth seven times in one second. Leaving our planet, you would pass the moon in two seconds and Mars in just four minutes, and it would take you only five hours to reach Pluto.' Once we leave our solar system, the next closest star is Proxima Centauri, which is 4.2 light years away. Traveling at 186,000 miles per second you would reach this star in 4.2 years. To reach the edge of the Milky Way, it would take you about 100,000 years. However, it would take you, after leaving the Milky Way, another 2.3 million years to reach Andromeda, the next closest galaxy.

It would take 20 million years to reach the next galaxy after Andromeda. And all of this is only a very, very small fraction of what is out there. Remember there are billions of galaxies. If you were to do nothing but count the stars you would not live long enough to finish."

The universe is vast – too vast to even comprehend completely. Yet, it is real. God created it. And what's more – it will be redeemed at the resurrection of the dead (Romans 8:19–23) and will be a part of the Restored World. Remember that Scripture tells us that there will be a new heavens and a new earth (Isaiah 65:17; Revelation 21:1; 2 Peter 3:13). This corresponds with Genesis 1:1.

Will we only look up at them throughout eternity, or will something

even greater happen? "Will the new planets be mere ornaments, or does God intend for us to reach them one day? Even under the Curse, we've been able to explore the moon, and we have the technology to land on Mars. What will we be able to accomplish for God's glory when we have resurrected minds, unlimited resources, complete scientific cooperation, and no more death? Will the far edges of our galaxy be within reach? And what about other galaxies, which are plentiful as blades of grass in a meadow? I imagine we will expand the borders of righteous mankind's Christ-centered dominion, not as conquerors who seize what belongs to others, but as faithful stewards who will occupy and manage the full extent of God's physical creation."

If this really does happen, I'll be one of the first in line to travel around God's vast creation. But wouldn't traveling to these places take millions of years? Yes, but remember we will have forever to do so. There is also another way we may get there. Acts 8:39–40 tells us that the Holy Spirit actually teleported Philip from one location to another in a blink of the eye. Jesus also disappeared and appeared in other places (Luke 24:31). He also could move through doors (John 20:26). This teaches us that God can have us travel far distances without the need for automobiles or any other form of transportation, and move through solid objects. If he can do this, what other things will he do in Heaven? It boggles and excites the mind to think about such things.

Will the sun and moon exist?

The obvious answer is yes considering what we just discussed about outer space. However, many people think there will be no sun or moon because of the following verses: The sun will no more be your light by day, nor will the brightness of the moon shine on you, for the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory. Your sun will never set again, and your moon will wane no more; the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your sorrow will end. Then will your people be righteous and they will possess the land forever." (Isaiah 60:19–21)

“The city [the New Jerusalem] does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.” (Revelation 21:23)

“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” (Revelation 22:5).

There are, however, some problems with taking these verses too literally. First, notice that Isaiah 60:19–21 says that we will no longer need the light of the sun or moon, yet it then immediately says that the sun will never set or that the moon will never wane. The passage is not being literal. It is using light and darkness figuratively.

The same is for Revelation. The apostle John, who wrote Revelation, likes to use the imagery of light and darkness for good and evil. In John 1:5 he says, “The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood.” In verses 8–9 John says, “He himself [John the Baptist] was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light [Jesus] that gives light to every man was coming into the world.” Jesus calls himself the light of the world and says that “Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life” (John 8:12).

John 3:19–21 says, “Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what has been done has been done through God.” It is clear from the context of these passages that the light is righteousness through God.” It is clear from the context of these passages that the light is righteousness and anything associated with God while the darkness is sin and rebellion.

Revelation 22:5 also says that there will be no more night. “Some people believe this is figurative, speaking of the moral perfection of the New Earth. Darkness is associated with crime, evil done under cover of night. Darkness is synonymous with distressed travelers unable to find their way. Prostitution, drunkenness, and idol worship often happened

at night. In the modern era of electric lights, it’s difficult to understand the utter dread of traveling in the dark and the threat of being locked out of the city gates that would close at night to prevent robbers, bands of marauders, or enemy soldiers from invading a city. To be outside the city at night was to be exceedingly vulnerable. This will be no longer.”

