

Heaven



What Questions Do You Have About Heaven...
And Does the Bible Have Answers for Them?
A 4-Week Study

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Introduction, and How To Lead This Study on your Own

On Week #1 I usually start out this 4-week study by finding out what our attenders are thinking and wondering about Heaven. I'd like to hear their questions about heaven, their experiences with losing someone in death, and maybe even their fears about Heaven.

In order to do this, I conduct a little conversation time – encouraging people to respond. Most of the people attending this study have come because they've seen the study advertised, and they are interested in the topic. So we begin by asking a few "group" questions – meaning, we will go around the room and encourage everyone to answer the first couple of questions. We'll start with easy-to-answer questions, and not too personal, so that people will feel they are being given permission to speak, but won't feel they are being pressured.

For instance:

- What is your name, and how did you hear about this study?
- What is your name, and how far did you drive to get here?
- Have you ever been to a study on Heaven before?
- Do you think much about Heaven in your every-day life? (This is a yes/no question, and there is no wrong answer. If it's a large group, just ask for a show of hands)
- Do you have someone waiting for you in heaven? (Again, yes/no. But there is a possibility someone will want to fill in the group on a name of that person, or on their story of losing that person. That would be great, but not required.)
- What do you think Heaven is like? (You can use a flipchart for this one – to get everyone engaged)
- Do you think dogs go to heaven? (This is just an opinion question – so that people will feel comfortable expressing an opinion – no wrong answers.)

Now...it's time to find out what questions people might have about heaven – questions they might like to have answered in the next 4 weeks. I ask if there are any questions we can attempt to answer. As they suggest questions, they will be written down so that we can address them in future weeks. Every question is a good one – there are no bad questions.

Here are some examples of questions people might ask:

- Is there really a heaven?
- What do you think a person needs to do to be sure they will get there?
- What is heaven like? Does it feel like a real place?
- Is heaven just floating on clouds?
- How to get there...arrive?
- Is heaven going to be boring?
- Do you think we will sleep in heaven?
- Do you think we will eat in heaven?
- Will there be any sleeping
- What will a day look like
- What will you do
- Will we have a job in heaven?
- Will we know everyone?
- Will we still have best friends in heaven?
- Will we walk or fly?
- Will there be technology in heaven?
- Do people in heaven see us now?
- What will we look like?
- Will we be fat?

If people have a hard time coming up with their own questions, give it some time. Suggest some of the above questions and see if that triggers some thoughts.

In the 3 weeks following this first class, I promise we are going to try to answer the questions from the Bible. If we can't find an answer, we'll say so. Our focus will be on whether or not there is an answer in the Bible. If some have different opinions, that's not a bad thing, but the whole point of this study will be to see what the Bible says, and that is where we will continually be heading.

As I have led this study in the past, I have tried to be mindful of the fact that we probably have no idea what each other's own personal experience with death and looking toward heaven has been like. As a group, we want to be sensitive to anyone still walking through grief because of the loss of someone near to them. We'd just like to see if the Bible might shed some light on all of our questions.....and our goal is that after four weeks of conversation, laughter, and digging into the Word, there may be many who want to continue to explore what the Bible has to say about this wonderful place where we can live with Him forever.



1. Can I Know For Sure I Am Going to Heaven?

John 14:1-6, John 3:3, Psalm 139

Look up **John 14:1-6** in your Bible, and we'll talk through these verses and find an answer to this frequently-asked question about heaven:

"Let not your heart be troubled; you 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. 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. 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)*

When Jesus says these words to His disciples, they have just had the Last Supper together, and He has told them He is going to die very soon. Judas has left the group to go betray Him, and Jesus is taking his last few hours to tell His disciples the final things He wants them to know before the chaos of the crucifixion descends on them. His disciples are of course upset – not at all understanding what is about to happen. They just know their beloved Jesus is telling them He is going to leave them, and is warning them about the hatred that is going to be poured out on not only Him, but on them, too. It must have been so frightening and confusing.

So Jesus tells them not to be afraid...not to be troubled. *"Let not your heart be troubled..."*

He reminds them that they are believers in God *"...you believe in God..."* – that's why they followed Him in the first place. They believed in the One, True God – the God of Israel - even before they initially followed Jesus. They believed that the God of Israel loved them and had promised He would send a Savior – a Messiah – Who would solve their sin problem forever.

And now they have followed Jesus for over 3 years. They have seen everything He has done. They have heard Him say that He is that Savior Who was to come. They have heard His claims that He is God Himself.

So now it is time for them to believe in Him. They have believed in God. It is time for them to believe that Jesus is God. To believe that He is the promised Messiah. *"...you believe in God, believe also in Me..."*

And that belief couldn't just be head-belief. The belief Jesus was asking for is a belief that says "My whole life is staked on this. I want to do whatever You think is best, Jesus...for I know for sure that You are God. I am from this point on a follower of You, Jesus, no matter what happens."

It's a heart-belief, not just a head-belief. It's a commitment, not just mental acceptance. It's for my whole life, not just for a little while. It's a "bowing of the knee". It's worship.

"...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.." He goes on to tell them that once they have made this commitment to believing in Him, they have His promise. He's going back to the Father – to the home in heaven He lived in before He came to earth – and when He gets back there He's going to get that home ready for them, too. That home in heaven is going to be their final home – after this life is over. It's going to be the home they look forward to when this life gets hard. It's going to be the world they live in for ever and ever and ever. It's the home that really counts.

How is He going to get there? He is going to get there by dying on the cross, laying in the grave for three days, and then raising Himself from the dead!

OK. So how are they going to get there? How are they going to get from this world to the home that is waiting for them? He's going to come back and get them. *"...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..."*

There's no way He wants to live for all eternity without these friends He loves...so He will make sure Heaven is ready for them, and He will make sure they get there.

He repeats it to them again in verse 4: *"...And where I go you know, and the way you know..."* You know where I'm going, and you know how to get there.

Thomas is scared and confused. *"...Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?"* And probably Thomas is not alone. They all are probably wondering...what does He mean?

So Jesus reassures them. Everything's going to be OK. Just believe in Me. Believe that I am Who I say I am. Because I'm God, if you believe in Me, your life can't be all about you.

Believing in me is a huge change for you. Change your life from being all about you...to being all about Me. When you believe in Me, I take care of where you're going and how you'll get there. "...Jesus said to him, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me...."*

So...what's the answer to our question? Can we know for sure we are going to heaven?

Yes.

When we believe in Jesus with heart-belief, not just head-belief, He will get us there. Our assurance that we are going to heaven will not be based on how many good things we do on this earth. It will be based on whether or not we believe in Jesus. When we move from "I believe in God" to "I believe in Jesus – I realize He is God – I give my life to Him", we belong to Jesus, and He will get us home.

Let me tell you, from my own personal experience, what that moment of belief was like:

So many thoughts came rolling through my head like thunderstorms. All at the same time I realized Jesus is God Himself...and I understood that He actually came as a baby and died on that cross for me – not just for "everyone" – but actually for me, personally. I thought hard about the fact that He actually was able to be dead and then make Himself alive again...and then I struggled with so much guilt! I saw my own sins parading before my mind's eye. There was no escaping the truth - I knew I was a liar and a cheater ...that I'd been mean-spirited and hurtful and selfish and proud.... I knew I was not innocent in God's eyes...in Jesus' eyes...and that there was no reason in the world He would have died on that cross for me...and yet He did!

