

The Truth About Eternity: Part II

Series: Future Ending

Selected Scriptures (NKJV)

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Top Ten Questions About Heaven

I. Is Heaven An Actual Place Or Simply A State of Mind?

*“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. **2** In My Father’s house are many mansions;[a] if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.[b] **3** And 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 where I go you know, and the way you know.” **5** Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?” **6** Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. **John 14:1-6***

9** Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. **10** And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, **11** who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.” **Acts 1:9-11

II. Where Do Christians Go When They Die?

*We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord. **2 Corinthians 5:8***

10** But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.[a] **2 Peter 3:10

*Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. **Revelation 21:1***

III. Are You Implying Then That When People Die They Go To A Kind of Purgatory Until The End of Time?

*And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. **Luke 16:23***

What we do know for certain is this: when unbelievers die, they immediately begin to suffer; when Christians die, they are immediately transported into God's presence.

IV. What Is The Difference Between The Millennial Kingdom And The New Heaven And New Earth Described In Revelation 21-22?

But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. 2 Peter 3:7

Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. 2 Then I, John, [a] saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. Revelation 21:1-2

2 In My Father's house are many mansions; [a] if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. John 14:2

The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs. Its length, breadth, and height are equal. Revelation 21:16

V. What Kind of Bodies Will We Have In Heaven? Will We Know One Another In Heaven?

35 But someone will say, "How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?" 36 Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies. 37 And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain—perhaps wheat or some other grain. 38 But God gives it a body as He pleases, and to each seed its own body. 1 Corinthians 15: 35-38

And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. Colossians 1:18

VI. What Age Will We Be In Heaven?

VII. Will There be Animals In Heaven?

11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. Revelation 19:11

14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, [b] followed Him on white horses. Revelation 19:14

6

*"The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb,
The leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
The calf and the young lion and the fatling together;
And a little child shall lead them.*

7

*The cow and the bear shall graze;
 Their young ones shall lie down together;
 And the lion shall eat straw like the ox.*

8

*The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole,
 And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den.*

9

*They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain,
 For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord
 As the waters cover the sea. **Isaiah 11:6-9***

*19 For what happens to the sons of men also happens to animals; one thing befalls them: as one dies, so dies the other. Surely, they all have one breath; man has no advantage over animals, for all is vanity. 20 All go to one place: all are from the dust, and all return to dust. 21 Who knows the spirit of the sons of men, which goes upward, and the spirit of the animal, which goes down to the earth? [a] **Ecclesiastes 3:19-21***

VIII. Will There Be Marriage In Heaven?

*34 Jesus answered and said to them, "The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage. 35 But those who are counted worthy to attain that age, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage; 36 nor can they die anymore, for they are equal to the angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection. **Luke 20:34-36***

IX. What Will We Do In Heaven?

14 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. 15 And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. 16 Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. 17 And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. 18 But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money. 19 After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.

20 "So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' 21 His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' 22 He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' 23 His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

24 "Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.'

26 "But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. 27 So you ought to have

deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. 28 Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. 29 'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. 30 And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' **Matthew 25:14-30**

X. Are Christians In Heaven Aware of What Is Happening On The Earth?

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us. **Hebrews 12:1**

19 "There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. 20 But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, 21 desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell[a] from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. 22 So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. 23 And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. 24 "Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.' 25 But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. 26 And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.' 27 "Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, 28 for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.' 29 Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' 30 And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' 31 But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'" **Luke 16:19-31**

And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" **Revelation 6:10**

For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. **1 Corinthians 13:12**

4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." **Revelation 21:4**

Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? **2 Peter 3:11-12**

“Hope is one of the Theological virtues. This means that a continual looking forward to the eternal world is not a form of escapism or wishful thinking, but one of the things a Christian is meant to do. It does not mean that we are to leave the present world as it is. If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this. Aim at Heaven and you will get earth ‘thrown in’: aim at earth and you will get neither.”

C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity (1952)