Writer Andrew Kulikovsky notes, “the point of this vision is not to describe the lighting arrangements in the city but to emphasize that the city gates will always be open, and that God’s people will have unlimited access to His glorious presence. Indeed, God’s divine glory will be completely manifested because the new creation will contain no more ‘darkness’ or evil.”

To sum it up, the sun and moon will be a part of Heaven. The sun will never set or the moon wane permanently.



5.12 Will There Be Oceans

Will there be oceans?

Revelation 21:1 says, “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.” Does this literally mean there will be no oceans?[10] Or is it figurative like the issue with the sun and moon?

God created the oceans before sin tainted the world, so the seas were originally “very good.” Like everything else, they were placed under the curse when man fell into sin. But, as we have seen, all of creation is to be restored. So, why does Revelation say there will be no more sea?

Scholars have noted that in the book of Revelation, the “sea” often refers to other things besides literal bodies of water. For example, 1) the origin of cosmic evil; 2) the many pagan nations that persecute God’s people; 3) the location of the dead; 4) the primary place of idolatrous trading; or 5) a literal body of water.[11] It can mean different things depending on the context. Revelation 13:1, for example, tells us that the Antichrist arises out of the sea, and 17:15 says that the waters that the woman on the beast sits on “are peoples, multitudes, nations, and languages.” The Antichrist doesn’t literally arise out of the sea like Godzilla, and the woman does not literally sit in a puddle of water.

Will we get to visit the beach in Heaven? <http://webneel.com/wallpaper/sites/default/files/images/04-2013/20-beach-sea-photography.jpg>

Kulikovsky says it well:

“In other words, when the creation is restored, Satan will no longer be a threat, nor will pagan nations. Neither will there be any death, nor idolatrous trade activity. Note that this figurative use of ‘sea’ does not necessarily mean that there will be no physical seas in the new creation. Such an interpretation is a possibility given that the sea is often perilous and separates nation from nation, but the allusion to Isaiah 65 and the immediate context suggests that persecution from other nations is primarily in view. Therefore, to say that ‘the sea is no longer’ simply

means that the corrupt order of things and the power of evil have been removed from John’s sight.”[12]

Yes, there will be large bodies of water in Heaven. We will be able to go to the beach, swim in its waters, and even enjoy dolphins and other life that live within it (see below for more on animals).

Yes, there will be large bodies of water in Heaven. We will be able to go to the beach, swim in its waters, and even enjoy dolphins and other life that live within it (see below for more on animals).



5.13 Will Weather And Seasons Exist In Heaven?

Will there be weather and seasons?

In today's world, we often have to deal with floods, lightning strikes, tornadoes, hurricanes, blizzards, and other forms of weather that kill and destroy. However, will these kinds of phenomenon exist in Heaven? First, Scripture says that thunder, lightning, and snow show us God's greatness (Job 37:3-6). Genesis 8:22 says, "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."

This is clear evidence that weather, along with temperature, will exist in Heaven. Of course, no one will be harmed by them or be killed. But how could lightning and extreme heat and cold (along with other things) exist if no one can be harmed by them? Matthew 8:23-27 tell us that Jesus can control the weather, and Ezekiel 34:26-27 says that it is God who sends rain. God can have the weather do what he wants. This often leads to the question, "why does God allow so much destruction by weather today?" The answer is simple, although we do not like to hear it. It is because of sin. Because of sin and rebellion, God no longer fully sustains his world today. He allows death because of the evil ways of mankind. However, in Heaven, he will once again sustain his

creation so that nothing bad will ever happen.

Weather and seasons (see Genesis 8:22 above) will exist throughout eternity. We will get to experience the colors of autumn, the green of spring and summer,



and even winter (although most will have a hard time understanding the latter). I personally hate winter. But Scripture is clear that cold itself is not evil. God will redeem it as well.

5.14 Will Animals Exist?

What about animals?