In my heart, I bowed my knee before Him and talked to Him. I tearfully admitted to Him that I didn't deserve Him dying in my place, and I thanked Him for what He did, and asked Him to take my life in His wonderful hands, and do whatever He wanted with it. I didn't want to be mine anymore. I wanted to be His.

No matter how you describe it, in that moment of very personal communication between you and Jesus, you are re-born. Born again. (John 3:3) You are born into the family of God. And from that moment on, you have a home waiting for you, a home in heaven that Jesus has gotten ready just for you. It's yours. Your name is on the little swinging sign at the end of the sidewalk where the gate will someday open wide for you to enter and check out your forever home. It's a real place, and it is waiting for you to come home.

The only thing you have to do is wait for the day He comes to get you. It's up to Him when that is...because...remember...your life is now in His hands. (Psalm 139)

Note: There are several really great books on Heaven. Here are two I recommend:

Heaven by Randy Alcorn

One Minute After You Die by Irwin Lutzer



2. What Are the 10 Best Things About Heaven?

(A Little Exercise for us to Do in Class...you can do it on your own, too...
list them in your order of importance. We'll put together our "Ten Best Things About Heaven"
list in class.)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____



3. Here are some of the questions we have asked:
(We will address quite a few of these in the next 3 weeks)

1. Where Does the 1,000-year-reign of Christ fit into the Heaven picture?
2. Can you really see God?
3. Will we get to meet Adam, Eve, and other Old Testament people?
4. Are there Different “levels” of heaven?
5. Can Our loved ones see us from heaven?
6. Can people who commit suicide go to heaven?
7. Will we require sleep?
8. Do babies go to heaven?
9. How much will we know when we get there, and will we continue to learn?
10. Is heaven a spiritual place or a physical place...or both?
11. Will there be a Q&A with God?
12. Will we even want to ask why things happened in our lives?
13. What age will we be?
14. What language will we speak?
15. Will there be sadness in Heaven?
16. Will we remember bad memories? Good memories?
17. Will there be animals?
18. Will we make new friends?
19. When we have a “premonition”, is that someone watching out for us from heaven?
20. Why does Jesus say we’ll have “mansions”? Will we even care?
21. Will our loved ones greet us?
22. Will we bathe, sleep, use the bathroom?
23. Will we be aware of time passing? Days? Years?
24. Can we see people on earth once we get to Heaven?
25. Are there different levels of Heaven?
26. Will we be made whole? (ie: will someone with a missing leg have 2 legs in heaven?)
27. Will we eat? Chocolate?
28. Will we have work to do?

29. Will we just be floating on clouds?
30. Will we recognize people from before? Have relationships?
31. Will young children who die still grow in heaven?
32. Will I have my same name in heaven?
33. How long has Heaven been there?
34. How long does it take to get to Heaven?
35. Will we wear clothes?
36. When I die will I become an angel?
37. Will I still have feelings in heaven?
38. Is it OK for me to want to talk to my loved one who has died?
39. Why do people have to die?
40. Will we still be able to have free will in Heaven? Does that mean we could sin?
41. What age will we be?
42. How long does it take to get to heaven?
43. Can God take you to Heaven if You're not dead yet?
44. Can I still believe in Jesus after I die?
45. Has God ever taken someone to heaven and had them come back and tell us about it?



4. What is Heaven? Where is Heaven?

Deuteronomy 26:15, Psalm 11:4, Revelation 4:1&2, Psalms 2:4, 2nd
Corinthians 12:2-4, Luke 23:43, Revelation 21&22

What is heaven? It's **THE PLACE WHERE GOD LIVES**. (Deuteronomy 26:15, Psalm 11:4) It has always been there, because God has always been there, and it will last forever, because God lasts forever. It has no beginning, and no ending. No one knows exactly where it is – it's wherever God is.

That's the simple answer. However, when the Bible talks about Heaven, sometimes the word "heaven" can have a different meaning than just "the place God lives". It can also mean:

1. **The sky (atmosphere)** around the earth) – where our rain and weather comes from. (as in Isaiah 55:10)
2. **Outer Space** – in other words, the part of the sky which we can't see because it is too far out there – the whole universe – where the stars, planets, sun and other solar systems exist. (as in Genesis 1:1, and Genesis 1:14)
3. Or, it can mean "THE PLACE GOD LIVES", (as in Revelation 4:1&2 and Psalms 2:4) also called "the third heaven", or "PARADISE" (as in 2nd Corinthians 12:2-4, and Luke 23:43)
4. Or, it can mean "The New Heaven and The New Earth", yet to come, in our future. It will be created by Jesus after He returns and reigns on this old earth for 1,000 years. It will be the New Place God Lives. (as in Revelation chapters 21&22)

Our ideas about heaven get confused sometimes because we don't distinguish between these four uses of the word "Heaven" in the Bible.

For instance, in Genesis 1:1 the Bible says "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." The word "heaven" there is referring to the "outer space" around the earth. It's not saying that God created THE PLACE HE LIVES at the same time He created the earth.

More commonly, we confuse statements about the New Heaven and the New Earth with the PLACE GOD LIVES right now. If we are believers in Jesus, we go to Heaven when we die. And in

Heaven we look forward to the New Heaven and the New Earth which is someday going to be brought into existence by Jesus. The Heaven we go to right now is exceedingly glorious. Jesus is there. God the Father is there. God the Holy Spirit is there. The believers who have gone on before are there. But it is not the New Heaven and the New Earth. According to scripture, the New Heaven and New Earth don't come into existence until Jesus returns and then reigns on this earth for 1,000 years. There are a multitude of scriptures about the New Heaven and the New Earth – just remember, they don't all describe "Heaven" - the place we would go to if we died today.

For instance, in Isaiah 65:25 it says "The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox...". The context of this passage is definitely talking about the New Heaven and the New Earth. (see verse 17). This is a description of our permanent New Heaven and New Earth dwelling place, but not a description of the Heaven we would go to if we die today.



5. Who Will I See First When I Go To Heaven?

Psalm 73:25

Randy Alcorn, in his book, “Heaven”, says “We may imagine we want a thousand different things, but God is the One we really long for. His presence brings satisfaction; His absence brings thirst and longing. Our longing for Heaven is a longing for God.” (Psalm 73:25)

We long for God, but in our heart of hearts we know we could never qualify to be in His presence, much less to talk face-to-face with Him.

Look at some passages which talk about this:

- In Exodus, Moses asked God if he could see Him. The LORD said “yes”, but He could not let Moses see His face, so He placed Moses in the cleft of a rock, and allowed Moses to see His glory after He had passed by him. (Exodus 33:18-23).
- The Apostle Paul said, in his 1st letter to Timothy, says that Jesus (God) is “...dwelling in unapproachable light, which no man has seen, or can see.” (I Timothy 6:16)
- So we long deeply, deeply for God, knowing that “without holiness no one will see the LORD.” (Hebrews 12:14)

What is the solution to this deep longing for God which seems that it can never be filled? Well, quite often we focus on other pleasures in life, hoping to substitute the pleasure of, say, children, for that pleasure of being in the presence of God which we know we can never have. Or, perhaps we substitute marriage, or friendship, or food, or sports, or a million other legitimate pleasures – living for those pleasures because deep within we fear our longing to be in God’s presence could never be fulfilled.

