

Heaven

Is Where Your Heart Is

Matthew 6.19-21

Definitions

Heaven
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- ❖ **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

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The Heavens 2

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Authority Of



The Air

Highest
Heaven



Definitions

- ❖ **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).

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



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- ❖ **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.

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

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- ❖ 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.

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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.

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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!

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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.

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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).

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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

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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.

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Heaven is not distant...

Is the Milky Way near or far?

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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!

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Heaven is so close that...

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

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Heaven is so close that...

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

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

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Heaven is so close that...

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).

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Heaven is so close that...

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).

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Heaven is so close that...

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).

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In fact...

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

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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).

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Jesus is our passport!



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WAIT! If we're already
in Heaven, why ...

does my back still ache,

and I still get
discouraged?

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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).

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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...

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

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