This is admittedly one of my favorite topics – so much in fact, that I have already written an article on it. Let me briefly summarize it. First, God created animals to be a part of the original creation. Animals lived in Eden. Second, Romans 8:19-23 tells us that animals have been affected by the curse, and that they are waiting for the day when the world is restored. Third, there are passages that indicate that animals do, in fact, have souls (see my article linked above for the details). And fourth, God cares deeply for animals, and he holds us accountable for them (Exodus 20:9-10; Proverbs 12:10; Psalm 50:10-11).

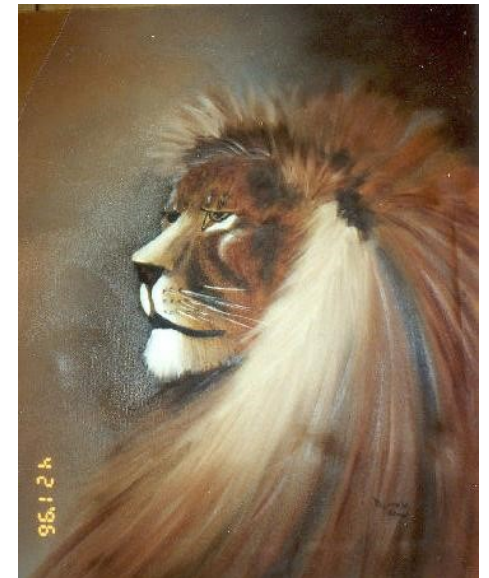
Animals will once again roam the earth in a perfect world like they were supposed to before the Fall. They were created with us and will live with us and be our companions for-

ever. This naturally leads to another question about animals. Will God resurrect extinct animals? The question is intriguing. Although Scripture never says “And God will bring back

T-Rex” (although that would be awesome) there is nothing inconsistent with the idea of God bringing back those animals that have ceased to exist on his creation. I guess we’ll have to wait and find out.

Conclusion

I don’t know about you, but I cannot wait for the New Heaven and New Earth. The fact that we will be able to experience animals, weather, the seasons, and the entire universe in a perfect world should get any Christian excited. It should also motivate us to share the Gospel with everyone we meet. In part 3, I will discuss what our daily lives will be like in Heaven.



6.0 What Will The New Heavens Be Like

3.4.1 Setting The Stage For Eternal Life With God

Time is marching rapidly to the conclusion of God's complete redemptive plan.

The era of grace in which we currently live will end with all believers being taken off the earth and into heaven just like Enoch was. This is known as the Rapture and is the next prophetic event on God's calendar.

The Rapture will be followed by seven years of horrible tribulation on this earth in which mankind will be punished for their rejection of God's Son, Jesus Christ.

During this seven years, the church age saints will be royally wedded to Jesus in heaven. The church age saints will also receive rewards for any and all Spirit-filled service done while on earth.

Then in the Battle of Armageddon at the end of the Tribulation God will vanquish His enemies, and the Anti-Christ and False Prophet will be cast into the Lake of Fire.

God will then restore the earth, though not to the extent of re-creation.

Man will enjoy a peace-filled thousand years on this remodeled earth.

At the end of this time, after the mortals have had perfect government by the perfect God-man in the most perfect surroundings imaginable, some will end up blowing it again at their first opportunity.

That opportunity will come when Satan is released from the Bottomless Pit to lead astray some of the mortals who were born during the Millennium years.

But God will promptly end the rebellion with a purge of fire and will exile Satan permanently to the Lake of Fire.

God will then call all of the unbelieving dead persons out of their graves to stand before His Great White Throne for their final sentencing to the Lake of Fire.

Eternity continues with God destroying the old earth and heavens and recreating the new heavens and the new earth. His crowning creation is the His beautiful, radiant new holy city, Jerusalem.



6.1 God's Holy City, Jerusalem Is A Really, Really Big Place

The last two chapters of the Bible, Revelation 21-22 tells us many splendid things of this wonderful place Jesus is preparing for us right now. It is called "The Holy City" as well as "that great city, the holy Jerusalem."

