

I. Introduction and review.

- A. We look forward to making our home in heaven. Heb. 11:10-11,13-16 13:14
- B. We want to clear up some of the confusion about heaven. Deut. 29:29 I Thess. 4:13
- C. There are at least four ways in which the term “heaven” is used.
 - 1. The sky (atmosphere) surrounding the earth. Gen. 7:11-12
 - 2. The abode of the sun, moon, and stars. II Pe. 3:5 Gen. 1:14-17
 - 3. The present (intermediate) heaven where God, the angels, and believers who have died dwell. II Co. 12:2 II Pe. 3:10 Isa. 57:15 Ps. 33:3-14
 - 4. The new heavens and the new earth which are yet to come. Isa. 65:17 Rev. 21:1

II. You who die before Christ’s return will join him in the present (intermediate) heaven.

- A. The Triune God and His angels dwell in the intermediate heaven. Acts 1:9-11 7:49 Mt. 6:9 24:36 28:2 Mk. 1:10-11 16:19 Ro. 1:18 Ga. 1:8 Eph. 1:20 Is. 57:15 I Pe. 1:12
 - 1. Christ came from heaven and ascended to heaven where He sits at the Father’s right hand. John 3:13 6:38 Acts 1:9-11 Eph. 1:20 Heb. 4:14 I Pe. 3:22
 - 2. In what form does Christ dwell in heaven? Acts 1:9f Eph. 1:20 He. 4:14 I Pe. 3:22
 - 3. Heaven is not eternal. It is a place created by God. Jo. 14:2f Isa. 65:17
 - 4. How can God who is eternal, and infinite dwell anywhere? I Ki. 8:27
- B. When you die, you will go to be with Christ in heaven.
 - 1. Your soul will immediately go to heaven, while your body awaits the resurrection. Luke 23:43 Phil. 1:23 II Cor. 5:8 Heb. 12:22-23
 - 2. Your soul will not sleep. You will be conscious. Luke 16:19-31 23:43 Mt. 22:32 Mark 9:4-5 Rev. 6:9-11
 - 3. You will be with Christ. Luke 23:43 Acts 7:56 I John 3:2 Phil. 1:23 II Co. 5:8
 - 4. You will be incapable of sin. I Cor. 15:52 Ro. 8:29-30 I Jo. 3:2 Eze. 36:26 Phil. 1:6
 - 5. All death, pain, and sorrow will end. Rev. 21:4 Isa. 25:8
 - 6. There is no purgatory. Luke 18:14 23:43 Heb. 12:23 John 19:30
- C. What else can you know (or infer) about the intermediate state?
 - 1. While the Bible doesn’t say a lot about the intermediate state, there are a few texts which give us a glimpse behind the veil. Luke 9:30-31 16:19-31 Rev. 6:9-11
 - 2. You will retain your individual identity, as opposed to Eastern and New Age religions which teach your soul will be absorbed into the great One.
 - 3. You will remember your life on earth, including the “bad” things. Rev. 6:9-10 II Co. 5:10 Luke 16:25 II Co. 5:10 Mt. 12:36
 - 4. You will be able to express yourself. Rev. 6:10 Mark 9:4 Luke 16:24
 - 5. You will have a certain level of awareness of, and concern for, events on earth. I Sam. 28:16-18 Luke 15:7,10
 - 6. God will communicate with you and you will learn. Rev. 6:11b I Co. 13:12
 - 7. You will not be able to go back and forth to earth. Luke 16:26
 - 8. You will experience time. Rev. 6:10a
 - 9. You will be very happy there. II Cor. 5:6,8 Phil. 1:21,23 Rev. 14:13 Luke 16:25
- D. Questions about the present (intermediate) heaven.
 - 1. Is heaven another dimension? Mark 1:10 Acts 7:55-56 10:11 John 1:51 3:13
 - 2. Will you exist in some temporary physical form prior to the resurrection? Luke 9:28-36 Rev. 6:11 II Co. 12:3 Lu. 16:19-31
 - 3. How can heaven be heaven if we remember (and are aware of) bad things? Gen. 50:20 Rom. 8:28 Rev. 21:4 18:20 19:1-5

