

HOW CAN I KNOW I'M GOING TO HEAVEN WHEN I DIE? Part 2

The Bible Reveals Five Important Realities About Heaven:

1. Heaven is an actual **location**

John 14:1-3 “¹ Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me [Jesus]. ² In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. ³ 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.”

Acts 1:9-11 “⁹ And after He [Jesus] had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. ¹¹ They also said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.’”

2. Heaven is both an immediate and an ultimate **destination**

Luke 16:22 “Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham’s bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried.”

Luke 23:43 “And He [Jesus] said to him, ‘Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.’”

2 Corinthians 5:8 “we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.”

John 14:2 “In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.”

Revelation 21:1-2 “¹ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.”

3. Heaven will be primarily a re-created earth

Psalm 37:9 "...But those that wait upon the Lord, they shall inherit the earth." (King James)

Matthew 5:5 "Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth." (King James)

2 Peter 3:13 "But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells."

Romans 8:21 "that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God."

2 Peter 3:10-11 "¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. ¹¹ Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,"

Revelation 21:16 "The city is laid out as a square, and its length is as great as the width; and he measured the city with the rod, fifteen hundred miles; its length, and width and height are equal."

Revelation 21:1-3 "¹ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them.'"

4. Heaven is a continuum of our earthly existence

(a) Continuity between the present earth and the new earth

Revelation 22:1-3a “¹ Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, ² in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³ There will no longer be any curse...”

(b) Continuity between our earthly **bodies** and our eternal **bodies**

Colossians 1:18 “He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.”

(c) Continuity between our present **choices** and our future **existence**

John 11:25-26 “²⁵ Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die...’”

2 Corinthians 5:9-10 “⁹ Therefore, we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”

Revelation 20:12 “And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.”

Revelation 20:15 “And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”

Luke 16:25 “Child, remember that during your life you received your good things...”

“Earth leads directly into heaven, just as it leads directly into hell. Life here is a running start into one or the other. Heaven and hell are both retroactive to earth. The best of earth is a glimpse of heaven, the worst of earth a glimpse of hell. Earth is the in between world touched both by heaven and hell, affording a choice between the two.” Randy Alcorn

5. Heaven is reserved for those who trust in Christ

John 5:24 “Truly, truly, I say unto you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment but has passed out of death into life.”

John 6:40 “For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.”

John 11:25-26 “²⁵ Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies,
²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?’”

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”

Isaiah 64:6a “For all of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment...”

2 Corinthians 5:21 “He [God] made Him [Jesus] who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

Philippians 3:9 “and may be found in Him [Christ], not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith,”

Conclusion