

A PLACE CALLED HEAVEN

Answering 10 Questions About Your Eternal Home

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES A FUTURE HEAVEN MAKE IN MY LIFE TODAY?

John 14:1-6

DR. ROBERT JEFFRESS | SEPTEMBER 11, 2016

INTRODUCTION: With all of the problems and pressures you may be facing in your life right now, you may be wondering how relevant a series on heaven is to your everyday existence. Today we begin our new series *A Place Called Heaven* by answering the foundational question, “What difference does a future heaven make in my life today?”

John 14:2-3 “²In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for 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 to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”

I. The Inevitability Of Our Journey To A New Destination

Ecclesiastes 9:12 “Man does not know his time: like fish caught in a treacherous net, and birds trapped in a snare, so the sons of men are ensnared at an evil time when it suddenly falls on them.”

Genesis 27:3 “And Isaac said, ‘Behold now, I am old and I do not know the day of my death.’”

Psalms 90:12 “Teach us to number our days and recognize how few they are; help us to spend them as we should.” (The Living Bible)

“Heaven may be as near as next year, or next week; so it makes good sense to spend some time here on earth thinking candid thoughts about that marvelous future reserved for us.”

Joni Eareckson Tada

II. Perspectives From The Past

“If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this.

Aim at heaven and you will get earth thrown in. Aim at earth and you will get neither.”

C. S. Lewis

Hebrews 11:13-16 “¹³ All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. ¹⁴ For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own. ¹⁵ And indeed if they had been thinking of that country from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.”

2 Corinthians 5:6, 8 “⁶ Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord— ⁸ ...[but I] prefer...to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.”

Philippians 1:21, 23-24 “²¹ For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. ²³ But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better; ²⁴ yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake.”

III. Four Benefits Of Being “Heavenly-Minded”

A. Focusing on Heaven Reminds Us of the **Brevity** of Our Earthly Life.

James 4:14 “You do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.”

1 Peter 1:24 “All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall.” (New International Version)

Psalms 39:4-5 “⁴ LORD, make me to know my end, and what is the extent of my days, let me know how transient I am. ⁵ Behold, You have made my days as handbreadths, and my lifetime as nothing in Your sight, surely every man at his best is a mere breath.”

B. Focusing on Heaven Prepares Us for the Certainty of **Judgment**.

Matthew 7:13-14 “¹³ Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it. ¹⁴ For the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it.”

1. The way that leads to eternal death.

Isaiah 53:6 “All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way.”

2. The way that leads to eternal life.

John 14:6 “And Jesus said... ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.’”

3. The “gates” that open to eternal death and eternal life.

Hebrews 9:27 “...It is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment.”

Revelation 20:11-15 “¹¹ And I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. ¹³ And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. ^{14a} And death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. ¹⁵ And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”

2 Corinthians 5:10 “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”

C. Focusing on Heaven Motivates Us to Live **Pure** Lives.

1 Corinthians 3:13a “[On that day] each man’s work will become evident; for the day will show it,”

Philippians 3:9a “May [I, Paul] be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ...”

Revelation 19:8 “And it was given to her [the church] to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.”

2 Peter 3:10-11 “¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. ¹¹ Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,”

D. Focusing on Heaven Places **Suffering** in Perspective.

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 “¹⁷ For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

Conclusion