

Is Heaven Real?

Heaven, Part 1

1 Corinthians 2:9

Pastor Brian

I. What is Heaven?

1. First, we have to distinguish between the **present & eternal** heaven.

2 Corinthians 12 ² *I was caught up to the third heaven fourteen years ago. Whether I was in my body or out of my body, I don't know—only God knows... But I do know ⁴ that I was caught up to paradise and heard things so astounding that they cannot be expressed in words (NLT)*

Revelation 21 ¹ *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared.... ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. (NLT)*

2. Heaven is a real place where God **lives and rules**.

Psalms 123 ¹ *Our Lord and our God, I turn my eyes to you, on your throne in heaven. (CEV)*

John 14 ¹ *Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. ² There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? (NLT)*

II. Where is Heaven?

3. It's out of this **world**.

Psalms 53 ² *God looks down from heaven on the entire human race; he looks to see if anyone is truly wise, if anyone seeks God. (NLT)*

Acts 7 ⁵⁵ *But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed steadily into heaven and saw the glory of God, and he saw Jesus standing in the place of honor at God's right hand. ⁵⁶ And he told them, "Look, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing in the place of honor at God's right hand!" (NLT)*

III. What is Heaven like?

4. It's more than we can even **imagine**.

1 Corinthians 2 ⁹ *No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him. (NLT)*

5. It's where Jesus is **today**.

Acts 1 ¹¹ *"Men of Galilee, why are you standing here staring at the sky? Jesus has gone away to heaven, and some day, just as he went, he will return!" (TLB)*

6. It is a city built by **God**.

Hebrews 11 ¹⁰ Abraham was confidently looking forward to a city with eternal foundations, a city designed and built by God. (NLT))

7. It is a place prepared **for us.**

Philippians 3 ²⁰ But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. (NLT)

8. It is a far **better** place than here.

Hebrews 11 ¹³ All these people died still believing what God had promised them. They did not receive what was promised, but they saw it all from a distance and welcomed it. They agreed that they were foreigners and nomads here on earth. ¹⁴ Obviously people who say such things are looking forward to a country they can call their own. ¹⁵ If they had longed for the country they came from, they could have gone back. ¹⁶ But they were looking for a better place, a heavenly homeland.

IV. Closing Thoughts

1. No one goes to heaven by accident. God prepared heaven for people that accept Jesus as their Savior.
2. If you are not prepared to go to heaven, please take care of that today!
3. Invite someone to church next week.