

# A PLACE CALLED HEAVEN

Answering 10 Questions About Your Eternal Home

## IS HEAVEN A REAL PLACE?

John 14:2-3

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**INTRODUCTION:** Is heaven an actual location or simply a state of mind? If heaven is a physical destination, where is it located and what will it be like? Today we will turn to both the Old and New Testaments to discover the answers to those questions--and more--as we learn about that “place called heaven.”

- I. The Reality Of Heaven
  - A. The Setting for John 14
  - B. The Teaching of John 14

John 14:1-3 “<sup>1</sup>Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. <sup>2</sup>In 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. <sup>3</sup>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.”

- 1. The significance of “topos”
- 2. The significance of “mone”

John 14:2 “In 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. “

3. The significance of “prepare”

Acts 1:9-11 “<sup>9</sup> ... He [Jesus] was lifted up while they [the disciples] were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was departing, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them; <sup>11</sup> and they also said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.’”

II. The Location Of This Place Called Heaven

A. Heaven is “**Up**” (Isaiah 14:13a; Acts 1:9-11)

Isaiah 14:13a “...I [Lucifer] will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God,”

Acts 1:9-10 “<sup>9</sup> ... He [Jesus] was lifted up while they [the disciples] were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was departing, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them;”

B. Heaven is “**North**” (Isaiah 14:13b; Job 37:22)

Isaiah 14:13b “...And I [Lucifer] will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north.”

Job 37:22 “Out of the north comes golden splendor; around God is awesome majesty.”

III. The Present Heaven And The Future Heaven

A. The Present Heaven (2 Corinthians 5:8)

### The Three Heavens That Exist Now

1. The first heaven is the earth's **atmosphere**.
2. The second heaven is **outer space**.
3. The third heaven is the **abode** of God.

2 Corinthians 5:8 “We are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.”

#### B. The Future Heaven (Revelation 21:1-2)

Revelation 21:1-2 “<sup>1</sup>And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.”

### IV. Characteristics Of The Future Heaven

#### A. It Will Be **New**

Revelation 21:1 “And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea.”

2 Peter 3:7, 10-13 “<sup>7</sup>But the present heavens and earth by His word are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, <sup>12</sup>looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, on account of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! <sup>13</sup>But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.”

Isaiah 65:17 “For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former things will not be remembered or come to mind.”

B. It Will Be **Physical**

C. It Will Be **Familiar**

Revelation 21:4 “and He [God] shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”

D. It Will Have No **Oceans**

Revelation 21:1 “And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea.”

E. It Will Have No **Sun** or **Moon**

Revelation 21:23 “And the city [the New Jerusalem] has no need for the sun or of the moon to shine on it for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb.”

Isaiah 60:19 “No longer will you have the sun for light by day, nor for brightness will the moon give you light; but you will have the LORD for an everlasting light, and your God for your glory.”

F. It Will Be Free from **Sin**

Habakkuk 2:14 “For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.”

Revelation 22:3 “And there shall no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His bond-servants shall serve Him;”

G. It Will Have a **Capitol**: The **New Jerusalem**

Hebrews 11:10 “for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.”

Revelation 21:2, 10 “<sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>10</sup> And he [the angel] carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.”

1. Its size

Revelation 21:16 “And the city is laid out as a square, and its length is as great as the width; and he measured the city with the rod, fifteen hundred miles; its length and width and height are equal.”

Revelation 21:17 “And he measured its wall seventy-two yards, according to human measurements, which are also angelic measurements.”

2. Its gates

Revelation 21:12-13 “<sup>12</sup> It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; and names were written on them, which are those of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel. <sup>13</sup> There were three gates on the east and three gates on the north and three gates on the south and three gates on the west.”

Revelation 21:25, 27 “<sup>25</sup> In the daytime (for there will be no night there) its gates will never be closed; <sup>27</sup> and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life. “

3. Its permanence

Revelation 21:14 “And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.”

4. Its splendor (Revelation 21-22)

Revelation 21:10b-11 “...the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper.”

Revelation 22:1 “And he [an angel] showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb,”

Revelation 22:2 “...And on either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

*“Your place in heaven will seem to be made for you and you alone,  
because you were made for it—made for it stitch by stitch as a glove is made for a hand.”*

C. S. Lewis

Conclusion