

Heaven and the Afterlife
Lesson 6 – What Will Heaven be Like?

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Introduction: What can we know about heaven?

- A. We live in an age where men challenge past beliefs as “traditional.”
 - 1. There is nothing wrong with challenging any widely accepted doctrine.
 - 2. When we speak of the hope of heaven we are commanded to have good reasons for our beliefs in that! **(1 Pt 3:15; 1 Pt 1:3-5)**
 - 3. There is a real danger when men seek different beliefs to draw away disciples to create a schism.
- B. How can we know anything about heaven?
 - 1. Without the testimony of Jesus through His apostles and prophets we would know nothing. **(Jn 3:11-13)**
 - 2. We also know that the descriptions we have are very limited.
(1 Cor 2:9-10)

I. What is heaven?

- A. οὐρανός, οὐ, ὁ heaven, as a part of the universe (MT 5.18), opposite γῆ (*earth*); (1) as the atmosphere directly above the earth *sky, air, firmament* (MT 6.26; LU 17.24); (2) as the starry heaven *firmament, sky* (MT 24.29a); (3) as the dwelling place of God (MT 5.16), the angels (MT 22.30), and the righteous dead (2C 5.1, 2) *heaven... Freiberg Lexicon*
- B. Heaven is the present abode of God, Jesus Christ and the angels.
 - 1. God is in heaven. **(2 Chron 36:23; Rev 4:1-3)**
 - 2. Angels are in heaven. **(Mt 18:10; 22:30; 24:36)**
 - 3. God’s glory and Jesus Christ is in heaven. **(Acts 7:55-56)**

II. Is our final abode to be in heaven?

- A. It is the place of our inheritance. **(Acts 20:32; 1 Pt 1:3-5)**
κληρονομία, ας, ἡ (1) literally, what is received as a gift from someone who has died *portion, inheritance, patrimony* (LU 12.13); figuratively, in a religious sense, as God's promised salvation, gifts, and benefits *inheritance, (eternal) possession* (AC 20.32); (2) the land of Canaan as the object of God's promise *possession, inheritance* (AC 7.5);
 - 1. The future kingdom of God something that we inherit. Our present bodies cannot enter that kingdom! **(1 Cor 15:50-51)**
 - 2. The future reward for those who suffer in this life is kept in heaven.
(Mt 5:12; Lk 6:22-23)
- B. We will sit down with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. **(Mt 8:11-12)**
 - 1. The response of those who thought they would enter will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
 - 2. This casting out occurs at judgment day with the right to appeal to Jesus Himself. **(Mt 7:21-23)**

- C. The Holy Spirit is given now as a down payment of what we will experience in heaven. **(2 Cor 5:1-5)**
 - 1. Do you have the fruit of the Spirit?
 - 2. Do you have today a taste of heaven?
 - 3. We see again that our bodies must be changed.
- D. Our citizenship is in heaven. **(Phil 3:20-21)**
 - 1. We are strangers and pilgrims on this earth. We look for the city of God that is not made with hands! **(Heb 11:15-16; Lk 16:9)**
 - 2. Can we not plainly see that our final abode is not on this earth?
 - 3. Some are teaching that our efforts now to make this earth a better place to live is Gods purpose for His people.
- E. Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people. **(Jn 14:1-3)**
 - 1. Not just anyone can enter. **(Rev 21:8, 27)**
 - 2. You must have your name found in the book of life!
 - 3. Our hope is laid up in heaven! **(Col 1:5)**

III. What will heaven be like?

- A. We will be in the presence of God and Jesus Christ. **(1 Pt 1:7-9)**
 - 1. The ultimate joy is found in being with the one we love and the one who loves us.
 - 2. We will receive glory, honor and praise from God!
- B. Heaven is likened unto a marriage feast. **(Mt 22:1-14; 25:10; Eph 5:26-27)**
 - 1. Again, the joy is found in being with the Lord.
 - 2. Do you try to imagine what that day will be like? **(Rev 21:2)**
- C. Heaven is a place where there is no night. **(Rev 21:25; 22:5)**
 - 1. God is the light!
 - 2. This is a holy light and therefore there will be no sin or temptation.
- D. Heaven is a place where there is no pain, sorrow or tears. **(Rev 21:4)**
 - 1. The past is forgotten and God gives us personal care.
 - 2. Do we trust His promises today?
- E. Heaven is enduring. **(Heb 10:34-35; Mt 6:19-21)**
 - 1. All riches found on this earth will fail.
 - 2. Where do we find our comfort and strength? **(Ecc 5:10)**
- F. We will have access to the water of life. **(Rev 21:6; 22:1, 17)**
 - 1. We will have life without end!
 - 2. Paradise will be restored with the tree of life. **(Rev 2:7, 22:2, 14)**

Questions

1. How can we know anything about heaven?
2. What inheritance are we to receive and where is it to be found?
3. Who will enter the kingdom of heaven and who will not? Why will some be surprised at being rejected?
4. What is the ultimate joy of going to heaven?
5. How is heaven likened unto a marriage? What is expected of the bride of Christ when the time comes to marry?