

What The Bible Says About Heaven & It's Inhabitants



Good Hope
Baptist Church

Living Together In The Love Of God

4038 Graham Sherron Rd
Wake Forest, NC 27587

Pastor David Buffaloe
Home 919-562-9456 Cell 919-600-4925
online at bibleteacher.org

What is Heaven, and who shall be its inhabitants?

According to the world, and to most people asked, nearly everyone goes to Heaven. When **Michael Jackson** died political cartoonists drew him in Heaven. When commercial spokesman **Billy Mays** died he was shown in caricature walking through Heaven's Gates. In 2010 **Art Linkletter**, **Barbara Billingsley** of "Leave It To Beaver" fame, movie star **Dennis Hopper**, "Designing Women" **Dixie Carter**, **Fess Parker** of "Daniel Boone", **J.D. Salinger** the writer of "Catcher in the Rye", **James MacArthur** who was the one McGarrette said "Book em. Dano" on Hawaii 5 0, owner of the New York Yankees **George Steinbrenner**, little **Gary Coleman** from "Different Strokes" who loved to say "Whatcha talkin bout, Willis?", Jazz singer **Lena Horne**, **Merlin Olsen** who played "Father Murphy" on television, **Pernell Roberts** who played "Trapper John" on MASH, Golden Girl **Rue McClanahan**, actor **Tony Curtis**, **Tom Bosley** from "Happy Days", novelist **Robert B. Parker**, and **Robert Culp** from "I Spy" fame. Even the indestructible **Peter Graves** from "Mission Impossible" found it impossible to escape the promise of God:

Hebrews 9:27 .. And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

Did all these celebrities (and there hundreds of others I found who passed away that I did not know, therefore I did not list) go to Heaven? According to the world - yes they did. In fact, the world believes that the only ones who go to Hell are people like **Adolf Hitler**, **Joseph**

Stalin, Charles Manson, and the person that made you mad. Hell is reserved for "Bad People" or "Unpopular People", but all others go to Heaven.

Illustrate An older couple, having been married 50 years, died in a car crash. When they reached the pearly gates, St. Peter took them to their mansion, which was decked out with a beautiful kitchen and master bath suite and Jacuzzi. As they "oohed and aaahed" the old man asked Peter how much all this was going to cost. "It's free," Peter replied, "this is Heaven." Next they were shown the championship golf course that was in their back yard. The old man asked, "What are the green fees?" Peter's reply, "This is heaven, you play for free." Next they went to the clubhouse and saw the lavish lunch laid out. "How much to eat?" asked the old man. "Don't you understand yet? This is heaven, it is free!" Peter replied. The old man looked at his wife and said, "You and your bran muffins. I could have been here ten years ago!"

Heaven is where everyone goes - or is it? A moment ago I quoted **Hebrews 9:27**, but neglected to quote the whole context. We read:

Hebrews 9:27-28 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: **28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.**

Death is certain - and God's Judgment is certain to follow. This is why the words "So Christ" is so

important.

If you want to go to Heaven, "So Christ" is so important. He is the Key that takes us into God's Heaven. It is Jesus Christ Who was once offered to bear the sins of the many.



Christ was "once offered". No other key will fit the Gate of Heaven, though all man made keys will get you into Hell.

Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Who shall be in Heaven? Those who have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus illustrated saving faith in Him in Matthew 25 using three different parables: **The Parable of the Ten Virgins (Matthew 25:1-13)**, **the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30)**, and **the Parable of the King (Matthew 25:31-46)**. In all three Parables you see two groups that look similar. In the Parable of Ten Virgins you see two sets of Virgins, one prepared and one unprepared. The prepared Virgins are allowed into the Wedding Feast, whereas the unprepared are *locked out*:

Matthew 25:11-12 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, **Lord, Lord, open to us.** **12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.**



Why? Because the Lord said **"I know you not"**. They *looked* like the Wedding Party, but were not - for did not *know* the Lord. In the **Parable of the Talents** the Master went to a far country, and left three servants in charge of His estate. Two of the servants did

well, and were rewarded for it, and were told **"enter thou into the joy of thy Lord"** (vvs 21, 23). But for the one **unprofitable servant** who did not serve the Master, Jesus said:

Matthew 25:30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Three *looked like servants*, but only two were. One was cast out because he did not *serve* the Lord. Then we have the third sermon, the **Parable of the King**. The Lord Jesus preached about *sheep and goats*, creatures that are very similar - cousins really - in the animal kingdom. Jesus said:

Matthew 25:33-34, 41, 46 And He shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. 34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:.... 41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: 46 And these

shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

What are the Marks of the True Christian? _____

Why was one group determined to be "goats" whereas the other was "sheep"? Because the sheep - those truly saved by faith in Jesus Christ - *practiced love*. Jesus said:

Matthew 25:35-40 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: 36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. 37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? 38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? 39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? 40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

Christians are saved by faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ. But those who are saved are *changed* on the inside so that it shows on the outside. Like the **five wise Virgins** a Christian is prepared for the coming of the Lord. Like the **two diligent Servants** a Christian works to expand the Kingdom of his Lord. Like the **Sheep** Heaven is a place of love, where those who practice the Love of God and Love of Man go.

The True Christian is **prepared**, and focused on **serving the Lord by expanding His Kingdom**. The True Christian **loves** both the Lord Who saved him as well as all others God created. The True Christian **does love**.

Heaven Is Where The Son Of God & The Sons of God Live Forever

If you have believed on Jesus Christ then you are born again by the Spirit of God. If you are born again by the Spirit of God then you are **adopted sons of God**:

1 John 3:1-3 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.

The Bible actually talks about *three Heavens*. The Apostle Paul spoke of:

2 Corinthians 12:2 a man in Christ {who was} caught up to the **third heaven**.

What are the Three Heavens? _____



The **first Heaven** is the sky above us, a place where birds fly. It includes the atmosphere of our planet. The **second Heaven** is the night sky, a vast and seemingly limitless space that is around our tiny planet. The Psalmist said:

Psalms 8:3-4 When I consider thy heavens {O God}, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; **4** What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

The **Third Heaven** is the place where the Son of God, Jesus Christ our Lord, lives. Jesus stands before the Throne of our Heavenly Father, representing us who have believed in Him:

Hebrews 9:24 For **Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:**

The **Prophet Nehemiah** called the Third Heaven:

Nehemiah 9:6 Thou, even thou, art **LORD** alone; thou hast made heaven, the **heaven of heavens** ...

The Heaven of Heavens. The **King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Revelation 19:16)** sits enthroned in the Heaven of Heavens, and is the Advocate of every believer! (**1 John 2:1**)

Heaven is a real place that real Christians go to. Jesus Christ said:

John 14:2-3 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

Having believed on and been saved by Jesus it is only natural (or supernatural) that we *be with Jesus*. We belong to His family - we are His family! Jesus is preparing a place for His prepared people. **Heaven is where Jesus is**. The Bible tells us that **the Father gave us to the Son** (see **John 17:24**). We are **bought with a price** (**1 Corinthians 6:20; 7:23**), purchased with the shed Blood of Christ. Heaven is where the Lover of our Souls is and where we will be one day.

Where is Heaven? Heaven is where _____ is!

Illustrate Fanny Crosby (March 24, 1820 – February 12, 1915) was a dear Christian lady. A lifelong Methodist, she wrote over 8,000 Christian hymns during her lifetime, though she was born blind. We have many of her songs in our Baptist Hymnal, favorites like "**Blessed Assurance**", "**Jesus Is Tenderly Calling You Home**", "**Praise Him, Praise Him**", and "**To God Be the Glory**". Someone once told Fanny that they were sorry she was born blind. Sister Crosby replied that she was *glad* that she was born blind. Shocked, the visitor asked

why. She replied that she was thankful to be born blind, because when she got to Heaven *the first Person she would ever see would be the Lord Jesus Christ Who died for her*.



When a Christian leaves this life and this old body the Scripture says that **we go to be with Jesus**.

