

Does Heaven Hold All to Me?

Introduction

1. Through the ages mankind has always asked, “Is this world all there is?”
 - A. There is something within us that yearns for a better place, yet there is nothing in our purely human experience that tells us what or where it is.
 - B. However, the Bible, which is the Holy, inspired word of God to man, reveals more information and tells us about a place that is beyond this physical existence.
 - 1) Even the patriarchs of the Old Testament knew something about it.
Hebrews 11:14-16
 - 2) Notice that they desired a better, that is, a heavenly country. The scriptures refer to this place which God prepared for them, and the Bible also teaches for us as well, as heaven.
3. Let us examine what God’s word has to say about this place and ask the question, “does heaven hold all to me?”

What Is Heaven?

1. Our English word “heaven” literally means that which has been “heaved” and therefore is up.
 - A. The Greek word translated “heaven” also comes from a root that means to lift or to heave. The term is often used in contrast to the earth in Genesis 1:1 and Matthew 6:19-20.
 - B. For our purposes, we shall define heaven as the eternal dwelling place of God and His angels, where virtuous souls receive eternal reward after death, or the celestial paradise where God lives.
1 Kings 8:22-30

Matthew 6:9 In this manner, therefore, pray: **Our Father in heaven,**
Hallowed be Your name.

Who Will Go to Heaven?

1. God is the one who has prepared this eternal kingdom for His people.
Matthew 25:31-34
 - A. However, this raises the question, who will go to heaven?
Not everyone will go to heaven.
Matthew 25:41
2. The Bible teaches that the righteous, that is, those whose lives are right with God, will receive eternal life in heaven.
Matthew 25:46

When Will We Go to Heaven?

1. When did heaven come into existence? Again, it may be eternal, but if God created it, we have no idea when He did it.

A. However, we do remember what Jesus said, that the home for the righteous in God's kingdom was prepared from the foundation of the world, as part of His plan for the redemption of mankind.

2 Timothy 1:8-9 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,

Titus 1:1-2 Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness, in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began,

2. So, when do we actually go to heaven?

A. The Bible teaches that it will be after the second coming of Christ, the resurrection from the dead, the destruction of the physical universe, and the final judgment.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

2 Peter 3:10-13

Where Is Heaven?

1. The Bible speaks of three heavens, but the first two are physical in nature.

A. There is the atmosphere where the clouds gather and the birds fly

Psalms 147:7-8 Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; Sing praises on the harp to our God, Who covers the heavens with clouds, Who prepares rain for the earth, Who makes grass to grow on the mountains.

Jeremiah 4:25 I beheld, and indeed there was no man, And all the birds of the heavens had fled.

B. Also there is outer space where the sun, moon and stars are

Genesis 1:14-19

1) These are the heavens that Peter says will pass away with a great noise.

3. However, there is a third heaven.

2 Corinthians 12:1-2 It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven.

A. It is a spiritual place, so it will not be located in this physical universe, but wherever it is, God and Christ will be there.

Why Is a Place Being Prepared in Heaven?

- 1. The answer to this question is very plain. It is because He wants us to be with Him eternally.**

John 14:1-3 Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. **I go to prepare a place for you.** And 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.

- 2. Why should we want to go to heaven? There are several reasons, one of which is because God and Christ will be there; but there are other reasons too.**

- A. It will be a place of reward.**

Matthew 7:12 – “...great is your reward in heaven...”

- B. The redeemed of all ages will be there.**

Matthew 8:10-11 When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and **sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.**

- C. It will be a place of joy.**

Matthew 25:21 His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. **Enter into the joy of your lord.'**

- D. Our inheritance is there. Who would not want to go to such a place as this?**

1 Peter 1:3-5

How Do We Go to Heaven?

1. **The final question for us this morning is, how do we go to heaven?**
 - A. **We must understand that we cannot earn a home in heaven.**
 - B. **The only way that we can be saved in heaven is by God's grace.**

Ephesians 2:8-9 **For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.**

- 1) **However, this doesn't mean that there's nothing for us to do.**

2. **To go to heaven, Jesus said that we must do God's will.**

Matthew 7:21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, **but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.**

- A. **This means obeying the will of Christ to be saved from sin.**

Hebrews 5:8-9 though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, **He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,**

3. **Finally, once we have been saved in obedience to his will through baptism (Romans 6:3-4), it means being faithful to Him until death.**

Revelation 2:10Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Conclusion

1. The apostle Paul wrote:

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

2. Heaven is not just wishful thinking.

A. It is a promise made by our Creator who has always kept His promises.

3. We all need to ask ourselves **“Does heaven hold all to me?”**

4. If so, then nothing will keep us from obeying the gospel to be saved and living faithfully so that we might meet God’s conditions to receive this eternal home – called heaven!

John Donne wrote:

**Here in this world,
He bids us come;
there in the next,
He shall bid us welcome.**