But no pleasure, no matter how innocent and sinless, can ever fill that longing to know God and be in His presence. He is the source of all joy. Every pleasant thing in our lives comes from Him, and started with Him. Nothing would be pleasant unless it first began with God. He is the essence of pleasant.

When we get to Heaven, we may think we want to see the faces of our loved ones who have gone on before, because that will bring us abounding pleasure and joy – and it will! But what we really want is to see the face of God – seeing Him is the highest joy – and somewhere in our souls we know it.

Do you think God didn't know all this? Do you think He didn't know about that deep longing within us that can only be satisfied by being with Him? Of course He knew. He is the One who made us that way. And He is the One who made a way for us to be in His presence forever. The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit all decided, long before They made our world, that the Son would someday be born into our world as a man, then live a perfect and sinless life as a man, then die on the cross as a man, and then raise Himself back to life as a man, and live forever as both God and man – in order to wipe away the curse of sin we are all carrying on our backs, and make it possible for us to live with Them in Heaven someday. (1 Peter 1:20)

That's why we bow at His feet, now, in this life. We are going Home.

And no matter who we greatly long to see when we breathe our last breath, the One we will be desperately looking for is Jesus.



6. Did Old Testament Believers Go to Heaven, too?

Psalm 16:8-11, Psalm 23:6, Ephesians 4:8-10, Luke 16:19-31, Luke 23:43

Ever since the time of Genesis, when a person who believed in Jesus died, their body went into the grave, and their soul was taken safely into the presence of the LORD. Every one of them is still looking forward to the time when their body will be resurrected and re-united with their soul.

In those Old Testament times, before Jesus paid the price for our sins on the cross, when people who believed in Jesus died, their souls went to a safe, wonderful place called “Abraham’s bosom”, or “Paradise”, where they waited until Jesus died and was raised again, and the price was paid for their sins. The presence of God was there ([Psalms 16:8-11](#)), but it wasn’t the place believers go today when they die.

Those Old Testament believers had lived their lives looking forward to the fact that the Savior would come some day and pay the price for their sin. And when Jesus died, in 33AD, He went to those believers, told them what He had done, and then took their souls with Him to Heaven, The Place God Lives. ([Ephesians 4:8-10](#)). That is where they are right now.

Ever since the resurrection, every single person who has died believing in Jesus has gone immediately to be with the LORD in Heaven, The Place God Lives. (2nd Corinthians 5:8)

When Jesus returns, He will resurrect all bodies of believers from their graves (all believers from before the resurrection, and all believers from after the resurrection), combine them with their souls which are already in heaven, and each person will get their new, resurrected body which will live forever with God and each other in the New Heaven and the New Earth. I

Thessalonians 4:16&17, 1st Corinthians 15:20-23, 1st Corinthians 15:52-54, Revelation 7:9-17



7. What is the Difference Between “Heaven”, and the “New Heaven and the New Earth”?

Revelation 21&22

Since the resurrection, every soul who has died believing in Jesus (both old and new testament saints) is in Heaven with the Lord, knowing that at some time they will get their new body, and then will live forever with the Lord in the New Heaven and the New Earth. That will happen when the LORD Jesus returns in the end times. Randy Alcorn, in his book, “Heaven”, calls that time of waiting for new bodies the “intermediate heaven”.

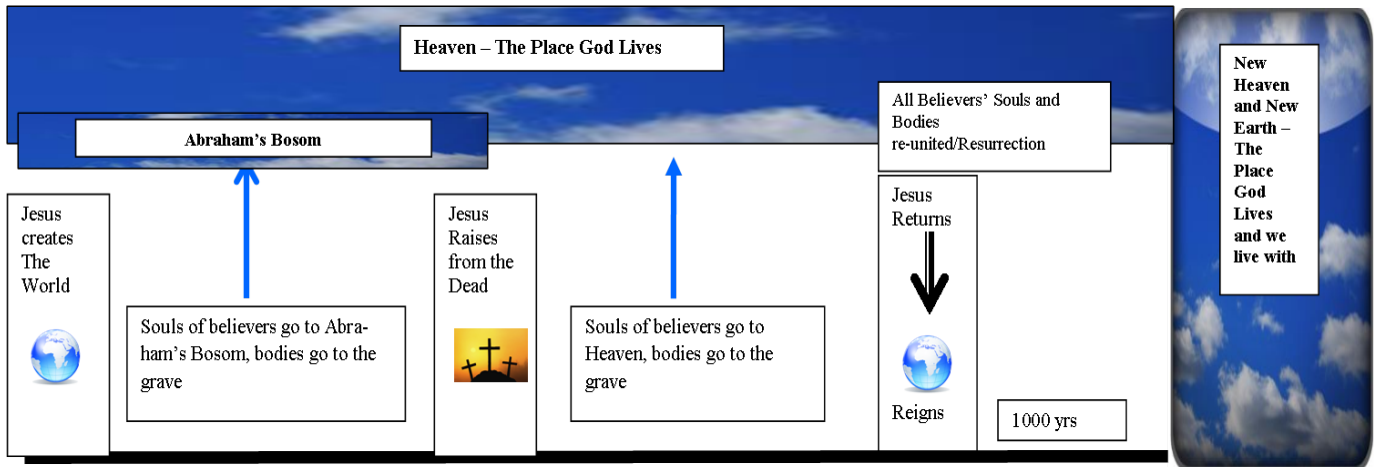
So...the Heaven you and I would go to if we died today is the “intermediate heaven”. All that means is we would still be waiting for the New Heaven and the New Earth to be created for us to live in. We would be in Heaven, with the LORD, because He lives there. We just wouldn't yet be in the New Heaven and the New Earth.

But just because it we call it “intermediate” doesn't mean it is any less peaceful, wonderful or beautiful than our final home - the New Heaven and New Earth. And just because they don't have their new, resurrected bodies yet doesn't mean the souls there don't have some sort of body. The Bible talks about some of these people who are in that “intermediate heaven”, and they do have bodies, and they do wear clothes, and they do have the ability to communicate. (as Moses and Elijah in Matthew 17:3-4, and the martyred believers in the book of Revelation 6:10 - who are called “souls”)

This isn't purgatory, or soul sleep. We are very much with the LORD, and we are with the ones who have gone on before us. We aren't waiting to get better so we'll be worthy of being with God. We're already with God. We aren't unaware of what's going on around us – we're very much alive and awake. “to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord”. 2nd Corinthians 5:8 And we know that the New Heaven and the New Earth is still coming – going to Heaven is sort of like finally getting to Christmas Day with all the wonderful presents, and knowing that an even better Christmas Day is just right around the corner, too!!!!



8. Heaven Timeline





9. Explain the Heaven Timeline

The little timeline above helps to give us a picture of the place of Heaven in history. Remember, though, that I am only picturing the history of our world in this timeline. Because Heaven is God's dwelling place, it was in existence before God created the world, and will still be in existence for all of eternity.

