

# What The Bible Says About

## Heaven Our Hope

(Heaven Part 3)



Living Together In The Love Of God

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When I was a young boy sitting unsaved in a pew among the Church the messages on Heaven meant absolutely nothing to me. The preacher bored me with thoughts of "eternity". I wanted to be outside playing ball, riding my bicycle, and playing with my friends. The thought of having to sit forever listening to a boring preacher was not heavenly but - to be honest - quite hellish. Add to this the different things I had been taught about the "Lord's Day" or Sunday:

**You're not allowed to play ball of any type on Sunday**  
**You certainly can't play cards**  
**You need to wear a suit to Church - including tight shoes**  
**You couldn't act at Church like you did at home**  
**The music was *nothing* like I was used to hearing and singing**

To me, Heaven sounded like a boring place, and God was too somber for me. It was not until I met the Lord Jesus Christ and received Him into my life did I realize ...

Heaven is not so much a PLACE as it is a PERSON.

**Illustrate** How do I illustrate this? As a retired military man I have traveled and lived in several countries and in many of our United States. When I was stationed in Kunsan Korea for fourteen months I was well fed, well housed, and if not well paid I was paid. I can say the

same thing of my three year tour in Alconberry, England. Yet Kunsan Korea was *never home* to me, though Alconberry England was. What was the difference? The economies were different, the languages different, the locations were different, the foods were different. Yet none of these things mattered. What mattered was this: **I wasn't allowed to take my wife Sherry to Korea with me, but she accompanied me to England.** Home has always been where my wife is.

The old saying "**Home is where your heart is**" is so true. What will make Heaven our home is *not* its economy, language, location, or food. **What makes Heaven our home is our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.**

**I**  **JESUS**

As John the Revelator looked into Heaven, what he saw first was ...

**Focal Revelation 22:1** <sup>KJV</sup> **And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.**

In ancient times **water** was not as plentiful as it is today. It was a sign of civilization that the large cities of Rome had man made **artesian wells** that dispersed water to the inhabitants. Most cities were not so fortunate. There was usually only one well per city or town, and the women had to walk miles to that water source several times a day to keep water in their households. When our Lord



Jesus Christ met the **woman of Samaria** at a well and told her:

**John 4:10-14** <sup>(HCSB)</sup>

**“If you knew the gift of God, and who is saying to you, ‘Give Me a**

**drink,’ you would ask Him, and He would give you living water.” ... “Everyone who drinks from this water will get thirsty again. 14 But whoever drinks from the water that I will give him will never get thirsty again — ever! In fact, the water I will give him will become a well of water springing up within him for eternal life.”**

This fascinated the woman. She begged Jesus, "Give me this water", because she was tired of carry water every day!

Jesus Christ is the Source of Living Water, the Source of Eternal Life.

That's what John saw first. "**A pure river of the water of life, clear as crystal**". The water was clean, clear, pure. There was no sediment in it. Where did it come from? "**Out of the Throne of God and of the Lamb**". This is a reference to the Lord Jesus Christ. He is both God as well as Man, Eternal Creator and Perfect Created. He is, as John the Baptist said:

**John 1:29** <sup>(KJV)</sup> ... **Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.**

Jesus Christ is **the Word Who was in the beginning with God (John 1:1) and was God.** Jesus Christ is the **God Who became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14).** He came to make payment for our sins.

The first thing John saw in Heaven is the first thing anyone will see. Jesus Christ is the center of Heaven. Those who love Jesus are the ones who go to Heaven. He is the **door of the sheep and Heaven's gate ...**

**John 10:7-9** <sup>(KJV)</sup> {Jesus said} **Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. 9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.**

**How do you get into Heaven?** Only through Jesus Christ. He is the Door. Just as you reach out and engage the door to get into this building, you reach out and engage Jesus to get into Heaven. You surrender to Him to get to Heaven.

**1** **The Throne emphasizes the singular Lordship of Christ.** Please notice that there is only ONE Throne as you enter into Heaven. On this earth there are different methods of governing within nations. There are **monarchies** where Kings rule the people. There are **oligarchies** or Republics where people elect representatives who establish the law. There are

**dictatorships** that follow either Socialist or Communist models.

In Heaven the Lord Jesus Christ reigns. This is called a Theocracy.



