

Heaven

Heaven is a place, I think it is fair to say, that most people have heard something about. What do we really know about Heaven? In this lesson we will explore what the Bible has to tell us about Heaven. Who will be in Heaven? Is Heaven forever? The scriptures have the answers to these questions.

Heaven is a real place

Luke 10:20 “Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.” No matter what good or bad things this life brings, all faithful Christians can have their minds rest at ease about eternity. An obedient Christian knows they will be going to Heaven, if they stay faithful, and nothing can take that away from them.

John 14: 1-6 “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 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. 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. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” While we can not truly have any idea what Heaven will be like until we get there, we know it exists. Jesus Himself tells us it is there. Jesus tells us we can only get there through Him. Jesus also tell us He will have prepared Heaven for all of the faithful. Anyone and everyone that is a faithful Christian can go to Heaven. One must however be a faithful Christian.

1 Corinthians 2:9 “But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.” It is not possible to really describe Heaven to our human minds, but it is open to all that love God. Remember that to love God is shown by keeping His commandments. One does not love God if they do not keep His commandments, and they will sadly miss Heaven.

1 Corinthians 15:50 “Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.” Whatever our spiritual bodies are after faithful Christians die and Judgement Day passes, will be what inherits a Heavenly home, not our earthly bodies that decay over time.

2 Corinthians 5:1 “For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.” Everything about Heaven will last for all eternity and is completely made by God, including our spiritual bodies.

Hebrews 11:16 “But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.” Faithful Christians will have lived a life preparing for Heaven, because this life was not their main focus. Faithful Christians are more interested in being ready for eternity, than the worries of this world, and it shows in their priorities. God has made Heaven ready for His faithful, and them only. Sadly, the unfaithful will not be in Heaven, they will be in Hell because they chose to be unfaithful.

2 Peter 3:9-14 “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.” God will always deliver on His promises, and He has promised there will be a Judgement Day, when the obedient will go to Heaven and the disobedient will go to Hell for all eternity. He loves us and wants us all to be saved, but only those that are obedient will be. Where do you want to be for all eternity? Have you become a faithful Christian? If you have then remain faithful, and Heaven is waiting for you. If you have not, change your life now, tomorrow may be too late.

Heaven is a place of glory and rest

Matthew 10:22 “And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.” Faithful Christians are not promised that everyone will like them, or that life will be easy. They are promised something much more valuable, a home in Heaven. All Christians that remain faithful until their death will be in Heaven.

John 5:28-29 “Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.” On Judgement Day all those that have died while living faithful to Christ will go to Heaven. All that have died not being faithful Christians will miss Heaven eternally.

Philippians 1:21-23 “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you.” While living their daily lives Christians should be spreading the Word to those that will listen. Once a faithful Christian passes from this earthly life, eternity with Jesus awaits them.

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 “And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power” Those who have made the choice to not obey the Gospel will face an eternity in Hell, forever missing out on Heaven. However, in the Bible, God has given everyone all that they need to make it to Heaven. Obedience to God until one leaves this earthly life behind, leads to a home in Heaven eternally.

2 Timothy 4:7-8 “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.” A faithful Christian need not worry about if they are saved or not, they know they will be in Heaven. All the doubts and worries of this life ultimately do not matter in eternity. A faithful Christian can be confident God will have a place for them in Heaven.

Hebrews 4:9-11 “There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.” One must be about doing God’s work by spreading His Word, as best as one can in this life. However, a faithful Christian will rest from their labors for all eternity in Heaven, those that do not the will of God will be lost eternally.

Revelation 2:10 “Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.” Even though Christians will face difficulties and trials here on Earth, all the faithful will gain an eternal crown of life in Heaven.

Revelation 21:1-4 “And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. 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.” Faithful Christian will have all of their worries, stresses, difficulties, etc. lifted from them in their eternal Heavenly home that God has waiting for them. Those that are not faithful Christians miss out on eternal life in Heaven, but instead are given eternity in Hell.

Revelation 21:21-27 “And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass. And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it. 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.” This small glimpse into what Heaven will be like is put in terms our human minds can understand, but we will not truly understand the magnificence of Heaven unless we are faithful Christians and go there after Judgement Day. The scriptures also tell us nothing bad will be in Heaven, and those that do not obey God will miss Heaven.

Heaven is a place for the Godly and righteous

Hebrews 5:8-9 “Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him” Jesus loves each and every one of us so much He suffered and died on the cross for us, then rose again. Jesus opened the door to Heaven for all that will obey God. However, Heaven will not be for the disobedient.

2 Peter 3:13 “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.” God loves us all and does not want any of us to be lost in Hell eternally. He has given us the path to Heaven if we will only follow it. Judgment Day could come at any moment, no human knows when it will happen. Those souls living and dead that are ready for Christ’s second coming will go to Heaven, the unprepared will go to Hell.

Revelation 22:14 “Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.” The Bible tells us plainly all that faithfully obey God will be in Heaven, those that do not will be in Hell.

Heaven will last forever

Matthew 25:46 “And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.” and **Romans 6:23** “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Heaven and Hell are both eternal. One will either have eternal life in Heaven, or spend eternity in Hell.

1 Thessalonians 4:14-18 “For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.” All obedient Christians, living or dead, on Judgement Day will be with the Lord from that day forward in Heaven. Don’t you want to be among them?

Conclusion

The scriptures have told us that Heaven is eternal, and it is only for the obedient children of God. The Bible teaches us one must be a faithful Christian to be in Heaven and all people that are not

faithful will be lost eternally. The Bible has told us how one gets into Heaven and what it is for. Please ask yourself, honestly, according to the Bible will I be in Heaven? I hope the answer is yes, but if it is no, take the time now to change what you need to about your life so that you can be in Heaven.