

# **“REAL ANSWERS ABOUT HEAVEN”**

## **Series Outlines**



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- 2) Heaven in Your Heart (Ecclesiastes 3:11)
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You can access full text copies of all ten messages in the series at the following web address: <http://www.rayfowler.org/sermons/real-answers-about-heaven/>

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## **“The Dwelling Place of God” (Psalm 33:13-14)**

**Note:** Only the Bible gives us trustworthy answers about heaven.

- Deuteronomy 29:29; John 3:13; Revelation 21:5

### **I. Heaven is God’s house (Genesis 28:17; Psalm 23:6; John 14:2)**

A. Heaven is where God lives.

- 1 Kings 8:30; Matthew 6:9; Hebrews 12:22; Rev 21:3

B. God’s home reflects God’s character.

1) Heaven is a place of beauty.

- Psalm 27:4; 1 Corinthians 2:9; Revelation 21:2

2) Heaven is a place of holiness.

- Deuteronomy 26:15; Isaiah 57:15; Revelation 21:7

3) Heaven is a place of love.

- Isaiah 57:15; 1 Corinthians 13:13; 1 John 4:15-16

C. God is central to heaven.

- Psalm 73:25; Isaiah 6:1; Ezekiel 48:35

### **II. Heaven is where God’s throne is located**

A. God is worshiped on his throne in heaven.

- Isaiah 6:1-3; Revelation 5:13-14 (all of Revelation 4-5!)

B. God watches and rules over all the earth.

- Psalm 11:4, 33:13-15; Daniel 4:26

### **III. Heaven is Jesus’ home**

A. Jesus came from heaven, and he returned to heaven.

- John 6:38, 16:28; Hebrews 9:24

B. Jesus is the only way for us to go to heaven.

- John 14:6; Acts 4:12

## **“Heaven in Your Heart” (Ecclesiastes 3:11)**

### **I. All people have a general knowledge of God (Romans 1:19-20)**

- A. God has made plain to us what may be known about God
  - Romans 1:19
  
- B. God's eternal power and divine nature are seen through creation
  - Psalm 19:1; Romans 1:20

### **II. God has set eternity in the hearts of men (Ecclesiastes 3:10-11)**

- A. We know this world is not as it should be
  - Ecclesiastes 3:10; Romans 8:20-21
  
- B. We know that there must be more to this life
  - Ecclesiastes 3:11

### **III. God puts a longing for heaven within every believer's heart**

- A. Heaven is our true home
  - Philippians 3:20; Hebrews 11:13-16
  
- B. We who have the Holy Spirit groan along with creation as we wait for our final redemption
  - Romans 8:22-23; 2 Corinthians 5:17
  
- C. We hope for what we do not yet have, and so we wait for it patiently
  - Romans 8:24-25

## **“Foretastes of Heaven on Earth” (Revelation 21:1)**

### **1) The Garden of Eden – a foretaste of paradise**

- Genesis 2:9-10, 22; Luke 23:43; Revelation 21:9, 22:1-2

### **2) The temple or tabernacle - a foretaste of God living with us**

- Hebrews 8:5, 9:24; John 1:14; Revelation 21:3, 16, 22

### **3) The church – a foretaste of worship and fellowship in heaven**

- Matthew 26:29; 1 Timothy 3:15; Hebrews 12:22-23; Rev 19:9

### **4) The Holy Spirit – a foretaste of your promised inheritance**

- Romans 8:16-17, 23; Ephesians 1:13-14

### **5) Healings and miracles – a foretaste of God’s coming kingdom**

- Matthew 4:23, 6:10; Luke 11:20; Hebrews 6:4-5; Rev 21:4

### **6) The old earth - a foretaste of the new earth**

- Isaiah 65:17; Habakkuk 2:14; Revelation 21:1

### **7) Your salvation – a foretaste of eternal life to come**

- John 5:24, 17:3; 1 John 5:11-12

## **“Present with Christ” (Philippians 1:23)**

### **I. Jesus is in heaven right now**

- A. Jesus ascended to heaven and sits at the right hand of God  
- Luke 24:51; Colossians 3:1; 1 Peter 3:22
  