- When God created the world, Heaven, the Place God Lives, was already there. From Heaven God looked at His creation and saw that it was good. (Genesis 1:1-3)
- From that time on, until the time Jesus was resurrected from the dead (about 4,000 years, I think), any person who died having already placed their faith in God, looking forward to the Savior He had promised, went to Heaven. That is, their soul went to Heaven, and their body went into the grave. Those Old Testament souls went to a part of Heaven called "Abraham's bosom", or "Paradise". (see Luke 16:19-31). They safely waited there for the point in time when Jesus would be born, live a perfect life, be murdered on the cross, and rise from the dead. At that time He went to Abraham's Bosom and gathered all the souls who had believed in Him in all the 4,000 years since creation, and joyously proclaimed to them what He had done. I imagine there was much cheering and hooting and hollering, and He carried them all with Him into Heaven, The Place God Lives.
- Ever since Jesus' resurrection, any person who dies having trusted in Jesus as their Savior, goes directly to Heaven, The Place God Lives. Their souls, that is, go to Heaven. Their bodies go into the grave. 2nd Corinthians 5:8, John 14:1-6
- Sometime in our future, the Lord Jesus will return. His return will take seven years. Lots of events will take place during that seven years. One of those events will be the "rapture". It is described in 1st Thessalonians 4:16-20, and 1st Corinthians 15:51&52 and Revelation 7:9-17. At the rapture, the bodies of all the people who have died believing in Jesus (from Old Testament and New Testament times) are resurrected as bodies which can live for eternity, without sin, and are re-united with their souls in Heaven. Joining them will be those people who believe in Jesus who are alive on earth at the time of the rapture. They will get their new bodies, too – they just won't have to die first. Those people then get ready to return with Jesus at the end of the seven years.

- When all of us return with Jesus at the end of those seven years, then Jesus will reign as King on this earth for 1,000 years, a “Millennium”. Heaven will still be in existence. God the Father will still live there. And those of us who return in our new bodies with Jesus will be able to move from this earth, helping Jesus reign as King, back to Heaven – back and forth – as we need to – actually helping Jesus reign as King. During the Millennium there will be many people on earth in regular, unresurrected bodies, too. They will continue to have children during that thousand years, and those children will get their chance to believe or not believe in Jesus. **Revelation 20, Revelation 19:11-16, Revelation 20:6.**
- Those believing people who watch Jesus return at the end of the seven years (they have lived through the seven years of tribulation and have believed in Jesus during that time...they were not raptured because they hadn’t believed yet at the time of the rapture) will live for Millennium in regular bodies (like the ones we have today) – not resurrected bodies. From the time of the rapture, up until the end of the Millennium, everyone who believes in Jesus but dies before the end of the Millennium, goes immediately to Heaven with a resurrected body. Their soul and their new body go together. **(Revelation 14:13).**
- At the end of the 1,000 years, three things happen:
 1. All Millennium believers in Jesus, who don’t already have their resurrected bodies, get them.
 2. Then all believers from all time, stand next to Jesus in their resurrected bodies and watch Him condemn all unbelievers to eternal death.
 3. Then they watch Him bring down from Heaven their new home, the New Heaven and the New Earth, where they will live with Him for eternity. **(Revelation 20:11-15)**
(Revelation 21:1-4) There will be no unbelievers in the New Heaven and the New Earth.
(Revelation 21:27)



10. Can Our Loved Ones See Us From Heaven?

Hebrews 12:1

In Chapter 11 of the book of Hebrews there is a long and impressive list of Old Testament believers in Jesus who had gone on to heaven. This list contains small stories of many of these people, examples of the lives they had lived as they waited for their Savior to appear: “...through faith (they) subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received the dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mocking and scourging, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented...”

And then, after that unbelievable list, the LORD tells us in **Chapter 12, verse 1**: “Since all these Old Testament saints are now watching – witnessing – your lives – make them proud! Put aside everything that tempts you to be lazy, and get the job done they worked so hard on!

Yes – I think our loved ones can see us from heaven...and they are not just smiling and saying – “oh how great to see how happy they are”or frowning and saying – “oh – couldn’t the LORD do something to make their life better?”Instead, they are cheering us on when we believe God and walk by faith...and if they could talk to us, they’d be saying: “Live for Jesus!” Don’t hold back!



11. Has God Ever Taken Someone to Heaven and Then Had Them Come Back and Tell People about it?

Revelation 1:19, 2nd Corinthians 12:1-10, Luke 16:19-31, Exodus
24:9-18,

Yes. I think there have been three times:

First, Moses and the Elders of Israel, in Exodus 24, climbed up Mt Sinai to meet with the Lord, and it seems they found themselves in His throne room – much more than they expected, I think. How do I know they were in Heaven? Just a little hint...in verse 10 it says “and they saw the God of Israel. And there was under His feet as it were a paved work of sapphire stone...” This clear, crystal-blue flooring is just like what the Apostle John saw in Revelation chapter 4, verse 6. “Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal...” John is describing the Heavenly throne room of God in Revelation 4. I think Moses is also describing the Heavenly throne room of God in Exodus 24. (Exodus 24:9-18)

Next, the Apostle Paul tells us he had the experience of going to what he called “the third heaven”, and then coming back to earth. By “the third heaven” he meant not the heaven as in the sky, and not the heaven as in the solar system, but the “third heaven”, in other words, “Heaven, the dwelling place of God.” He didn’t tell us any more about it, though, except that he went and saw and heard things there that he could never repeat. (2nd Corinthians 12:1-10)

And then, the big one of course is the Apostle John, who was caught up to heaven to see the whole vision of the Revelation. Everything he saw and heard he wrote down and gave to us in the book of Revelation. God told him to. (Revelation 1:19) (Revelation 4:1&2)

However, in in all three of these cases we know for sure it was legitimate because God made sure their words were recorded in the Bible – His Word. There is no other person who has ever gone to heaven and come back whose words were recorded in the Bible. Therefore, we can’t

take anything anyone else says about heaven as absolute truth. What they say always has to be compared to the Bible to be sure it agrees with what we know for sure is true.

There are many books out there in today's market which have been written by people purporting to have gone to heaven, come back, and now want to tell us about it. There's no way we can know for sure they are true. Don't believe them simply because they say it's true. Compare what they say to scripture, and then if anything doesn't match up at all....they weren't really there!

I highly recommend Irwin Lutzer's book, One Minute After You Die, especially chapter 1, "Attempting to Peek Behind the Curtain" for a gentle and Biblical answer to the question of anyone speaking to us from the afterlife, or from a near-death experience.



12. How long Does it Take to Get To Heaven?

I Corinthians 15:52

“It happens in an instant. It’s like opening your eyes – you’re suddenly there! That’s because Heaven isn’t a faraway place but is the place where God is. He just takes you there. “

(taken from: “801 Questions Kids Ask About God with answers from the Bible – Tyndale)

1st Corinthians 15:52 describes the rapture – the time when all believers are caught up to Heaven to join the LORD in the air and prepare to return with Him to reign on earth for 1,000 years. It is not specifically describing what happens when each of us dies. But I think it is a good benchmark for us to look to for how quickly the LORD accomplishes things when time no longer has a hold on us. I believe that when I die, my exit from this world of time and pain and sin will be just as fast as 1st Corinthians describes it. “In the twinkling of an eye.” Suddenly I move from being in my body, and the next thing I know – I’m seeing Jesus!



