

BIBLE TRUTHS ABOUT HEAVEN

Col.1:3-6; 1Pet.1:3-5

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. Heaven is a subject to which many people give little or no thought. It is of little or no importance to them.
2. Heaven is a place for which the majority of people make no preparation to enter, even those who claim to believe in it and give some thought to the subject.
3. Heaven is a place for which many people think they are prepared to enter, when in reality they are not! What a shock that's going to be at the time of death!
4. Some people do not believe in either a heaven or a hell beyond this life and this earth. In fact, many think that heaven as well as hell is just a state of mind, not real; or just the imagination of the overly zealous religious.
5. Some people think all people are going to be saved and go to heaven, that no one will be lost.
6. To the true Bible believer and true follower of Jesus the subject of heaven is a most comforting and fascinating one and their life here on earth is lived so that heaven can be their home in the world to come.
7. What does the Bible teach about heaven as a place, as to its duration, who can enter and on what conditions, and when shall the saved enter and enjoy the heavenly inheritance?
8. Our answer is to offer the following Bible truths about heaven.

II. DISCUSSION

A. THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT HEAVEN IS A PLACE NOT JUST A CONDITION OR STATE OF MIND.

1. It is the place where God the Father is, Mt.5:16,43-45a,48; 6:1,9; 7:11; 16:15-17.
2. The place where the Lord's throne is, Psa.11:4; Isa.66:1; Ac.7:48,49.
3. The place where God's word is forever settled, Psa.119:89.
4. The place to which our prayers go when they go up to God who is a God who hears prayer, 2Chr.30:27; Ac.10:1ff; Psa.20:6; 65:1,2.
5. The place from which Jesus came to earth, Jno.3:13; 6:33,38,42; 1Cor.15:47.

6. The place to which Jesus ascended after his resurrection from the dead, Ac.1:9-11; 3:21; Mk.16:19; Eph.1:19,20; 1Pet.3:21,22; Heb.9:24.
7. The place from which the Father spoke in identifying Jesus as his Son, Mt.3:16,17; 17:5; Heb.1:1,2.
8. The place where our building of God, our house not made with hands, is located, 2Cor.5:1,2.
9. The place where our citizenship is, Phil.3:20.
10. The place where our hope is laid up for us, Col.1:5; Cf. Heb.6:19,20; Eph.4:4-6.
11. The place where our inheritance is reserved, 1Pet.1:3-5; Heb.10:34; 11:16; Mt.5:12.
12. The place where we are admonished to lay up our treasures, Mt.6:19-21; Cf. 1Tim.6:17-19.
13. The place where the names of the saved are written, Lk.10:20; Heb.12:23.
14. The place from which the Lord will descend at his 2nd Coming, 1Th.1:9,10; 1Th.4:16; 2Th.1:7.
15. The place from which God's wrath is revealed against the unbelieving disobedient, Rom.1:18.

B. WHAT IS THE DURATION OF OUR HEAVENLY INHERITANCE ACCORDING TO BIBLE TRUTH?

1. 2Cor.5:1,2; 1Pet.1:3-5.
2. Mt.6:19,20; 25:46; Mk.10:29,30; Rom.6:23; Tit.1:2; Heb.5:8,9.

C. WHO CAN ENTER HEAVEN AND ON WHAT CONDITIONS AS REVEALED IN THE BIBLE?

1. It's an heavenly calling which is by means of the gospel, Heb.3:1; 2Th.2:13,14.
2. There is one gospel by which men are called, which is God's power unto salvation, which men must hear, believe and obey in order to be saved and be partakers of the heavenly calling, Gal.1:6-12; Rom.1:16,17; Mk.16:15,16; 2Th.1:6-10.
3. Mt.7:21-23; Heb.5:8,9; 2Pet.1:5-11; 1Jno.2:24,25; Heb.12:25-29.
4. All are invited and can enter if they will by faith meet the conditions, Mt.11:28-30; Tit.2:11-14; Heb.2:9; Rev.22:17; 1Tim.2:3-6; 2Pet.3:9.

D. WHEN SHALL WE ENTER HEAVEN AND ENJOY OUR HEAVENLY INHERITANCE ACCORDING TO BIBLE TRUTH?

1. At the 2nd Coming and the final judgment if we have lived in faith to the end, 1Cor.15:58; 1Th.4:13-18; 2Th.1:6-10; 2Tim.4:6-8; Heb.9:26-28; Mt.25:31-46.

III. CONCLUSION

1. According to the comforting words of 1Th.4:13-17, when Jesus, at his 2nd Coming, descends from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God, all obedient believers in Jesus – both those living at the time of his coming, and those who died in faith, whom he will raise at that time – will be caught up together in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and will then ever be with the Lord!
2. From then throughout eternity they will enjoy life in the presence of the Father, the Son, and the redeemed of all ages! The tree of life regained!!
3. I can't begin to imagine how glorious that will be! Imagine being in the presence of all the great, faithful men and women of both O.T. and N.T., to say nothing of the Father and the Son!
4. And then again – that for **ETERNITY!!!**