



BIG QUESTIONS

STUDY 1 “What is heaven like?”

If you asked someone on the street “what do you think heaven is like?” what kinds of answers might you get?

How would you describe heaven?

INTRODUCTION

Heaven is an amazing topic to dig into and is so huge that a study or sermon will never cover everything God’s word says about it. One of the dangers in studying a topic like heaven is that we get distracted by secondary issues and miss the main life transforming point. This study will be focusing on two places we see what heaven is like from the Bible – the resurrection of Jesus and the new creation. It won’t be dealing with the issue of timing regarding the end times and eternity, which can often distract well-meaning Christians.

Jesus says to the thief on the cross who turns to Him – “Today you will be with me in paradise” and Paul says he longs to “depart and be with Christ”. Jesus then promises to make all things new when he returns as judge and Saviour King. He will bring in the new heavens and the new earth where God will be with His people for eternity. So - when Christians die they are with Jesus, and then Jesus makes all things new. The timing is not such a big deal. Eternity with Jesus is a HUGE DEAL and is commonly referred to as “heaven”. This our home as God’s people. A clearer picture of “heaven” will transform our lives now.

TWO KEY PASSAGES

Read 1 Corinthians 15:20-49

1. What does it mean that Jesus is the “first fruits” of the new creation/heaven?
2. Verse 47 tells us the second man (Jesus), is of heaven. How does verse 48 explain what that means for us?
3. If Jesus was raised from the dead, and we are raised just like Him, what does that tell us about eternity in heaven?

Read Revelation 21:1-6

4. List everything we’re told about the new creation – the “new heaven and new earth”.
5. How do verses 3 and 4 help us understand what heaven/new creation will be like?
6. How would you describe heaven based on the two passages we’ve looked at? Try to summarize it in one sentence.

APPLICATION – How does it change us?

7. Psalm 16: 11 tells us that in God’s presence there is fullness of joy and at His right hand are pleasures forevermore. How would you answer someone who says “heaven sounds boring”?
8. How does the picture of heaven God gives us in His word help us to live as Christians each day?
9. What are some ways we can practically set our minds and hearts on “things above” in heaven?

Some additional resources for those wanting to dig deeper:

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/heaven-will-never-be-boring/>

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/4-questions-about-heaven/>

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/heavens-never-ending-party/>