- B. Jesus goes before you to prepare a place for you  
- John 14:1-2
  
- C. Jesus will take you to be with him so you may be where he is  
- John 14:3

### **II. When we die we go to be with Jesus**

- A. To be absent from the body is to be present with Christ  
- Luke 23:43; 2 Corinthians 5:6-8
  
- B. Our bodies sleep but our spirits are alive with Christ  
- Matthew 27:52; John 11:11-13; Acts 7:59; Hebrews 12:23
  
- C. Being present with Christ is better by far!  
- Philippians 1:21-24; Revelation 14:13

### **III. We still await the resurrection**

- A. This first stage of heaven is temporary (intermediate state)  
- Revelation 6:9-11
  
- B. When Christ returns he will raise our bodies and bring us with him  
- 1 Thessalonians 4:14,16
  
- C. We will live with Christ forever in the new heaven and earth  
- Psalm 23:6; John 14:2-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:17

### **Application:**

- 1) confidence (2 Corinthians 5:6-8)
- 2) hope (1 Thessalonians 4:13)
- 3) comfort (1 Thessalonians 4:18)

## **“New Body Anyone?” (1 Corinthians 15:42-44)**

### **I. When will you get your new body?**

- A. When Christ returns
  - John 5:28-29; 1 Thessalonians 4:14
  
- B. The dead in Christ will rise first, then we who are still alive
  - 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17
  
- C. We will all be changed in an instant
  - 1 Corinthians 15:51-52

### **II. What will your new body be like?**

- A. It will be the same body but different
  - Job 19:25-27; 1 Corinthians 15:35-37,42
  
- B. There will be four major differences (1 Corinthians 15:42-44)
  - 1) perishable > imperishable (John 11:25-26)
  - 2) dishonorable > glorious (Matthew 13:43)
  - 3) weak > powerful (Isaiah 40:31)
  - 4) natural > spiritual (Romans 8:10-11)
  
- C. Your new body will be like Jesus' resurrection body
  - Philippians 3:20-21; 1 John 3:2-3

### **III. Why will we get new bodies?**

- A. Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God
  - John 3:5-6; 1 Corinthians 15:50
  
- B. Our physical bodies are part of God's good creation
  - Genesis 1:31; Romans 8:20-21
  
- C. Sin and death must be completely defeated
  - Romans 8:22-24; 1 Corinthians 15:53-57

## **“Family Reunion” (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)**

### **I. We will be reunited when Christ returns.**

- A. The dead in Christ will rise first
  - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-16
  
- B. Then we who are still alive will be caught up with them
  - 1 Thessalonians 4:17-18; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52

### **II. We will join with the whole family of God.**

- A. We will know and recognize each other
  - Matt. 8:11, 17:3; Luke 10:20; Philip. 3:21 (see Eccl. 1:11)
  
- B. We will be reunited with our family members
  - 2 Samuel 12:23; Zechariah 8:5; Matthew 22:30
  
- C. We will all live in perfect harmony
  - Colossians 3:10-11; Hebrews 12:22-23

### **III. Christ will still be the main attraction!**

- 1 Thessalonians 4:17

### **Three applications:**

- 1) Reconcile with others now ó don't wait for heaven (Matthew 5:23-24)
- 2) Grieve ó but not like those who have no hope (1 Thessalonians 4:13)
- 3) Pray for your unsaved loved ones to come to Christ (1 Thessalonians 4:14)



## **“Judgment and Eternal Rewards” (2 Corinthians 5:10)**

### **I. What will happen on the Day of Judgment?**

- A. Everyone will appear before the Lord for judgment  
- Romans 14:12; Hebrews 9:27; Revelation 20:11-15
- B. God will judge your salvation according to your faith in Christ  
- Ephesians 2:8-10; Revelation 21:27
- C. God will judge your works according to what you have done  
- 2 Corinthians 5:10; Ephesians 6:8; Revelation 22:12