God's Holy City is a **HUGE** cube. The cities on earth today reside on a flat plane and stretching downward for some 18 stories going as deep as 275 feet. New York City, the largest city in the USA has a population of 8,622,000 people within 468.9 square miles.. Shanghai, China, the largest city in the world has a population of just under 25,000,000 people living within 2,250 square miles.

Some older Bible translations, like the KJV, state that the city measurement was in furlongs, or if you will, 12,000 furlongs per side. Current translations of the Bible tells us that His city would stretch 1,500 miles long per each side.

That would be like from Boston, MA, straight to nowhere middle Nebraska, than south to middle Mexico, East to Havana, Cuba and back north to Boston. And don't forget the height, width, and length of all four sides of this magnificent city is also 1,500 miles making a "cube out of the city's mass as it extends out beyond our atmosphere .

God's Holy City contains 2,250,000 square miles on each side of the

cube's surface alone, far surpassing anything man has conceived or entertained to build. God's city on the surface alone consists of 13,500,000 square surface miles. That's 6,000 times the size of Shanghai, China, the largest city in the world. The New Jerusalem could conceivably hold a population of 13,500,000,000. And we're only talking the six surfaces (North, South, East, West, Top and Bottom) of the cubed city.

Since God's city is a cube, the real volume would be 3,375,000,000 square miles or 1,500,000 times the size of Shanghai conceivably supporting a population of 37,500,000,000,000. That is 37 and a half trillion people. Can you even imagine such a city.

Each side of the city measured 12,000 Furlongs

1 Furlong = 201.1680 meters (220 yards)

Therefore there are 660 feet per Furlong

This yields 7,920,000 total feet side of the city.

Dividing the total feet by 5,280 feet/mile yields 1,500 miles per side of the city.

Typically, commercial aircrafts fly around at altitudes of 38,000—40,000 feet

taking about 10 minutes after liftoff to achieve this altitude. This altitude is between 5.6 and 7.6 miles. Any higher and the air is too thin to hold large commercial planes in the air. Any lower than that and the air is thicker and it becomes less fuel efficient to fly. Just to fly across this city would take 8-9 hours by commercial jet and 32-36 hours to fly around the entire city.. The good news is we probably won't have to worry about time zone changes.

Whenever heaven's location is referenced in the Bible, it's always up. So let's just accept that as the general basis for the orientation of God's City. The city extends upward as stories of a skyscraper. The average height of a "story" in the five largest NYC buildings is 17 feet. One particular building has an average story height of 22.5 feet. For our purposes we shall use 25 feet per story. This would make God's Holy City,

316,800 stories high. We certainly would need express elevators.

7,920,000 feet high wall / 25 feet per story = 316,820 stories potential stories.

Just how far "UP" are we at 1,500 miles above earth. Let's just consider the atmospheric layers that surrounds our planet.. The first layer ends about 7.5 miles up. This is essentially where commercial airliners fly and clouds form and is called the Troposphere. The next layer is the Stratosphere which extends up to 41 miles above earth. The Mesosphere or third atmospheric layer extends up to roughly 50 miles above earth while the Thermosphere extends roughly up to 435 miles above earth. The final layer, the Exosphere extends upwards to 117,800 miles above earth. I'm told this is where satellites orbit earth.

The moon is 238, 255 miles from Earth. Therefore God's city at a height of 1,500 miles extends a good 1,100 miles into the Exosphere. Can we even comprehend this?

How big of a population could New Jerusalem City support based on Shanghai's density. Only 37, 500,000,000.000 people (Nearly 38 trillion people. Probably more than has ever, is living, or will live.

There are currently seven billion people alive today and the US Population Reference Bureau estimates that about 107 billion people have al-

ready lived. This means that we are nowhere close to having more alive today than dead. In fact, 15 people have already lived their entire life spans for every person living right now.

Can Earth, as we know it, accommodate a city of this size?

Earth is almost spherical, so we need to calculate the planet's radius at the equator and at the polar caps. This will calculate the earth's volume (V) using the mathematical relationship $V = \frac{4}{3} \pi r^3$, where "r" is its radius.

God is ready for us. And the size is incredible.

