

heaven

What Does the Bible Teach About Heaven?

I. The Bible Uses the word *Heaven* to Name Three Places

***Hebrew - *shamayim* (8064); Greek - *ouranos* (3772)**

A. The sky is often called *heaven*. Job 38:37

B. Outer space is often called *heaven*. Genesis 15:5

C. The central dwelling place of God is called *heaven*. Matt. 6:9

1. This central dwelling place of God is also called the third heaven or *paradise*. 2 Cor. 12:2-4

2. Jesus likens the "third" heaven to a large house with many subsidiary living quarters. John 14:2

3. Since Jesus' resurrection the soul/spirit of a believer goes here from the time of death to the final judgment. 2 Cor. 5:8

****Abraham's Bosom* is a name given to a place of comfort in *sheol/hades* where some scholars believe the soul/spirits of the righteous dead resided until Jesus freed them upon His Resurrection. (Luke 4:18; 1 Peter 3:18-20) Since the resurrection of Christ, the soul/spirits of believers go immediately into the presence of God in the current heaven. Phil. 1:21-23**

II. Who will reside in Heaven with the Triune God?

A. The angels who have been loyal to their Creator. Heb. 12:22; Rev. 5:11

B. The soul/spirits of humans that have believed in Jesus Christ during their lifetimes. Heb. 9:27, 2 Cor. 5:7-9; Acts 4:12

***The final destiny of believers is a unified *new heaven* and *new earth*. Rev. 21:1-2. By this time their soul/spirits will have been joined together with their resurrected bodies. 1 Cor. 15:35-40; 2 Cor. 5:1-9; 1 Thess. 4:13-18**

III. What is heaven like?

**A. It is the beautiful and glorious, eternal dwelling of God. Rev. 21:10-27
Rev. 22:5**

B. There will be no tears, no crying, no pain, no death, no mourning, no impurity, no shame, and no deceit. Rev. 21:4, 27

C. There will be no curse. Rev. 22:3

D. There will be no marriage. Matt. 22:30

E. There will be no night; but the glory of the Lord God Almighty and of the Lamb will supply the light. Rev. 22:5

F. Believers will enjoy the presence of the Creator and joyfully serve Him as He reigns forever. Rev. 21:3-7; Rev. 22:5

IV. Will there be a judgment of believers prior to occupation of the new heaven and new earth?

**A. Yes; there will be a judgment of the saved at what is often called the *judgment seat of Christ*. At this time each believer will be rewarded for his obedience to the Lord regarding *personal holiness* and *kingdom service*.
Matt 5:12; Matt. 25:31-46; 1 Cor. 3:11-15; 2 Cor. 5:10**

V. Will We Recognize People After Our Physical Deaths?

A. Yes. Jesus indicates that Dives recognized both Abraham and Lazarus. Luke 16:19-31

VI. Do We Have to Wait to Die to Enjoy the Benefits of Heaven?

A. Emphatically, no! Heaven, like hell, is a life dynamic force that can govern our thoughts, actions, emotions, relationships, etc. We choose whether we "will live like hell" or live like the citizens of heaven that we are destined to become. 1 Peter 2:11-12

***From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."* Matt. 4:17**