

Heaven No Better Reality

Heaven a State of Mind or a Reality

When we hear the term Heaven, do we understand it as a ***Real Place*** or is it just a state of Mind?

Many in the world around us today believe it is more likely that Hell exists than a place the Bible Calls Heaven. Many see Heaven as a Happy "Idea" or a place for certain groups of "good people" But this is not so. With so much happening on earth with so many trials some even are more willing to Think that we are living in a Hell on earth today.

But is Heaven a real place and how do we know that it's real?

Are those that believe that it's more of a state of mind; ARE they correct in their thinking?

To answer the question we must look at the only guide book the Christian can fully trust one that is uncorrupted and wholly true, God's living Word.

Heaven according to the Bible is a place where God the Father the first person of the Holy Trinity Lives And dwells by his Spirit.

It is an **ETERNAL HOME FOR ALL THAT BELIEVE!!!**

There is much evidence to prove this from God's word, so in this lesson we are going to talk about the Key verses that speak about this!!

Evidences that state Heaven is an actual place:

1. **Matthew 8:11** -says that many will come from the East and West to find a place in the Kingdom of Heaven...
2. **1 Thess. 4:13-18** it says that there will be a catching away of the saints to a literal Heavenly Place and We will meet the Lord on our way to Heaven at the Rapture [or catching away to be with him in Heaven]
3. **John 14:1-3** Jesus says do not be troubled by this earth and its trials, there is a literal place he Describes we will be and join him, a place he will prepare for us.

Notes on this verse

The promise of **John - 14** here is that Christ will literally prepare a place for each of us in a real place called Heaven. He talked about rooms he would prepare, houses that were there, obviously this is no state of mind. Heaven here is depicted as a place and the fact that he calls it a place..proves that more than ever...in **John 14:2b** he says I am going to prepare a "place for you" Praise God!! If he called this place Heaven, then it is implied that it is a place that exists and is a place of permanence for the believers.

4. **2 Corinthians 12:1-4** - Paul the Apostle states that Heaven is a future Glory or future place of dwelling for all believers. Paul in one of his visions called it a Third Heaven and also called it Paradise..
5. **Luke 23:43**- Luke in his Gospel notes that as Christ hung on that cross, while he was being crucified called out to the one of the criminals in response to his questions...Jesus Remember me when you come into your kingdom.. The Lord simple stated "this day you will be with me in paradise"!! The Book of Revelation 2:7 says that he who overcomes will gain the right to eat from the tree of life In the paradise of God..>Heaven!

6. **Philemon 1:26** Paul the Apostle says he desired to depart and be with Christ, a place he often described as a place of bliss, eternity, and a place we will be consciously aware of our surroundings
7. **2 Corinthians 5:1-4** - Talks about being clothed with a heavenly dwelling, a referral to each of us Being clothed with that new glorified and resurrected body that will only exist in that glorified place Heaven itself.
Heaven is a place that is permanent, eternal, and will be where each of us will live upon death. We will be ushered into the presence of the Living Lord where we will dwell and exist forever more. On earth our bodies are temporal, vulnerable, and perishing so desire the reality there is no place like it.

Notes on 2 Corinthians 5:1-4

According to this verse instantly upon death we leave behind our earthly bodies and will become clothed with a heavenly body. Our Body and Soul separate as we die... [our souls contains our mind, will, and emotions]

In fact this is how we attain that new glorified body, the old one has to die first, and the earthly body cannot

Inherit the heavenly; the body that God gives us is a spiritual, glorified body one that will be like his. The old man/ body dies and our spirit man lives on and we are alive our souls continues to exist even after death our mind, will and emotions are alive, as are transferred into that eternal dwelling with God either in Hell or Heaven.