It is true that God's children by faith in Jesus will **rule and reign with Him**

**2 Timothy 2:11-12** <sup>(KJV)</sup> [It is] a faithful saying: For if we be dead with [him], we shall also live with [him]: **12 If we suffer, we shall also reign with [him]: if we deny [him], he also will deny us:**

However we must remember that the Lord Jesus Christ is **King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Revelation 17:14).** Heaven is not a majority rule democracy, nor a Republic like the United States. Those who go to Heaven understand that the Lord Jesus Christ IS Lord. **Christ is Lord of Heaven. He is Lord of the Church. He is Lord of His people.** Jesus Christ demands that His followers love Him above all else. He said:

**Luke 14:26-27** <sup>(KJV)</sup> **If any [man] come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. 27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.**

Christ is Lord in the lives of His people. Salvation is a

free gift given to those who freely give themselves to Christ. It is, as the Reformer Martin Luther once said, "A **sweet swap**". We give our lives to Him, for He gave His life for us. Martin Luther also said "**faith alone justifies, but not the faith that is alone. Works are not taken into consideration when the question respects justification. But true faith will no more fail to produce them than the sun can cease to give light.**"

**2** As all are under the rule of Christ, there is a **singular unity in Heaven**. The Scripture says:



**Focal** Revelation 22:2 <sup>(KJV)</sup> In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, [was there] the tree of life, which bare twelve [manner of] fruits, [and] yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree [were] for the healing of the nations.

The unity of Heaven is seen in that there is only *one street* that runs through it, and *one Tree of Life* that provides healing and perpetual life for all. We don't really know much about the Tree of Life. We do know that it was in the Garden of Eden, and that Adam and Eve were able to eat from it if they desired. When Adam ate of the **Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil** the Lord said:

Genesis 3:22-24 <sup>(KJV)</sup> ... Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and

eat, and live for ever: 23 Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. 24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

**3** Everyone in Heaven has an **OVERCOMING** faith.

Those who are *genuinely saved by faith in Christ* have a faith that lasts through all the trials of life. The Lord has said to these overcomers:

Revelation 2:7 <sup>(KJV)</sup> He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

that they may "**eat of the tree of life**". Is this a literal tree or a figurative tree? I don't really know. I do know that the saved, however, have access to this Tree, which is watered from the Throne of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible says that only the **overcomers** shall enjoy the life that comes from this Tree. The Apostle John warned the Church:

1 John 2:18-19 <sup>KJV</sup> Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. 19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would [no doubt] have continued with us: but [they went out], that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

that **antichrists** would invade the Church. These are people who, like THE Antichrist of the Tribulation period, *pretend to be saved but are not*. They profess but do not possess salvation. They are antichrist in love and antichrist in works.

**4** Though there are "nations" or varied races of people in Heaven, there is no disharmony. The Scripture says:



**Focal Revelation 22:2** (KJV) .... the leaves of the tree [were] for the healing of the nations.

The tree bears fruit perpetually, but it is **the leaves of the tree that heals the nations**. Man tried to build a Tower to Heaven called Babel, and ended up being cursed by God and divided by language. But because

Jesus Christ ...

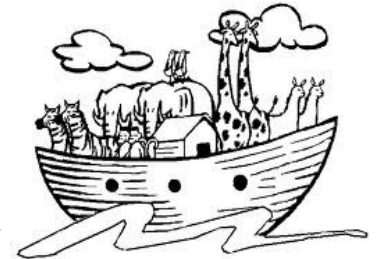
**1 Peter 2:24** KJV .. His own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

suffered and died on the tree of the Cross, we are made righteous and whole, unified forever in Heaven.

**5** There will be no curse of sin or death. We all will serve the Lord Jesus Christ. We read:

**Focal Revelation 22:3** KJV And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:

We will all be working toward the same goal, serving the same risen Savior. It amazes me that so many professing Christians are willing to pervert the Gospel and say that there are *many ways unto God*. That's foolish! When



The story of Noah and his ark is in Genesis 9:29 - 10:32

God was going to destroy the earth by water He had **Noah build an Ark and set one door in it (Genesis 6:16)**. Those who did not go through that one door and enter the Ark drowned when God turned the rain loose! When **God came to Pharaoh through His Prophet Moses He warned:**



**Exodus 12:13** HCSB The blood on the houses where you are staying will be a distinguishing mark for you; when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No plague will be among you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

How was it that the Death Angel passed over a house? **Only one way, when He saw the Blood!** There was only one solution to death then, and there is only one solution to *spiritual death* now ... the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Bible very clearly states:

**Romans 10:9-13** <sup>HCSB</sup> **If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 One believes with the heart, resulting in righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, resulting in salvation. 11 Now the Scripture says, Everyone who believes on Him will not be put to shame, 12 for there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, since the same Lord of all is rich to all who call on Him. 13 For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.**



He is Lord! He is God's only Way to Heaven. When we get

to Heaven, all of eternity will be spent in serving the Lord Jesus Christ.

You will not be serving Buddha nor some Hindu god, a Mormon god, Baal, Baalim, Zeus, Jupiter, or Allah. The one that you will be serving forever is the one Who got you into Heaven, the Lord Jesus Christ!

