

The Bible Tells Us About Heavenly Things
Selected Scriptures
Dr. Steve Hereford, Pastor-Teacher
5/11/16 © 2016

Introduction

1. As we begin our study tonight, I want to begin with a quote from A.W. Tozer. He says, “I can safely say, on the authority of all that is revealed in the Word of God, that any man or woman on this earth who is bored and turned off by worship is not ready for heaven.”
2. The Bible has talks about a lot of things.
3. We have been learning some of those things.
4. It talks about God....that He exists....and He’s three and One.
5. It talks about Jesus...that He is God who became man who died for man’s sin and rose the third day.

6. It talks about sin and how to have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.
7. It talks about how Christians are to live.
8. Now we're talking about heavenly things.
9. As we do that tonight, I want to begin by asking...

LESSON

I. What is Heaven?

A. God's Throne

Is 66:1 Thus says the Lord: "Heaven is My throne, And earth is My footstool. Where is the house that you will build Me? And where is the place of My rest?

B. God's Dwelling Place

1 Kin 8:30 And may You hear the supplication of Your servant and of Your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. Hear in heaven Your dwelling place; and when You hear, forgive.

II. What is Heaven Like?

A. A Barn

Matt 3:12 His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

B. The Kingdom of Christ and of God

Eph 5:5 For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

C. The Father’s House

John 14:2 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.

D. A Heavenly Country

Heb 11:16 But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

E. A Rest

Heb 4:9 There remains therefore a rest for the people of God

F. The Third Heaven

2 Cor 12:2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven.

G. Paradise

Luke 23:43 And Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”

2 Cor 12:4 how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

III. Who is in Heaven?

A. God

Matthew 6:9 (NKJV) In this manner, therefore, pray:
Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

B. Jesus

1 Peter 3:18-22 (NKJV) ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, ¹⁹ by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. ²¹ There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.

Revelation 5:1-7 (NKJV) ¹ And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. ² Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and to

loose its seals?”³ And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.⁴ So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it.⁵ But one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.”⁶ And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.⁷ Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

C. Holy Spirit

1 John 5:7 (NKJV) For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.

D. Angels

Matthew 18:10 (NKJV) “Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that

in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 24:36 (NKJV) But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.

E. Believers

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (NKJV) But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. ¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.

2 Corinthians 5:8 (NKJV) We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

Philippians 1:21-24 (NKJV) For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.²² But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell.²³ For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.²⁴ Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you.

CONCLUSION

Heaven is a real place where people with physical bodies will dwell in God's presence for all eternity; and it is also a realm that surpasses our finite concept of what a "place" is.