Luke 16:19-31 illustrates this story about the soul, the part of us that lives and is aware of what and where we are after death. Read this true story by Luke the Disciple of Jesus

Read **Luke 16:19-31**-

Luke shows us that our soul is alive after death, conscious of what is going on around us. Many of us have heard of someone sharing a story of seeing lights or having an encounter with a spiritual being after death. Clearly showing that our spirit is alive, even though some of these stories are not always Factual [because they are not based on the Bible]. God does appear to us but the Word says it's after death, upon entering his dwelling not before and a going back and forth, this promise of Luke is reserved for those that have lived the Christian Life and are now sharing that eternal dwelling with Christ in that glorified body.

To illustrate that more clearly this is what happens to Soul and Spirit upon death:

1. **1 Corinthians 5:14** says the Soul/Spirit is one with the Lord and separates from the Physical Body upon death being ushered into the presence of the Lord when the physical body no longer Functions.
2. **1 Corinthians 15:50-54**- seems to illustrate that the body and soul exist separately.

Note: **In I Thessalonians - 5:23** Paul states that we have a body, soul and a spirit. Paul separates the list and names each one as it is a separate entity and mentions who the spirit man/women is... a referral to the actual mind, body and emotions which is who we are spiritually

All these elements are necessary for the whole make-up of man as God intended.

3. Understand that there is no Gap, in between our heavenly wait or any space in between death and entry into your eternal bliss, heaven itself is real, for the believer and we all should eagerly desire our beautiful Serenity:

If we want to understand this in layman's terms:

When the Christian the believer dies the Bibles clearly illustrates in these above verses that the physical Body dies, the flesh we see perishes, and the Soul departs from that Body and goes to be with the Lord Immediately and awaits that glorified body

As Jesus said to the Robber on the Cross:

...Today you will be with me in paradise **Luke 23:43**

Heaven is an unmistakeable immediate place for the believer our hope our crown, our truth.

There is no purgatory, no saints can pray you into or out of Heaven, and it's all God's spirit in us going to him upon his call for us to come to him eternally

With such proofs we must be convinced that this truth is the great hope of each of us and we should be Assured of it so much that we are not reluctant to tell others so they too reach Heaven, the Heaven God Intended for all

The only other way Christians can go to Heaven according to the Bible is the blessed Rapture of the church. The catching away of the believers that held out the truth and awaited his return, and were Rewarded by being caught away in the end days program carried out according to the Book of Revelation, but we will address that in another lesson later.

Rapture verses according to the Armaneist view are:

I Thessalonians 4:16-17

Revelation- 4: 1-5

In conclusion: we must remember that our future is secure in Christ Hidden in God...

Remember that the only way is "up" for all who believe the timeless message that he is coming back For his church... so keep looking up.

Remember also what we talked about throughout this lesson, that:

1. Heaven is a present reality
2. We are promised Heaven upon death if we know the Lord in a personal way, received him and became Born Again according to **John 3:3**
3. That we are a part of God's greater plan no matter how big the universe is God created it all for us And we can know him in a personal intimate way.
Heaven is not a place so far away like the constellations, Heaven is real and it is where God's presence Is!!!

QUESTIONS

1. What are the requirements to enter Heaven? **John 3:3-8**
2. For whom is the Heavenly inheritance Given? **I Peter 1:3-5**
3. What is the promise of Christ concerning Heaven in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount?
Matthew 5:11-12
4. Who in **1 Thessalonians 4:17** is the Lord returning for in the last days? **I Thess. 4:17**
5. What kind of Body will we have at the resurrection of the righteous and who is ushered into the Presence of The Lord? **1 Corinthians 15:42-46**
6. What is our awesome promise as the end of all things comes to a close and what is our guarantee of That?
 - a. **Ephesians 1:13-14**
 - b. **I Thessalonians 5:9-10**
 - c. **Revelation 22:1-4, 22: 1-20**

Eternity could be just around the corner so we must be ready. Are you? So be faithful trust and obey there is no other way, Heaven awaits the reward for every Christian, will this motivate you?

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