13. How Long Has Heaven Been There?

Isaiah 45:6&7 Isaiah 44:8

The answer is simple. Heaven is God's Dwelling Place. It has been there as long as God has. And there is only one God. And He has always been, and will always be. There is no beginning with God, and no end. Therefore Heaven has always been there...and will always be there.

Isaiah 45:6&7 "That they may know from the rising of the sun to its setting that there is no one besides e. I am the Lord and there is no other. I form the light and create darkness, I make peace and create calamity; I the Lord, do all these things."

Isaiah 44:8 "Do not fear nor be afraid; Have I not told you from that time, and declared it? You are my witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed there is no other rock; I know not one."

A little humor on the verse above. God Himself, who knows everything, says "Nope, I sure don't know of another God!". Ha!

Questions 14-20



Many of the questions we ask about heaven can be answered from the appearances of Jesus after His resurrection. Why? Because after His resurrection, Jesus had a resurrected body – the body He will have for all eternity – the body He is living with right now in heaven. Our resurrected bodies will be like His...so here are some of our Heaven questions which I think will be answered as we look through several resurrections accounts:

How many answers to the following questions can you find in these resurrection and post-resurrection accounts?

Matthew 28:9&10

Mark 16: 9-14, 19

Luke 24:13-31

Luke 24:36-53

John 20:19-29

John 21:1-14

Acts 1:1-11

14. Is Heaven a spiritual place, a physical place, or both?
15. What age will we be? How different will we be?
16. What Language Will We Speak? Will we know each other?
17. Will We Eat? Will we do meaningful work?
18. Will We Be Made Whole? Will we have scars?
19. Will We Remember Each Other? Will we continue relationships?
20. Will We Be Aware of Time Passing?



21. When I Die Will I Become an Angel?

1st Corinthians 6:3, Hebrews 1:14, Hebrews 2:16

Angels are created beings. And so are humans. But they are not the same type of beings, and they never will be the same. Angels have a purpose – and that is to carry out the commands of God, to praise God, and to take care of the humans who will someday be in Heaven with God. **Hebrews 1:14**. In fact, **1st Corinthians 6:3** says humans will someday judge angels. And in Hebrews 2:16 the Lord reminds us that He died for humans, but not for angels. **Hebrews 2:16**.

Although angels are wonderful, we would never want to be angels. In Heaven we will always want to be just what God always wanted us to be – humans with no sin.



22. Can God Take You to Heaven if You're Not Dead Yet?

Genesis 5:24, 2nd Kings 2, 2nd Thessalonians 4:16&17

“God can do anything. He can take a person to heaven anytime He likes, even if that person has not died. And in fact, the Bible tells about two people who had that awesome experience: Enoch and Elijah. (Genesis 5:24, 2nd Kings 2) God took them directly to heaven before they died. They were a good example to us that someday when Jesus returns, there will be many people who are alive and are believers in Him whom He will take to heaven before they die.”(2nd Thessalonians 4:16&16)

(taken from “801 Questions Kids Ask About God with Answers from the Bible” – Tyndale)



23. Will I Still Have Feelings in Heaven?

Acts 2:28

“Yes! People in heaven have lots of feelings – all good ones. People in heaven are filled with joy! (Acts 2:28) You will be busy smiling, whistling, and singing for joy. When you are not doing that, you will be kicking up your heels and jumping. Occasional high-fives will interrupt the joviality. The timing will be perfect, and you’ll love it. You will be happy because you will be with God and because all sin, death, and sadness will be gone forever. And think of the joy when you see your family and friends. Heaven will be a place of great joy and gladness – great feelings all around.”

(taken from “801 Questions Kids Ask About God with Answers from the Bible” – Tyndale)



24. Is It OK For Me To Want to Talk To My Loved-one Who Has Died?

Deuteronomy 18: 9-12, Leviticus 19:31,
Isaiah 8:19-20, Psalm 116:15

There is scripture which is very clear to tell us that God does not want us to try to actually communicate with the dead...in the sense of going to a medium or witch or someone with a “crystal ball”, or even just ourselves, alone, in order to “bring back the dead” and talk with them, or even get instruction or guidance from them. This is absolutely forbidden by God.

Deuteronomy 18:9-12, Leviticus 19:31, Isaiah 8:19-20

But to lie on your pillow at night and talk to your husband who is now with the Lord, as if he is there beside you, because of the comfort it gives and because it feels somewhat normal after the chaos of a death – I would say that is not what the LORD is condemning in the above passages. I would guess that this type of “talking to the dead” is really a prayer to God that He will convey your thoughts to the one you used to share so many of your thoughts with. The LORD also holds very precious his loved ones who die. He understands. (Psalm 116:15)

The warning is there, though. If you feel yourself stepping over the line and wanting to actually communicate with the dead...or if you sense that you are getting all your comfort from talking to the one who is gone...then back up and take a deep breath. It’s the LORD you can turn to with your grief – He is the One Who can and will bring you through the depths of sadness and put your feet on solid ground. Don’t trust your dead loved one to do it for you – trust Jesus.

Now...there are serious reasons the LORD cuts us off from the possibility of bringing someone back from the dead to communicate with them. Probably there are reasons we will never understand, but here are a few we can:

1. The person we are longing to talk to again has no desire to come back – they are in a much better place, and why would we want them back here again?

2. Satan can use this situation to deceive us – and can use his own demons to “speak” to us through a “medium”, so that we are thinking we are talking to our loved one, but instead demons are cruelly impersonating our loved ones, filling our minds with untruths, and causing us to never let go of the past.
3. When we ask advice of a loved one who has gone on, we are actually insulting God – as if we would accept the wisdom of one who had died more than the wisdom of God Himself.
4. We end up worshipping someone we love instead of worshipping God. That’s bad for us...bad for the people around us...and an awful thing to do to God.
5. If the people we love are in heaven with the LORD, the very last thing they would want us to do is to worship them. In heaven they have seen Jesus, and they know how totally wonderful and amazing He is, and they would be offended if we would put them in His place, or ask them for advice when they know His advice is much better.



25. Why Do People Have to Die?

Genesis 2:16-17, John 3:16, Romans 3:23,
Romans 6:23, Hebrews 9:27

“People die because of sin. When God created the first human beings, they weren’t supposed to die. He created them to never grow old or wear out.

But then they disobeyed God, and sin and death entered the world. **Genesis 2:16-17** From that point on, every person born has been born a sinner into a sinful world. With sin came death, **Romans 3:23**, and so plants, animals and people started to die. Every person has to die.

Hebrews 9:27. But people can be eternally in heaven with God if they trust in Christ and ask God to forgive their sins. **John 3:16** **Romans 6:23** In heaven we aren’t broken anymore. There is no sickness or pain or dying there.”

(taken from “801 Questions Kids Ask About God with Answers from the Bible” – Tyndale)



26. Will There Be Any Sin in Heaven? Could we use our Free Will and Choose to Sin?

1st Corinthians 6:9-10, Revelation 21:26-27, Revelation 21:4,
2nd Corinthians 5:21, Romans 6:23

The above verses state clearly that there will be no sin in heaven. **1st Corinthians 6:9-10, Revelation 21:26&27** Not ever. No sin will ever enter heaven in the first place. And no sin will ever take place there. Period.

Think about it: **Revelation 21:4** tells us that death will not be in heaven. **Romans 6:23** tells us the reason anyone dies is because of sin. If there's not going to be any death in heaven, then automatically we know there will be no sin. Couldn't be. Because if there were sin, there would be death.