That is why Jesus very clearly stated:

**John 14:6** <sup>KJV</sup> **... I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. d In Heaven we are face to face with the Lord Jesus Christ, and we know Him.**

Someone once said to me, "Well, they are sincere in

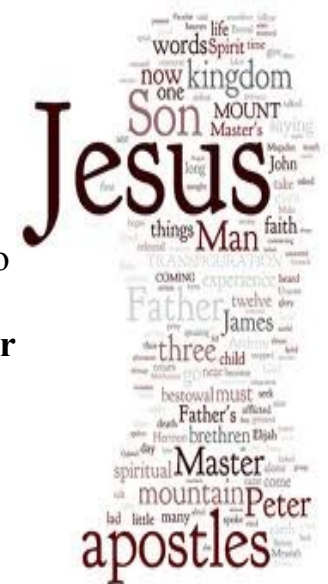
what they believe. Doesn't that count for anything?" Let me ask you, **Does it matter if a sincere pharmacist puts the wrong pills in a bottle? Does it matter if a surgeon sincerely believed he removed a kidney when in fact he removed the liver? Does it matter if a woman eats a poisonous mushroom, even though she thought it would be quite nourishing?** Sincerity is no test of truth. What is true is what Jesus has said.

**6** In Heaven we shall see the Lord face to face, and we shall know Him as He is. The Scripture says:

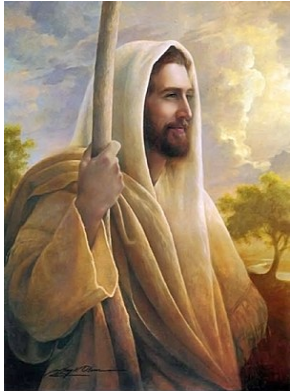
**Focal** **Revelation 22:4** <sup>KJV</sup> **And they shall see His face; and His name [shall be] in their foreheads.**

In Heaven we will see Jesus face to face, we will never be without His presence. **His name shall be in our foreheads**, that is, He will always be in our minds. The Apostle Paul, headed toward a Roman execution for professing Christ as Lord, said with all confidence:

**2 Corinthians 5:6-8** <sup>KJV</sup> **Therefore [we are] always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: 7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) 8 We are confident, [I say], and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.**



that to be **absent from the body was to be present (literally, "face to face") with the Lord**. When we die our souls leave this present body and go to be with Jesus.



Light of the world by Greg Olsen

At the **Transfiguration of Jesus both Moses and Elijah stood on the mountaintop with our Lord (Matthew 17:1-8)**. Moses had died and been buried by God many years before (**Deuteronomy 34:5**), and Elijah *never died*, but was taken up to Heaven by a chariot of fire (**2 Kings 2:1-18**). Yet both stood face to face on that mountaintop with Jesus in all His glory. Jesus told the

**thief who died next to Him, "Today you shall be with Me in Paradise" (Luke 23:43)**. In Heaven we shall look on that glorious Savior, and see Him as He is.

**1 John 3:1-3** <sup>KJV</sup> Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. **2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.** **3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.**

**7** In Heaven there is no darkness, but just one endless day. We are told:

**Focal** Revelation 22:5 <sup>KJV</sup> And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the

**sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.**

We who love the Lord shall abide in **light forever**. In the Old Testament when God dwelt among His people in the Temple His **Shekinah** lit up the Temple. The word "**shekinah**" means "**glory**". God's glory lit the place where He was. In Heaven there will be no sun nor moon, but the "**glory of God**" will light up that wondrous place. But physical light will not be the only light in Heaven. The **Light of Blessing** will be on all the inhabitants of Heaven. The Blessing that Aaron was supposed to give to Israel was:



**Numbers 6:24-26** <sup>KJV</sup> The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: **25 The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: 26 The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.**

In Heaven God's **face shall shone upon us forever**. We shall be blessed - forever!

**8** Heaven is a place where the *finished work of Grace* is shown to all. So many people think that there will be a *second chance* of salvation if you miss Christ in this life. The Bible says:

**Focal** Revelation 22:11 <sup>KJV</sup> He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous

**still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.**

God gives us time to be saved while we are on this earth. Once we leave this earth our eternal state is fixed. **"He which is filthy, let him be filthy still, he that is righteous, let him be righteous still."** This is why the Bible says:

**2 Corinthians 6:2 <sup>KJV</sup> ... behold, now [is] the accepted time; behold, now [is] the day of salvation.)**

What we do NOW matters for all eternity. Jesus said:

**Matthew 16:24-26 <sup>KJV</sup> ... If any [man] will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. 25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. 26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?**



When we give ourselves to Jesus we gain far more than we lose. We gain eternal life, and the promise of that blessed hope called Heaven. The Lord will not forsake those who are His. He

has never lost one son to Satan. **Don't gamble with your souls.** Give yourselves to the Lord Jesus Christ, come unto Him by faith, and you shall be forever saved!

