Heaven

Is Where Your Heart Is

Matthew 6.19-21

- * The Heavens: The higher spatial *and* spiritual realms that include:
 - 1. The aerial heavens: our atmosphere and outer space,
 - 2. The ethereal heavens: the domain of evil spirits, and the abode of angels and God.

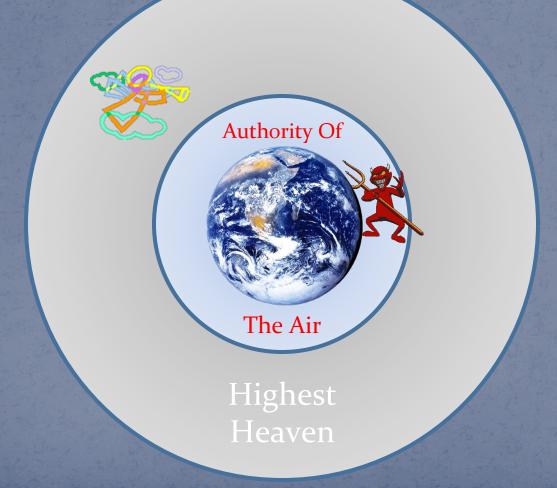


The Heavens 1





The Heavens 2





* Paradise: The Garden of God, after which Eden was modeled. After Christ's return, the restored, Eden-like, land of Israel will reflect the heavenly Paradise (Isaiah 51.3).



* Paradise: The restoration of the Edenic fellowship between man and God is a major theme in Scripture (Revelation 21.1-4; 22.1-4).



The Highest Heaven: Also called the Third Heaven, is the present abode of God, the place of His throne, and the location of Paradise. This is where Jesus currently sits and where believers go when their bodies die. This is the Heaven we will talk about in this study.



* Heaven did not always exist.



- Heaven did not always exist.
- * God created Heaven, because He is inherently relational.



- Heaven did not always exist.
- God created Heaven, because He is inherently relational.
- * Heaven is the place where relationship can flourish between God and creatures made in His image.



What Is Heaven Like?



We should not think of heaven...

as insubstantial. Heavenly bodies are more solid than material bodies. The resurrected Jesus walked through walls as we now walk through fog.



We should not think of heaven...

as inhospitable to bodily existence. In His glorified human body, Jesus is comfortable in both the earthly and heavenly realms. Heaven will feel familiar to us!



We should not think of heaven...

as filled with incomprehensible things. The apostle John was able to describe all that he saw in Heaven. Heaven will look familiar to us.



In fact...

earthly things are patterned after heavenly things, and heavenly things reflect God's own heart. That is why we can see the attributes and character of God in His creation (Romans 1.20).



The implication of this is that...

everything we most love and long for in earthly existence, we will find more **intensely real** in Heaven.

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Where is

Heaven?

Heaven is...

the context within which our universe exists. Heaven and our natural world are congruent. (See Job 1.1-7; Isaiah 57.15; John 14.23)

"Earth is not outside of heaven; it is heaven's workshop, heaven's womb." – Peter Kreeft



Heaven is...

like the clear air that we pass through but do not see. When God temporarily attunes our senses to perceive Heaven, we have the sensation of the sky being peeled back.





Heaven is not distant...

Is the Milky Way near or far?



Heaven is not distant...

Is the Milky Way near or far?

All the most important parts of our galaxy are near, beginning with the air we breath!



you've probably heard God's voice. (See Acts 17.27.)



you've probably heard God's voice. (See Acts 17.27.)

And you've stored treasure there! (See Matthew 6.19-21.)



if God attuned our eyes, we could see His angel armies arrayed around us (2 Kings 6.15-18), or Jesus at the right hand of God (Acts 7.55-56).



we can approach God's throne right now (Hebrews 4.16), and if we were fully "in the spirit," we could *see* God's throne room as John did (Revelation 4.1-4).



we are surrounded by a vast crowd of saints who cheer for us as we run our spiritual race (Hebrews 12.1), and perhaps join God in rejoicing when a sinner repents (Luke 15.1-10).



In fact...

if we belong to Jesus, we are already in Heaven ...!



In fact...

if we belong to Jesus, we are already in Heaven seated with Christ (Ephesians 2.4-6).

"Our citizenship is in heaven" now (Philippians 3.20).

Heaven Is Where Your Heart Is



Jesus is our passport!





WAIT! If we're already in Heaven, why ... does my back still ache, and I still get discouraged?



Our spirits are already tasting Heaven ...

our sin-hindered will and emotions must catch up,

our bodies must be changed (Romans 8.23; 1Corinthians 15.51-52).



There is a real sense in which we are still on our way to Heaven...

We live in two realms simultaneously, Earth and Heaven.

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But since Heaven is really where our heart is,

and since it is as near as our very breath...



Will we continue to live as though it is far, far away?



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