Calculation of size of New Jerusalem

Each side of the city measured 1,500 miles

Square Miles = $L \times W$

$1,500 \times 1,500 = 2,250,000$ square Miles per side, bottom and top of the city

Volume of the Holy City. Square Miles Cube = $L \times W \times H$

$1,500 \times 1,500 \times 1,500 = 3,375,000,000$ square miles cubed

6.2 God Describes The Holy City of New Jerusalem.

The stage is set. God's entire redemptive plan has been completed and the final moment has arrived whereby God is establishing His Home on the re-created heavens and earth. The old heavens and earth have been destroyed and the replacements recreated. Believers have all been gathered to watch as God brings His lovely city of New Jerusalem from heaven down to earth.

The "Holy City, New Jerusalem," will come down out of Heaven from God. As the city descends to earth, it is so beautiful, that New Jerusalem is

compared to a young bride, given by the Father to the groom, Jesus Christ. Out of all saved, the Old Testament saints, Church age saints, Tribulation saints and Millennium saints, only the Church age saints have been described as the bride of Christ. Yet the New Jerusalem is the abode is for God Almighty, the Lamb and all believers.

The Holy City of God is a radiant, beautiful city prepared meticulously as a bride would be for her husband. This suggests several things to me. (1) A bride glows with love, happiness to finally being joined with her love forever. All of the anticipations of a bride's joyful life forever are

now unfolding.

- Read Revelation 21, 22:1-5.

A loud unidentified voice from the throne [of God in Heaven] is heard declaring that God is making His dwelling [home, living, and throne] among His people. God will now abide in New Jerusalem with His People.

God will wipe away all misery from His people. They will not be sad. No one will die anymore. No one will ever mourn again. There will be no

crying anymore. There will be no more disease, accidents, wars, or pain anymore. All of this is wonderful and almost unimaginable.

All unrepentant sinners will not inherit Heaven and will not have God dwelling with them. They will only have a future in the unending Lake of Fire and Brimstone. At this point, this has already happened.

Everything in Heaven and Earth and The Holy City, New Jerusalem shall be new as though what had previously existed had never existed. It will be as though sin had never existed. It will be pure paradise.

All saints will be able to freely drink from the water of life without cost. All who confess Jesus as Lord and believes in their heart Jesus was resurrected and paid the full price for sin and now sits at the right hand of God Almighty shall by God's grace be saved and will inherit life eternal with God forevermore.

Calculation of size of New Jerusalem

The equatorial radius of the Earth is 3,963.2 miles

Earth's polar radius is 3,949.9 miles.

Averaging these two numbers yields a mean radius of 3,958.7 miles, which in turn yields an approximate value for the volume of the Earth of 259 trillion cubic miles.

New Jerusalem will have a 3,375,000,000 cubic square miles. Therefore, Earth has ample room to accommodate God's Holy City. But don't forget, God will be also making a new Earth.

God wanted John to know who is the Bride of Christ. An Angel is sent to John to explain who is the Bride of Christ. This Angel takes John to a high mountain and they observe The Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of Heaven from God.

This set of verses have caused two critical lines of thinking among Bible scholars

1. The New Jerusalem is not a city, rather it is a description of the bride of Christ who will dwell on earth with God Almighty.
2. The New Jerusalem is God's Holy City in which God, The Lamb, The Bride of Christ and believers of all ages will abide for eternity ever more.

I tend to favor the second line of thought that New Jerusalem is a city in which the Bride of Christ will reside because:

Facts About New Jerusalem (Revelation 21 1-10)

1. The New Holy city of God comes out of heaven down to earth
2. God is making His Home with saved mankind and will live with them and fellowship with Him completing His will when He first created all things
3. God announces that Redemption is complete
4. God gives all believers water from the water of life without cost.
5. All Believers inherit life eternal with God.
6. God will be the Believers' God and His sons
7. An Angel is sent to John to explain who is the bride, the wife of the Lamb. And John was shown the holy city, New Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from

1. The descriptive language of the city is for a place, for a city.
2. The descriptive language is not personal, it is about beauty, not love.
3. The descriptive language calls New Jerusalem a city
4. The city includes God's throne and other physical items spoken about earlier in the Bible

5. Specific city measurements are provided typical to describe a physical place.
6. The descriptions of the foundations, the four walls, gates, trees, etc indicate a grander description than just Church Age saints.