### **II. What kinds of rewards will God give his people?**

- A. The difference between your inheritance and your rewards  
- Romans 8:16-17; Colossians 3:24; 1 Peter 1:3-5
- B. Your rewards in heaven will correspond to your deeds on earth  
- 1 Corinthians 3:10-14; Revelation 14:13
- C. Five different crowns mentioned in the Bible:
  - 1) the crown of victory ó for those who practice self-discipline  
(1 Corinthians 9:25)
  - 2) the crown of rejoicing ó for those who lead others to Christ  
(1 Thessalonians 2:19-20)
  - 3) the crown of righteousness ó for those who long for Christ’s  
appearing (2 Timothy 4:8)
  - 4) the crown of life ó for those who persevere through trials and  
persecution (Matt 5:11-12; James 1:12; Revelation 2:10)
  - 5) the crown of glory ó for those who faithfully shepherd God’s  
people (1 Peter 5:4)

### **III. What will we do with our rewards?**

- A. We will receive them with gladness (Matthew 25:23)
- B. There will be no jealousy or pride (Romans 12:10; 1 Corinthians 12:26)
- C. We will give all the glory to God (Revelation 4:10-11)

## **“What Will We Do in Heaven?” (Revelation 22:1-5)**

**1) We will worship** (Revelation 5:11-14, 7:9-10)

**2) We will fellowship** (Hebrews 12:22-23)

**3) We will serve** (Ephesians 2:10; Revelation 7:15, 22:3)

**4) We will work** (Isaiah 65:21-23; Revelation 22:3)

**5) We will rest** (Isaiah 57:2; Revelation 14:13)

**6) We will rule** (Genesis 1:28; Matthew 25:21; Rev 3:21, 5:10, 22:4-5)

**7) We will not ...**

- We will not be bored (Psalm 16:11; Isaiah 65:17-18)
- We will not hurt or be hurt (Isaiah 65:25; Revelation 21:4)
- We will not hunger or thirst (Revelation 7:16-17)
- We will not mourn or cry (Isaiah 65:19; Rev 7:17, 21:4)
- We will not sin or die (Isaiah 65:20; Hebrews 12:23; Rev 21:4)

## **“Your Eternal Home” (Revelation 21-22)**

### **I. Location, location, location**

- A. The earth will be renewed (2 Peter 3:10-13)
- B. Heaven will come down to earth (Revelation 3:12, 21:2)

### **II. A house, a city, a country, a world**

- A. The Father's house (John 14:2)
- B. The New Jerusalem (Hebrews 12:22; Revelation 21:2)
- C. A better country (Isaiah 65:21,25; Hebrews 11:13-16)
- D. New heavens and a new earth (Isaiah 65:17; Revelation 21:1)

### **III. A place of absolute beauty, safety and perfection (Revelation 21-22)**

- A. Brilliant and shining (21:9-11)
- B. Great wall with twelve gates (21:12-14)
- C. Laid out like a large cube (21:15-17)
- D. Made of precious jewels (21:18-21)
- E. Filled with the glory and presence of God (21:22-27)
- F. The river and tree of life (22:1-2)
- G. You will see the face of God (22:3-6)

### **IV. Your eternal home**

- A. Never ending (Isaiah 66:22)
- B. Truly home at last (Psalm 23:6)

## **“Living for Heaven Now” (1 Corinthians 15:58)**

**1) New affections** (1 John 2:15-17)

**2) New direction and focus** (Colossians 3:1-2)

**3) New priorities** (Matthew 6:19-21)

**4) New commitment to holiness** (2 Peter 3:10-13)

**5) New commitment to service and witness** (1 Corinthians 15:58)

**6) New perseverance through trials** (Romans 8:18; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18)

**7) New hope** (Philippians 3:20; Titus 2:11-14)