Now some have asked: Well, won't we still have free will in heaven? If we don't have free will anymore, then we can't be "choosing" to love God. We would be like robots. But If we still have free will, then perhaps we could still choose to sin, just like Adam and Eve did. Just like the angels once did.

The answer to that is simple. We won't be like Adam and Eve or the original angels who sinned. We won't be innocent. We'll be righteous. We will have the righteousness of God as part of our nature. (**2nd Corinthians 5:21**). It's not that we might want to sin because we have free will. It's that we won't have any desire to sin because we have the nature of Christ. We won't be tempted to sin, because we will be repulsed by sin. Randy Alcorn, in "Heaven" said it this way: "My inability to be a rabbit doesn't violate my free will – it's the simple reality of my nature."



27. Will Our Loved Ones Greet Us When We Get to Heaven?

John 20:19-29, Luke 9:29-33, 2nd Corinthians 5:8,
1st Thessalonians 4:18

I think this question has two parts:

1. Will we know each other when we get to heaven?

This one we can pretty easily answer from the two scripture passages listed above. In **John 20:19-29**, we see Jesus appearing to His disciples after He had been resurrected. He was in His new, resurrected, physical body, and they recognized Him. In **Luke 9:29-33** we see Moses and Elijah appear with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration. The disciples who were with Jesus knew that these two men were Moses and Elijah. Had they ever seen them before? No. Then how did they recognize them? Most probably because their personalities were the same as they had been described in Jewish history. Their personalities and the uniqueness of their being came through in their heavenly bodies. Moses and Elijah didn't have resurrected bodies then, and they don't have them now. But still, their appearance was such that they were recognized by the disciples.

2. Will our loved ones know we are coming and be there to greet us when we arrive?

As far as I can tell, there are no scripture passages which tell us what our arrival in heaven will be like, except that we know we will be immediately with the LORD. (**2nd Corinthians 5:8**). But there is a passage in **1st Thessalonians 4:18** which says we can be comforted with the thought of the grand reunion we will have with our loved ones when we all get our new, resurrected bodies at the time of the rapture. So I think we can just trust the LORD with those first few moments in heaven. We will be with Him, and it will be wonderful, and the ones who have been watching our lives on earth will come greet us whenever God wants them to. We can trust Him totally to make this the most comforting moments in our lives.



28. Do Babies Who Die Go To Heaven?

2nd Samuel 12:22-23

When King David lost his newborn baby to death, he said these famous words: *"And he said, 'While the child was alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, "Who can tell whether the LORD will be gracious to me, that the child may live?" But now he is dead; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me." 2nd Samuel 12:22-23*

Those words have comforted many parents of babies who have died – for King David knew that he would see his baby again someday. God made sure those words ended up in the Bible – the book where every word is true and to be trusted.

Yes, babies who die go to heaven. How does that work, since those babies are born sinners (as all of us are)? We don't know. But we do know they go there – so it will be a question we ask the LORD someday.



29. Will Babies Still be Babies in Heaven?

Isaiah 11:6-9

This is just a thought – maybe none of us should take this as something to stake our lives on – but in **Isaiah 11:6-9**, the Millenium and then the New Heaven and the New Earth are being described.

There are two phrases in this passage which definitely mention babies and young children: “..a little child shall lead them...”, and “...the nursing child shall play by the cobra’s hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the vipers nest....”

The main thrust of those statements is that this New Heaven and New Earth will not be dangerous even to little, curious hands and feet, and that small children will have as much wisdom as adults.

But also – in light of the question we are asking here – what are babies and toddlers doing in the New Heaven and the New Earth? We know people will not be producing children there. No marriage there.

Randy Alcorn suggests, and I like it, that these babies might be those who died as babies, and then are given the opportunity to grow up as they enter heaven. Their mothers might possibly be given their little ones back into their arms to cuddle them and watch them grow to adulthood.

Again, just a thought – but wow! – so amazing if that’s the way it works!



30. What Age Will We Be?

1st Corinthians 15:3-8

This is really more of a guess...nothing definitive on this – just the fact that Jesus, in His resurrected body, appeared to be about the same age as He was when He died. His followers saw Him and recognized Him after His death and resurrection. **1st Corinthians 15:3-8** If He had appeared to be a different age, they might not have been so sure it was Him.

So, since Jesus was about 33 when He died, perhaps that is the perfect age for Heaven.



31. Are There Different Levels of Heaven?

2nd Corinthians 12:1&2, 1st Corinthians 3:10-15, Romans 6:23,
John 13:12-17, John 17:24

Paul mentions in **2nd Corinthians 12:1&2** that at one point he was caught up into the “third heaven”, and saw and heard things that were basically inexpressible. From this passage we might wonder if there are different levels of heaven...in other words...that some people, when they get to heaven, will have a better, higher place to live, based on the life they lived on earth.

But, first of all, the “third Heaven” Paul describes is simply “Heaven – the place God lives” – it is “third” only in the sense that it wasn’t the atmosphere (the first heaven) or outer space (the second heaven).

But then, also, there is no way different levels of heaven – or some people who have a nicer place than others in heaven – is at all compatible with everything else we see in scripture about Heaven and how we get there.

None of us gets to Heaven because of the deeds we do on earth. **Romans 6:23**. Not a one of us deserves Heaven, no matter how many great or loving things we have done on this earth. We all go to Heaven based on one thing, and one thing only – Jesus died on the cross to rescue us from our sinfulness, and when we go to Heaven the only thing that counts is: Did we believe in Jesus?

Do some of us do many more things for Jesus – much more living by faith – than others? Yes, but does that get us a better place in heaven?

It just couldn’t be. We are only able to do those things by God’s grace.

Well then, what about the rewards we are told we will get at the Judgment Seat of Christ, when all of our works on earth are tried by fire? [2nd Corinthians 5:9&10](#). [1st Corinthians 3:10-15](#). Both of these passages definitely say there are rewards for living by faith after salvation. But neither of them suggests that those rewards make us any better than anyone else once we get to heaven.

They say that we will be full of joy at seeing our works which we have done for Christ, and that others will be momentarily sad when they see how few works they have done for Christ. (remember, Jesus will wipe away all tears).

In fact, there are many places in the New Testament, and in Jesus' own statements, that would lead us to believe that those who are the greatest in Heaven will be the ones who are the servants of others ([John 13:12-17](#))...and that the only "Glory" we will ever want to see in heaven is the Glory of Jesus ([John 17:24](#)). We will surely not care at all about our own glory, or about living in a better level of Heaven than someone who just "squeaked" in.



32. Will We Have Work to Do in Heaven?

Matthew 25:23

Matthew 25:23 seems to indicate that one of the most rewarding things about Heaven will be the work we will have to do there. A very clear reward for faithfulness on earth is the fact that we will get to be faithful also in heaven. I think we will get to do work that we love.



33. Will we Bathe, Sleep, Use Bathrooms?

Isaiah 25:6, Genesis 2:2, Revelation 7:16

The above passage make it pretty clear that we will eat (feast) in Heaven. **Isaiah 25:6** And that God Himself rested – so nothing wrong with that. **Genesis 2:2** And that we will never hunger in Heaven. **Revelation 7:16** Also, remember that Jesus, after His resurrection, both cooked and ate, proving that eating was going to be not only OK, but also enjoyable in our new bodies.