The good news is it doesn't matter which chain of thought you subscribe. The description of bride and home are beautiful, defy our imagination, and is desirable and brings great comfort, and most of all is our inheritance as joint heirs with Christ Almighty.

Facts About New Jerusalem (Revelation 21 & 22:1-5)

1. The city is as brilliant as a crystal-clear jasper.
2. New Jerusalem has a huge wall 72 yards high (about 10 stories) made of Jasper surrounding each of the city's four 1,500 mile long walls.
3. There are 12 gates in the wall (3 gates per side of wall) named after the 12 tribes of Israel. Each Gate is a pearl.
4. Each gate has 12 angels.
5. The walls have 12 foundation stones inscribed with the 12 names of Jesus' apostles. Each foundation Stone was adorned with Jewels

#1	Jasper	#5	Sardonyx	#9	Topaz
#2	Sapphire	#6	Sardius	#10	Chrysoprase
#3	Chalcedony	#7	Chrysolite	11	Jacinth
#4	Emerald	#8	Beryl	#12	Amethyst

13. There are no temples, synagogues or churches in the city as God Almighty and Jesus Christ have made their abode in New Jerusalem.
14. The Glory of God and the lamp of Jesus provides all the light required in the city.
15. The city was pure gold like clear glass.
16. The Throne of God And The Lamb are in the city from which a river of the water of life flows.
17. The tree of life yields 12 kinds of fruit harvestable monthly. It's leaves are healing leaves which heal the nations.
18. God's saved (bond-servants) will minister to God
19. The curse of sin is totally eradicated.
20. The Lord God will illumine all saints; and they will reign forever and ever serving God Almighty.

7.0 The Next Prophetic Event Is The Rapture

I tell you a mystery

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. [14] For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. [15] For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. [16] For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. [17] Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. [18] Therefore comfort one another with these words.



3.36 Conclusion

Jesus promised that He left the earth to go and prepare a place for those who would eventually follow Him to heaven. On that point, the Bible is unmistakably clear. As Christians, we are right to find comfort in that promise. We can trust in the promise that God is preparing a special place for us in heaven. There are a number of other things we can look forward to when we enter heaven.

The minute we enter heaven, the struggle with sin will finally be over. We know that in the kingdom of heaven “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” (Revelation 21:27). This is only possible because of Jesus. We have no fear of being judged for our sin because it was already judged and taken away at the cross by Christ. We will have heavenly bodies, free from sin. We will no longer face the challenges and limitations we face on earth.

While we have a lot to look forward to when we enter heaven, it’s important that we recognize that not everyone will enter heaven. Jesus said, “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and cast out demons in Your name, and do many mighty works in Your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’” (Matthew 7: 21-23). We are taught in the Bible that in eternity many people will seek to enter heaven, but will be stopped and turned into hell instead. Most religious people die with an expectation of God letting them into heaven, but it doesn’t work that way. You have to enter into heaven God’s way, which is through Jesus Christ.

On the night before Jesus was crucified, He said, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, trust also in Me. In My Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. 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” (John 14:3). We can find great joy in this assurance. We can also assume that these tasks we will fulfill in heaven will be things we will be delighted in doing. There truly is no greater place that we have to look forward to.



8.0 Final Discussion Questions

1. What did God will or planned for you?

2. When should you seek God's will?

3. How Critical is understanding God's Will To You?

4. How can you know God's will for you right now.?

5. Can Anyone See God Through Your compliance to His will right now?

Not So Basic Christianity

Bible study guides includes all the lessons below. Ideal for personal growth and Bible Study groups.

