

HEAVEN

The Place Everybody There Will Love

Revelation 21:1-4

Heaven is a very popular topic, it should be. Some have said more people believe in Heaven now than at any other time in American history. It is the best of the best of all things that are wonderful. What, however, is it? The tendency is to not give due consideration to the fact that a nonmaterial, spirit realm is described in the Bible by material, temporal images. Additionally, since Heaven is so popular, it tends to be romanticized any mythologized to the point that popular concepts often overshadow Scripture. How, then, can we unravel the mysteries associated with Heaven?

Sorting Some Things Out

- The image of plump little angels fluttering around clouds is hard to erase from our memory, but it is not a biblical picture.
- Neither is it true that we will become angels, another common myth (cf. Matt. 22:30, note the word “like” or “as”)
- Additionally, most people do not wind up in Heaven (cf. Matt. 7:13-14)
 - There is, of course, always a place for tact, but is there ever a funeral service where the departed is going anywhere but to Heaven?
 - Hell is a subject commonly avoided, but Heaven more than takes up the slack.

Heaven

- Let us start with the question “Are we prepared for what Heaven is like” (cf. Phil. 3:17-21)
 - Living by a pattern (I Pet. 2:21)
 - Facing the enemies of the cross (Eph. 6:12; II Cor. 10:3-5)
 - Minds set on heavenly rather than earthly things (Col. 3:1-3)
 - Foreigners (I Pet. 2:11)
 - Eagerly awaiting a Savior (I Cor 1:7)
 - Eagerly awaiting transformation (Rom. 8:23)
- The imagery
 - Otherworldly (Jn. 18:36; Heb. 9:11-24; Rev. 21:4)
 - Prepared by Jesus (Jn. 14:2)
 - A city (Heb. 11:16; Rev. 21:2-27)
 - Beauty
 - Security
 - Serenity
 - Where God is
 - New heavens and earth (II Pet. 3:13; Rev. 20:11; 21:1).
 - Restored Garden of Eden (Rev. 22:2)

We cannot know just exactly what Heaven will be like. Our bodies have not been changed from flesh and blood to the state they will be in after the Second Coming of Christ (cf. I Cor. 15:50-54; Jn. 5:28-29). One thing we do know, however, there is nothing but good about Heaven. Everything about Heaven is wonderful, and wonderful in the most extreme manner. Heaven is truly a place everybody there will love.