

HEAVEN: A TRUE, REAL, PREPARED PLACE

Thoughts about Heaven:

“The fact that our heart yearns for something earth can’t supply is proof that heaven must be our home.” **C.S. Lewis**

“Your place in heaven will seem to be made for you and you alone, because you were made for it.” **C.S. Lewis**

“Heaven will chiefly exist in the enjoyment of God.” **WM Plumer**

“There are no regrets in heaven, no remorseful tears, no second thoughts, no lost causes.” **John Blanchard**

“Here, joy begins to enter into us; there we enter into joy.” **Thomas Watson**

“I have come home at last! This is my real country! I belong here. This is the land I have been looking for all my life, though I never knew it till now...come further up, come further in!” **C.S. Lewis “The Last Battle”**

“We must...I’m afraid recognize that, as we grow older, we become like old cars – more and more repairs and replacements are necessary. We must look forward to the fine new machines (latest resurrection model) which are waiting for us, we hope, in the Divine garage!” **C.S. Lewis**

“Christians are not citizens of earth trying to get to heaven, but citizens of heaven making their way through this world.” **Vance Havner**

“Eternal life does not begin with death, it begins with faith.” **Samuel Shoemaker**

“They that enter heaven will find that they are neither unknown or unexpected.” **J.C. Ryle**

“Heaven would hardly be heaven if we could define it.” **W. E. Biderwoif**

“Heaven is not a conditional reward, but a consummated relationship.” **John Blanchard**

“Heaven is not a state of mind. Heaven is reality itself.” **C.S. Lewis**

“Believers will swim forever in an ocean of joy.” **Thomas Boston**

“Joy is the serious business of heaven.” **C.S. Lewis**

“It is God alone who makes heaven to be heaven.” **Thomas Brooks**

“Heaven is the perfectly ordered and harmonious enjoyment of God and of one another in God.” **Augustine**

“There will be no sin in heaven, for those who are in heaven will not have it in them to sin anymore.” **J.I Packer**

“Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal.” **Thomas V. Moore**

“One breath of paradise will extinguish all the adverse winds of earth.” **A. W. Pink**

“When I die – I do not die anymore, however – and someone finds my skull,

let this skull still preach to him and say: I have no eyes, no tongue, yet I sing praise to Him with all who call upon His name. I am a hard skull, yet I am wholly softened and melted in His love; I lay here exposed on God's Acre, yet I am there in Paradise! All suffering is forgotten! His great love did this for us when for us He carried His cross and went out to Golgotha."

Kohlbrugge

- Heaven is a real place.

²I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a man was caught up to the third heaven. ³And I know how such a man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, God knows—⁴was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which a man is not permitted to speak. **2 Corinthians 12:2-4 NASB**

²The Lord has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men to see if there are any who understand. **Psalm 14:2 NASB**

If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, *there* you may be also. **John 14:3 NASB**

¹³"But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, and I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north. ¹⁴'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.' **Isaiah 14:13-14 NASB**

"Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be Your name. **Matthew 6:9 NASB**

Thus says the Lord, "Heaven is My throne and the earth is My footstool. Where then is a house you could build for Me? And where is a place that I may rest? **Isaiah 66:1 NASB**

The Lord is in His holy temple; the Lord's throne is in heaven; His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men. **Psalm 11:4 NASB**

Now I know that the Lord saves His anointed; He will answer him from His holy heaven With the saving strength of His right hand. **Psalm 20:6 NASB**

"The work which His goodness began the arm of His strength will complete; His promise is Yea and Amen, and never was forfeited yet; things future, nor things that are now, can make Him His purpose forgo or sever my soul from His love." **Augustus Toplady**

And Jesus said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven. **Matthew 16:17 NASB**

So then, when the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. **Mark 16:19 NASB**

- Believers go to heaven immediately upon their death.