God

- Lesson 1: The Purpose Of Life
- Lesson 2: God's Will For You
- Lesson 3: God Almighty
- Lesson 4: God Is Sovereign
- Lesson 5: God's Attributes
- Lesson 6: Eternity
- Lesson 7: God's Love

Creation

- Lesson 8: Heaven
- Lesson 9: Angels
- Lesson 10: Hell
- Lesson 11: Satan And Demons
- Lesson 12: Earth And Man

Foreknowledge, Election, Predestination

- Lesson 13: God's Foreknowledge
- Lesson 14: God's Election
- Lesson 15: Predestination

The Elect

- Lesson 16: Election Of Man
- Lesson 17: ELECTION Of Angels
- Lesson 18: Election Of Israel
- Lesson 19: Election Of Jesus

Restoration

- Lesson 20: The Fall Of Man
- Lesson 21: Salvation
- Lesson 22: Eternal Security
- Lesson 23: Order Of Salvation
- Lesson 24: Called Of God
- Lesson 25: Conversion
- Lesson 26: Regeneration
- Lesson 27: Righteousness
- Lesson 28: Justification
- Lesson 29: Glorification
- Lesson 30: Sanctification

Discipleship

- Lesson 31: The Great Commission
- Lesson 32: Spring Cleaning
- Lesson 33: Manna
- Lesson 34: Staying In The World
- Lesson 35: Witnessing
- Lesson 36: Ministering

Not So Basic Christianity

Bible study guides includes all the lessons below. Ideal for personal growth and Bible Study groups.

End Times

Lesson 37: The Rapture

Lesson 38: Prophecy

Lesson 39: The Great Tribulation

Lesson 40: Revelation—The Rest Of The Story

Lesson 41: Seven Seals, Two Interludes

Lesson 42: Seven Trumpets, Seven Interludes

Lesson 43: Seven Bowls and Seven More Interludes

Lesson 44: Antichrist, False Prophets, The Abomination That Causes Desolation, ,Armageddon

Lesson 45: Israel, Tribulation Saints

Lesson 46: Marriage

Lesson 47: Pre-Millennial &The Millennial Kingdom

Lesson 48: The Final War and Judgement

Lesson 49: New Heavens & New Earth

Lesson 50: Restored



In a lay-leader class at Medway Community Church of Medway, MA a few years ago, I was challenged to defend my faith and the doctrines I held dear. I found myself embarrassed as it was quickly apparent that I was ill equipped to either defend or explain my beliefs.

Less than two weeks passed and I was again challenged in a local Men's Bible study. To my discredit, I once again was unable to defend my beliefs.

I resolved to correct this deficiency and set out to thoroughly study the Scriptures and document my findings on salvation and Jesus' teachings in an organized fashion. My original objective was to put together a short "white paper" to define and support my position and beliefs on predestination. God wanted me instead, to become His disciple in a life long pursuit of truth. I quickly found myself asking more and more questions that compelled me to constantly research, study and document. My goals expanded broader and faster. This study required me to put aside all my biases, read God's word freshly and intently, discuss with scholars and read numerous documents on Christian doctrines. I lost track of time, so involved were my studies. It has now been over a decade since I first undertook the quest to write a simple white paper.

God has been especially gracious in guiding my study of His revealed word. This study has been a true joy. The more I studied, the more in awe of our Almighty God I became. I was compelled from within to continue worshipping, studying, fellowshiping, and serving Him.

Quick Notes About the Author

- Married, father of three children, four grandchildren and two great grandchildren.
- Saved in 1974 at FBC Church, San Jose, CA
- Tutored by lay leaders, ministers, authors, teachers, scientists and philosophers
- Currently member of FBC Bellingham, MA under the ministry of Pastor Rodrigues
- Challenged in 2 bible studies by my lack of understanding biblical doctrines. I resolved to correct this deficiency and committed myself to becoming a disciple of Christ
- These study guides summarize God's teachings and chronicles God's plan to restore Man for eternal fellowship with Him.

NOT SO BASIC CHRISTIANITY

A Series Of Seven Study Guides For Discipleship

God's desire to share Himself and fellowship with mankind sparked God to plan, elect and create all things. Man was created for eternal fellowship and love with God. God elected (planned and made choices) all things prior to speaking the Universe, and all life into existence. And His Creation was "Very Good."

God

Creation

Foreknowledge, Election, Predestination

The Elect

Restoration

Discipleship

End Times