2 Corinthians 5:8 Yes, we are fully confident, and we would rather be away from these earthly bodies, for then we will be at home with the Lord. (NLT)

Philippians 1:22-23 But if I live, I can do more fruitful work for Christ. So I really don't know which is better. I'm torn between two desires: **I long to go and be with Christ, which would be far better for me.** (NLT)

The Bible does not teach that the soul sleeps in the grave until the resurrection. It teaches that - upon death in this life - the soul of the believer goes to be with Jesus Christ, while his body sleeps in the grave. When **John the Revelator** was allowed to look into Heaven the Bible says that he saw:

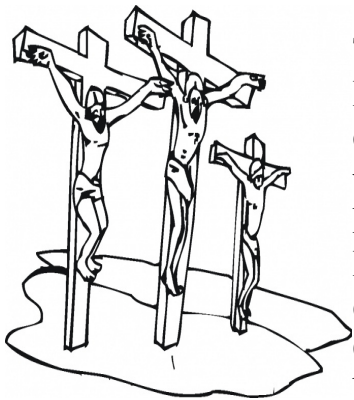
Revelation 6:9-11 ... under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the

testimony which they held: **10** And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? **11** And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season,

How quickly do we go to Heaven after we leave this life? _____
How long shall we be in Heaven? _____

How quickly do we go to Heaven when we leave this life? In **Luke 16** our Lord Jesus preached a sermon on **Lazarus and a Certain Rich Man**. In that sermon Jesus said:

Luke 16:22-23 ... it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; **23** And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, ...



There was no delay. When Lazarus died the angels of God carried his soul to Heaven, whereas the Rich Man found himself immediately in hell. In **Luke 23** two thieves die, one on either side of the Lord Jesus Christ. The thief on the right was believing, and said to Jesus

"Lord, remember me when you come into Your Kingdom" (**Luke 23:42**). Jesus told that thief:

Luke 23:43 ... To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

How long shall we be in Heaven? When we leave this life, the Psalmist said:

Psalms 23:6 ... I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

What Will Heaven Be Like?

What makes Heaven *heavenly*? _____

Heaven is Heaven because of Who is there and What is *not* there. God is in Heaven, and every believer who leaves this life is in Heaven with the Lord.

Revelation 21:4 .. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

What are the things that are missing from Heaven?

There are no more tears. There is no separation in Heaven. In this life we are separated from loved ones because of illness and death. But in Heaven **there is no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying.** Listen Beloved: there will be no hospitals, cemeteries, funeral homes, drug stores, jails, armies, or anything that brings pain

and suffering. Living with God and as sons of God we shall be immortal and unharnessed by time. There will be **no creaking joints, fluttering hearts, or indigestion.** God will be with His people.

Revelation 21:6-7 ... It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. 7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

The True Christian endures - it is **he that overcometh.** He shall be a son of God, and will live with God forever. What of the world? God says:

Revelation 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.



Life goes to life, and death to death. Those who are born again by faith in Christ, Light and Life because of Him, shall be with Him forever. Those who walk in darkness, without life and loveless, shall not be with the Living God, but shall be in eternal damnation. God says:

Revelation 21:27 .. And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life shall be with King Jesus forever! John goes on to say:

Revelation 22:1-5 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. 2 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. 3 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: 4 And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. 5 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.

As we close, I want you to see some key truths about Heaven. **He showed me A pure river of water of life.** There is ONE River of Life in Heaven. It was **proceeding out of the Throne of God and of the Lamb.** There is ONE Throne in Heaven. **In the midst of the street** of it. There is ONE Street in Heaven. Growing across that street **was there the tree of life.** There is ONE Tree of Life. Do you see a common thread here?

In Heaven, ONE is key. One River, One Throne, One Street, One Tree - and the people are all One following One God! What is in Heaven God expects in His Church on the earth.

The curse of sin is gone in Heaven. What will we do in Heaven? The Bible says **"his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads"**. We will see God our Savior and we will serve God our Savior forever and ever. What shall we be doing? We will do what sons of the King do, **"and they shall reign for ever and ever"**. That text leads me to believe that God shall create other worlds, and we shall reign with Him over these worlds. The Bible says:

2 Timothy 2:11-12 ... 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:

Those who are truly born again are sons of God by faith in Christ Jesus. We shall reign with and under the leadership of our Precious Lord Jesus. We can only speculate about the glory that awaits us. I believe we will all be like the Queen of Sheba was when she heard of Solomon's wisdom, and then came to visit. She said:

1 Kings 10:7 ... I believed not the words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it: and, behold, the half was not told me ...

Believer, **the half has not been told**. The glory that waits you and I is beyond description - blessed be the Name of Jesus!