III. One day, you will dwell in the new heavens and the new earth (the eternal state).

- A. The intermediate state is only temporary. II Cor. 5:2-4**
- B. The creation account is crucial to understanding what the new earth will be like.**
 - 1. God made man perfect and placed him in a perfect world in order to have dominion over it. Gen. 1:31 2:15**
 - 2. The fall has brought sin and death into the world. Ro. 5:12 8:19-22 Ge. 3:14-19**
 - 3. Christ has come to restore what Adam lost. Co. 2:15 I Jo. 3:8 Re. 22:3b Eph. 1:10**
 - 4. The effects of the curse will be reversed. Rev. 22:3a**
 - a. Eden (Paradise) will be restored. Lu. 23:43 Ge. 2:8 3:24 Eze. 28:13 Re. 2:7 22:2**
 - b. There will be no more sickness and death. Rev. 21:4**
 - c. All things will be renewed. Rev. 21:5**
 - d. God will again walk (and dwell) among us. Gen. 3:8 John 14:23 Rev. 21:3,22**
- C. Your body will be raised and renewed. Job. 19:25-27**
 - 1. The body is an essential part of what it is to be human. Gen. 2:7**
 - 2. The resurrection of the body is an essential doctrine of our faith. I Co. 15:16-19**
 - 3. Christ's conquest of sin includes death's total defeat. I Cor. 15:25-26, 55-57**
 - 4. Christ will descend from Heaven, bringing with Him those who have already died and joined him there. I Th. 1:10 4:16 II Th. 1:7**
 - 5. Those who are alive when Christ returns will be gloriously transformed. I Th. 4:17 I Cor. 15:22,51-53**
- D. This present earth will be transformed and renewed. Acts 3:21 Rom. 8:21 Isa. 65:17 Rev. 21:5 *He Who sits on the throne said, Behold I am making all things new.***

IV. Concluding application.

- A. There is another place - Hell. Mt. 8:12 10:28 13:40-42,50 22:13 24:51 25:30,41,46 Mark 9:43-44 Luke 13:28 16:19-31 II Th. 1:9 Rev. 20:12-15 21:7-8**
 - 1. The souls of the wicked who die go to a place of torment. Luke 16:23**
 - 2. When Christ returns all will be raised and judged. John 5:28-29 Re. 20:12-15**
- B. You can be sure you are going to heaven. Luke 23:43 I John 5:13**
 - 1. If you were to die today, are you sure you would go to heaven?**
 - 2. Why should God let you into heaven? Phil. 3:7f Ro. 3:23 Mt. 7:13-14 Rev. 21:27 Heb. 12:14b Rom. 3:23 Isa. 3:6 Phil. 3:7f Isa. 64:6**
 - 3. God forgives sins and gives the perfect righteousness of Christ to all who believe. Phil. 3:8-9 II Cor. 5:21 I Pe. 3:18 John 3:16 Eph. 2:8-9 John 3:16**
 - 4. Call upon the Lord today! II Cor. 6:2 Rom. 10:8-13 Isa. 55:6**

Discussion questions

- 1. What are some false ideas people have about heaven?**
- 2. How many different "heavens" are there?**
- 3. Is heaven eternal? Why or why not?**
- 4. Where is Christ Jesus today? In what form is He?**
- 5. How would you refute the claim of some that the soul sleeps until Christ's return?**
- 6. What can you know about the intermediate state?**
- 7. Why is it necessary that the intermediate state is only temporary?**
- 8. How does the creation account help us understand what the New Earth will be like?**
- 9. Why is it necessary that our bodies be raised?**
- 10. Why is it necessary that the present earth be renewed?**
- 11. How can you know you are going to heaven?**