

A Study on Heaven

John 14:1-3 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. ²In 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. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

Rev. 21:1-7 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. ²And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. ⁴And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. ⁵And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. ⁶And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. ⁷He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

Introduction: What Heaven Means to the Christian --- April 1997: What heaven means to a Christian is not easy to pen down in words. When Christians think of heaven, great joy and emotion swells within our hearts. The many scenes of heaven that we perceive in our mind lifts us far beyond the normal realm of the life we live. In fact, our minds are never far from its border.

Many who don't possess this hope, think us foolish to daydream of such places. They count our daily visits into the reaches of heavenly meadows liken unto a schoolboy's daydream on a bright spring morning while the real-world studies their history lesson. To them, the Christian is foolishly wasting their days waiting for something that they believe doesn't exist or if it does exist, they imagine it to be dull and boring-- a place full of angels floating around on clouds, living out eternity playing on harps and spending untold hours of misery listening to sleepy, dry sermons...

But to the Christian, nothing could be further from the truth. Heaven is so much more. Its beauty shines far beyond the scope of human imagination. Its splendor is far more than we could ever contain in the limits of our mind. Heaven is a real place. It is far more concrete and real than the world's foundation upon which we walk. A place reserved especially for the Christian. No other people need knock at its gate...

1) First, Let's look at the size of heaven and talk a little about faith.

Have you ever thought about how big heaven will be? Will there be enough room for everyone?

Was there room in Noah's ark for all of the animals? Did Noah really build an ark? Do you believe the bible or science?

Matthew 24:37 But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Luke 17:27 They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.

Jesus confirmed the story of Noah's Flood in the scripture above in the Bible. Do you believe Him or modern scientists?

Gallop Poll--Which of the following statements comes closest to your views on the origin and development of human beings – **1.** (human beings have developed over millions of years from less advanced forms of life, but God guided this process, - **2.** human beings have developed over millions of years from less advanced forms of life, but God had no part in this process, (or) - **3.** God created human beings pretty much in their present form at one time within the last 10,000 years or so)?

Humans evolved, with God guiding %	Humans evolved, but God had no part %	God created humans in present form	No opinion
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Noah's Ark: 450'x 75' x 45' tall with 3 levels. 101, 250 square ft.

10' x 8' stalls (6 rows of 8' wide stalls) with 5' hallways= 328 stalls per level times 3 levels = 984 total 8' x 10' stalls *with approximately 7 feet of overhead room above the stalls on each level to build other animal cages or store feed.*

Ark's total volume = 1, 518, 750 cubic feet--- if you subtract 2 percent loss of volume due to the interior support beams

(2% loss of cubic volume due to interior structure is an engineering “rule of thumb” used in estimating bracing inside of a drydock) – the ark could hold 11.13 million gallons of water or 845,656 people (each person = 1.76 cubic feet).

Hebrews 11: 7 “By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.”

Heaven’s Size--Revelation 21 ¹⁶ And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.

- 12,000 furlongs (one furlong is 1/8 mile) = 1500 miles x 1500 miles = 2,250,000 square miles
- Larger than: Idaho, Utah, Minnesota, Michigan, Wyoming, Oregon, Colorado, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Montana, California, Texas, Alaska---**Larger than all 14 states combined**
- 3.38 times larger than Alaska (*reference: Wikipedia*)
- 8.38 times larger than Texas (*reference: Wikipedia*)
- 53.39 times larger than Tennessee (*reference: Wikipedia*)
- Population/ Density of Harlingen, TX = 74, 924 people living in 40.3 square mile or 1,859 people per square mile-- using this density New Jerusalem would hold 4.2 billion people
- Population/Density of Houston, TX = 2,313,717 people living in 627 square miles or 3,339 people per square mile--using this density New Jerusalem would hold 8.3 billion people (**7.53 billion people currently on earth**)
- Population/Density of New York City = 8,175,133 living in 302.6 square miles or 27,016 people per square mile---using this density New Jerusalem would hold 60.79 billion people or over 8 times the world’s population

---1500 miles high could be interpreted to mean that NEW JERUSALEM HAS MORE THAN ONE LEVEL

- Seven-mile high levels (average height of earth’s Troposphere where all weather occurs & contains 99% of earth’s water vapor) = 214 levels (1500 miles / 7) x 4.2 billion people (Harlingen, TX density ratio) = 899 billion people or 119 times the current world’s population---(New York City density ratio) = 13 trillion people or 1,728 times the current world’s population
- One-mile high levels = 1500 levels (1500 miles /1) x 4.2 billion people (Harlingen, TX density ratio) = 6.3 trillion people or 837 times the current world’s population---(New York City density ratio) = 91.29 trillion people or 12,110 times the current world’s population

2) Let’s compare Heaven’s Joy to Earth’s Sorrow—Rev 21:6- And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. ⁵ And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new.

Heaven will be absent of— sorrow, death, tears, crying, pain--**Also absent of:** hospitals, police stations, funeral homes, graveyards, nightclubs, liquor stores, prisons, military bases, drug stores, court houses, etc.

Revelation 22:1-5 And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. ² In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³ And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: ⁴ And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. ⁵ And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

Heaven will have things earth does not have—river of life, tree of life (eternal life), healing fruit, no more curse (sweating, weeds, hard crop farming, woman’s rights restored, death, and the removal of the serpent), angels for neighbors, God dwelling with us.

3) Let’s Look at God Dwelling with Us

John 14:3 ...where I am, there ye may be also.

Rev. 22: 3-4...but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: ⁴ And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.

Psalms 16:11 “... in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.”

---God's love will vibrate throughout heaven as soothing background waves of peace (similar to music playing on a radio)

4) Let's look at God's kingdom beyond heaven—

Rev. 21:1-7 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

Isaiah 66:33-34 Thus saith the LORD, heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool

Matthew 5:34-35 But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne: Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King.

Acts 7: 49 Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest?

Revelation 21:3 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven,

Not much in the bible is said about the new earth God will create but 2/3 of it won't be covered with salt water...

We know little about whether God will recreate the universe or expand on the current universe

Current Earth and the Solar System_(reference Institute of Physics) *Rev. 21:1-7* And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

Scaling factors: *if the distance between the Earth and the Sun is scaled to one inch (2.5 cm) then one light year is one mile (1.6 km) [this is a remarkably good scale, correct to better than 1%!]. Therefore:*

- If the distance between the Sun and the Earth is one inch, the nearest star is over 4 miles away
- If the distance between the Sun and the Earth is one inch, the distance to the center of our Galaxy is 25000 miles (once round the Earth)
- If the distance between the Sun and the Earth is one inch, the nearest large galaxy is two million miles away (8 times the distance to the Moon)

"If your teacher drives at 70 mph down the Solar System motorway, it will take him/her:

- Nearly 5 months to reach the Moon
- 150 years to reach the Sun
- About 4500 years to reach Neptune
- 40 million years to reach the nearest star

5) Believer's Promise

Revelation 21: 7 “He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.”

My favorite verse of scripture in the entire bible. Not because of the part that says “(the overcomer) shall inherit all things”, but the last part that says, “(the overcomer) shall be a son of God and God will be his Father/God (implied and promised).

I hope to put this verse of scripture on my grave marker...

Do you wish to be an overcomer and inherit a glorious future with God? You must, first, become a Believer and be “Born Again”!

John 3: 3-10 “Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. ⁴ Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? ⁵ Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. ⁸ The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit. ⁹ Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be? ¹⁰ Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?

Revelation 21: 25-27 “And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it. And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.”

Revelation 22: 16 “Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.”