So...will we have digestive systems a lot like the ones we have now? No way to know that for sure until we get there...but Jesus had a digestive system while on earth (before His resurrection)....so for sure there is nothing sinful about having a digestive system...no reason to think God would have to abolish it.

Will we need to replenish our energy? Maybe. God rested when He created the earth. Maybe it was more the idea of stopping and celebrating and enjoying what He had done. And maybe that's what we will do in Heaven.

Will we enjoy bathing or showering? Don't know why not. Will we get dirty...sweaty? Perhaps. Dirt is not sin. Neither is sweat. They are just the result of getting close to God's creation or working hard.

We can only assume that if it is pleasant, and not sinful, many of the same activities we enjoy now we will also enjoy in Heaven...and a whole lot more.



34. Why Does Jesus Say We'll Have A Mansion?

Will We Even Care?

Isaiah 65:21, John 14:2

I think the word “mansions” in [John 14:2](#) (also translated “rooms” in other versions”), combined with the picture we see in [Isaiah 65:21](#), gives us the idea of “spacious” and “cozy” at the same time. Not huge – but plenty of space for all we will ever need.

Will we care whether we live in a mansion or a little cottage? Probably not. Will we want something better or bigger than what we get? Nope. In our discussion groups some have suggested that perhaps each person’s “mansion” will be custom-designed by God to be exactly perfect for that person. Wouldn’t that be fun?!!!

We have every reason to have a huge level of excitement about what is waiting for us in the place we can barely imagine.



35. Can People Who Commit Suicide Go To Heaven?

Mark 3:28-30, Revelation 7:17, Hebrews 9:27, Romans 5:9&10,
John 10:28-30

Many people have this fear, either for themselves, or for someone they love who committed suicide. The idea is: How can anyone go to Heaven if they commit a sin for the very last thing they do on earth? How can God forgive this sin, when they die committing it, and never have time to ask for forgiveness?

But the question itself reveals something we don't understand about going to Heaven. We don't go to Heaven because we confess every possible sin before we die. We go to Heaven because Jesus died on the cross and paid the price for every single one of our sins in our whole lives. When Jesus died on the cross, his death paid the price for every sin you ever did do, and every sin you ever will do...and you don't get the reward of heaven because you keep a running log of your sins and make sure you confess each one of them. If that were the case, none of us would make it to Heaven, because there are sins we have committed that we have forgotten...or that we just weren't aware of.

There is only one "unpardonable" sin. And that is the sin of not believing in Jesus. **Mark 3:28-30**. At the moment you place your faith in Jesus, all of your sins are covered under His blood, and after you believe, when the LORD looks at you from Heaven, He doesn't see your sins at all. He sees the righteousness of Christ.

So...if a believer in Jesus does the most horrible thing imaginable – and takes his own life – of course that is a sin. But that sin had already been forgiven at the time he believed on Jesus – and he will go to Heaven and meet the LORD when he breathes his last breath. Will that be a glad reunion? Yes. Will that believer who just committed suicide be humiliated that he

committed such a horrible act? Yes. But Jesus will wipe away all the tears from his eyes.

Revelation 7:17

Can a non-believer in Jesus go to Heaven if he/she commits suicide? No. Why? Because they never believed in Jesus...and now there is no more chance to do so. **Hebrews 9:27** *"It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment"*.

So, let's ask this question three ways:

1. Can a believer who commits suicide go to Heaven? **Yes**, because that believer had Everlasting Life from the moment he/she believed. Everlasting life, based on the righteousness of Jesus, never ends. It's everlasting.
2. Can a non-believer who commits suicide go to Heaven? **No**. Not because he/she committed suicide, but because he/she never believed in Jesus. There are no second chances after death. Hebrews 9:27
3. Does committing suicide make you a non-believer? Can it cancel out your everlasting life? No. After genuine belief in Jesus, nothing ever can cancel out your everlasting life. **Romans 5:9&10, John 10:28-30, Revelation 7:17**



36. Will we get to meet Adam & Eve and other Old Testament people?

Matthew 8:11

Jesus said, in Matthew 8:11, “And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.”

When Jesus says this, He is commenting on how impressed He is with the faith of the Roman centurian who had a very sick servant. This Gentile Roman believed Jesus was who He said He was...God Himself...and that belief brought him to Jesus with a problem he could not solve. That belief was the kind of faith Jesus was looking for in every single person He talked to. That kind of faith was going to usher the Gentile, Roman centurian into the kingdom of heaven someday, where he would have a never-ending relationship with all people of faith, both Jews and Gentiles, from Old Testament times, and New Testament times.

If we also have that kind of faith we will no-doubt-about-it also be in the kingdom of heaven someday, alongside countless others, including the Roman centurian and the people of faith from the Old Testament.



37. Will we keep on growing spiritually in Heaven?

Ephesians 3:18-19

What makes us grow spiritually? Feeding on the Word of God. And where is that spiritual growth headed? What is the goal we are reaching toward? Knowing God better. Knowing Jesus completely. Knowing the Holy Spirit as if we have walked with Him forever.

Will we ever know God so well that we feel we have no need to explore Him further? No. I don't think that will be possible, even though we have all of eternity to do it. So, look at **Ephesians 3:18-19**, and rejoice with me that we have forever to try to "comprehend what is the width and length and depth and height, and the know the love of Christ (which passes knowledge), that we may be filled with the fullness of God."

And even after we are an eternity into forever, I think there will be still more we want to learn about Him. We will keep on growing spiritually...because there is no end to God.



38. Will I be able to get a hug in Heaven? If I lost a leg in this life, will I have two legs in Heaven?

Luke 6:21-23,

I think the underlying point of these two questions is: Will I have a complete body in Heaven, with the same need for, and ability to express, love and emotion as I have now?

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus warns His followers that days of persecution and hardship may come for those who believe in Him. But He also paints a picture of our eternity – and says we will laugh, be filled with food, and rejoice, and leap for joy! Luke 6:21-23. I can't think of a better description of people, experiencing and sharing emotions just like we have now... in bodies that are complete, looking just like they do now. Two legs, two arms, two eyes, one nose? Yes! Hugs? Oh, yes!

But Jesus still had scars after He was resurrected, didn't He? His body didn't completely heal and go back to normal, because we know His scars remained. John 20:24-29.

Look at Acts 1:3 and ask yourself why those scars might have remained. "...to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God." It's not that His scars did not heal. Of course they healed. It's that He elected to keep those scars as living proof of who He was and what He had accomplished...for eternity.

Our scars are not a symbol of us purchasing anyone else's salvation; His are. I will gladly receive my perfect resurrected body someday, and give up my scars...and leap for joy every time I look at His.



39. Will Heaven be like the world we live in now?

Romans 8:20-25, John 20:1-7

Romans 8:20-25 wraps itself around the thought that the groaning, flooding, hurricane-ing, volcano-ing, earthquake-ing world that we live in right now is anxiously awaiting the day when the God who created it will change it into the world it was always meant to be. The world is also waiting to be resurrected.