⁶Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord—⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight—⁸we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord. **2 Corinthians 5:6-8 NASB**

⁵⁵But being full of the Holy Spirit, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; ⁵⁶and he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” ⁵⁷But they cried out with a loud voice, and covered their ears and rushed at him with one impulse. ⁵⁸When they had driven him out of the city, they *began* stoning *him*; and the witnesses laid aside their robes at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹They went on stoning Stephen as he called on *the Lord* and said, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!” ⁶⁰Then falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them!” Having said this, he fell asleep. **Acts 7:55-60 NASB**

- We will know people and be known by people in heaven.

²²He said, “While the child was *still* alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, ‘Who knows, the Lord may be gracious to me, that the child may live.’ ²³But now he has died; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me.” **2 Samuel 12:22-23 NASB**

¹⁶For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸Therefore comfort one another with these words. **1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 NASB**

Six days later Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up on a high mountain by themselves. ²And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light. ³And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. ⁴Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, I will make three tabernacles here, one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” ⁵While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and

behold, a voice out of the cloud said, “This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!” ⁶When the disciples heard *this*, they fell face down to the ground and were terrified. ⁷And Jesus came to *them* and touched them and said, “Get up, and do not be afraid.” ⁸And lifting up their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus Himself alone.

⁹As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, “Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.” ¹⁰And His disciples asked Him, “Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?” ¹¹And He answered and said, “Elijah is coming and will restore all things; ¹²but I say to you that Elijah already came, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they wished. So also the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands.” ¹³Then the disciples understood that He had spoken to them about John the Baptist. **Matthew 17:1-3 NASB**

- Heaven is a place of absolute perfection.

³Then I heard a mighty voice from the throne *and* I perceived its distinct words, saying, See! The abode of God is with men, and He will live (encamp, tent) among them; and they shall be His people, and God shall personally be with them and be their God. ⁴God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and death shall be no more, neither shall there be anguish (sorrow and mourning) nor grief nor pain any more, for the old conditions *and* the former order of things have passed away. **Revelation 21:3-4 AMPC**

²¹For me to live is Christ [His life in me], and to die is gain [the gain of the glory of eternity]. ²²If, however, it is to be life in the flesh *and* I am to live on here, that means fruitful service for me; so I can say nothing as to my personal preference [I cannot choose], ²³But I am hard pressed between the two. My yearning desire is to depart (to be free of this world, to set forth) and be with Christ, for that is far, far better; ²⁴But to remain in my body is more needful *and* essential for your sake. **Philippians 1:21-24 AMPC**

- In **v23**, when Paul says “far better,” the Greek Language says, “It is far, very much far, much more better.” Here, Paul is adding superlative upon superlative when talking about going to heaven.
- Heaven is the presence of all that is good and the absence of all that is bad.
- Heaven is all that the loving heart of God would desire, all that the incredible mind of God can conceive, and all the almighty hand of God can create.
 - God’s love, God’s mind and God’s power.
- Heaven is the consummate of God’s creative genius.

But just as it is written, “THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND *which* HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.” **1 Corinthians 2:9 NASB**

JESUS IS THE CROWNING GLORY OF HEAVEN

¹²Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands; ¹³and in the middle of the lampstands / saw one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash. ¹⁴His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire. ¹⁵His feet were like burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters. ¹⁶In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength. ¹⁷When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, “Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, ¹⁸and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades. **Revelation 1:12-18 NASB**

- What makes our earthly homes, home, is that is where our loved ones live. What makes heaven, heaven, is Jesus!
 - Only the redeemed are going to heaven.

Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” **John 3:3 NASB**

He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” **John 3:36 NASB**

- We must be heaven-born to be heaven-bound.

¹¹He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. ¹²But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. **John 1:11-13 NASB**

5 For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. **2 Corinthians 5:1 NASB**

³We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, ⁴since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints; ⁵because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel. **Colossians 1:3-5 NASB**

²²But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, ²³to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of *the* righteous made perfect, ²⁴and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than *the blood* of Abel. **Hebrews 12:22-24 NASB**

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you. **1 Peter 1:3-4 NASB**

¹¹And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. ¹²He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. **1 John 5:11-12 NASB**

Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm.” **John 18:36 NASB**

Jesus resides at the right hand of the Father in heaven...He wants you to be there with Him.