And what happens in resurrection? Well, think of Jesus body as He died on the cross. That body died and was laid in the tomb. But when He rose from the dead on the third day, where was that dead body? It was not in the tomb. **John 20:1-7**. Jesus dead body had not disappeared. It had been resurrected. Changed from mutilated and dead....into perfect, complete, alive, physical, and eternal. His actual dead body had been used as the DNA for His forever physical resurrected body.

That's what resurrection is. It's physical and eternal. And so, our dying world, waiting for resurrection the same as we are, will someday be used as the DNA for our forever, resurrected world: The New Heaven and the New Earth.

Will it have mountains, rivers, plains, dirt, sand, air... we will see, won't we? But I think we can assume that just like Jesus' resurrected body, which was so similar to the physical body He received at His birth on earth, our physical New Heaven and New Earth will be recognizable to us. It will look and feel and maybe even smell...like home, but with no more sin, no more "accidents of nature", no more pain, no more fear.



40. Will Satan still show up in Heaven when I am there?

Job 1:6-12, Revelation 12:7-12, Revelation 20:7-10

I know this might sound strange, but the angel who rebelled against God, tempted Adam and Eve to rebel against God, co-ordinated the actions of evil men to put the Son of God to death on the cross, and since then has been trying harder and harder to wreck our world and our lives with the awfulness of sin...that angel, named Satan...has been allowed to show up in Heaven every once in awhile. He has been allowed to “accuse” believers before the Lord, almost like he is in a court trial. He has been allowed to make the case that those who call themselves believers in God are actually still rotten sinners, just like they were before they believed. We see an instance of this in [Job 1:6-12](#).

There isn't time here to try to figure out why God has allowed this. We just know from scripture that He has. But, in [Revelation 12:7-12](#) the Lord shows us the time when Satan is kicked out of his privilege of appearing in Heaven once and for all. It happens after the seven years of Tribulation has begun in the end times. Satan has done much, much damage during the first part of that seven years, and then Michael the archangel and his army of angels get the go-ahead from God to battle Satan out of Heaven, and the old devil is cast down to the earth. He never gets to appear before God to “accuse the brethren” ever again.

Fast forward to after the return of Jesus to earth – we see Satan locked up in Hell for 1,000 years. Then, after Jesus reigns as King on earth for 1,000 years, Satan is let loose from that dark prison. He uses his freedom to gather as many rebellious people as possible from planet earth for one, last attempt to steal what he wanted when he first rebelled against God. The heavens and the earth. He fails, of course. And this time He is cast into the Lake of Fire forever.

[Revelation 20:7-10](#).

I've told you all that to set the stage for the answer to our question: "Will Satan still show up in Heaven when I am there?"

Yes, it could happen. If you die before the Last 7 years begins, you could be in Heaven with God when Satan makes one of his many "accuser of the brethren" appearances. But don't worry, if that happens you will be perfectly safe. There is no fear in Heaven. Satan cannot touch you or hurt you. You probably won't even know it is happening. God is in total control.

But, sometime during the Last 7 Years Satan will be forever cast out of Heaven, never to appear there again. And during the Millenium he will be locked away. And after the Millenium He will be tossed into the Lake of Fire, so that in the New Heaven and the New Earth he is never there and never even a thought in our heads, except, perhaps, to think of how our Lord totally crushed him.



41. Can we really see God? Or Jesus? Will there be a difference? Will we be able to ask God questions? Will we even want to know the answers then?

Revelation 21:3&4, John 14:3, John 14:16

Because we know God is Three-in-One, The Trinity, I searched to find out if there was evidence in scripture that we would see, and live with, all Three in Heaven:

God the Father will be actually “with” us – living with us, according to **Revelation 21:3&4**. “And I heard a loud voice from Heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.” Wow!

And, God the Son, Jesus, will be with us, as He told us in **John 14:3**: “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.”

And God the Holy Spirit will also be with us, even in us, for eternity: “And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever, the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him no knows Him; but you know Him, for He swells with you and will be in You.” **John 14:16**

Yes, we will live with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. And we will have all the time in the world...all the time in eternity, to ask every question we want to ask. I, for one, will definitely want to hear the answers I have wondered about for so long. Not so that I can argue or have proof finally that God always knew what He was doing...but because I will want to praise Him over and over for what He is, what He was, and what He always will be.



42. When we have a “premonition”, is that someone watching out for us in Heaven?

Psalm 5:11&12, Deuteronomy 18:10-14

Yes, of course Someone is watching out for us in Heaven! You can't hardly read even one of the Psalms without seeing the Lord watching over us, or fighting for us, or righting the wrongs which swirl around us! **Psalm 5:11&12**

But I think the question above might be about whether or not a person we once knew on earth is watching over us...trying to warn us of dangers ahead...or trying to guide us into a better path. The answer to that is simple and definite. No! The Lord specifically forbids any person to try to reach out to one who has died. And the ones who have gone before us know that they would never assume to take the place of God in directing and leading us through our lives. **Deuteronomy 18:10-14.**



43. Can I still believe in Jesus after I die?

Hebrews 9:27&28, Luke 16:26, John 3:36, Philippians 2:9-11

Actually, the answer to this question is both “no”, and “yes”.

Here’s the “no”.

In John 3:36 we see clearly that the only thing which can possibly save any person is heart-felt belief in Jesus, God’s Son. The question, then, is: can that heart-felt belief come after death, or does it always have to come before death?

In Luke 16:26 Jesus tells the story of a rich man named Lazarus who did not believe in God, and therefore did not live his life for God, who died. After his death he realized the hugeness of his sin of unbelief, and found that there was forever a huge “gulf” between him and God. That gulf could not be crossed because death had made it impossible.

In Hebrews 9:27 & 28 the Lord tells us unequivocally that first comes death, then judgment. “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.”

Thus, if a person chooses not to whole-heartedly believe in Jesus in this life, eagerly waiting for Him to return, then that person has no more chances for heart-felt belief.

And here’s the “yes”: Someday every person who ever lived will believe in Jesus. Some will genuinely believe in this life, but for some belief will come, whether they like it or not, and it will not be heart-felt, and it will be too late. Someday every single person who ever lived, even those who are in Hell, will know absolutely that Jesus is God, that He gave up His home in Heaven for a while in order to pay the price for sin, and will realize that He will reign forever and ever as King of all. They will, in fact, bow their knee to Him. But for those in Hell that belief will not be saving belief. It will simply be a fact they cannot deny. They will live with that fact for eternity. **Philippians 2:9-11**



Review: Here are the basics of what we know for sure about Heaven:

- Heaven is the place God lives. It is the place I want to be.
 - **Psalm 23:6** “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”
- No matter what time in history, or in the future, I live, I can know, for sure, that if I believe Jesus is God and that He died to pay the price for my sins, and rose again, is alive today at the right hand of God, and is coming again...if I believe in Jesus...I will be with Him in Heaven when I die...forever.
 - **2nd Corinthians 5:8** “We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.”
 - **John 14:3** “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.”
- What I have begun on this earth, as a believer in Jesus, I will continue to do, in ways I cannot imagine, once I am in Heaven forever.
 - **Colossians 2:3** (speaking of Jesus) “...in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”
 - **Ephesians 3:16-19** (speaking of what we have begun to do on this earth as believers) “...may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height – to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”
 - **2nd Peter 1:10&11**. We have the privilege to live full-out for Jesus in this life, knowing what is waiting for us – an entrance into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.