

Heaven Glory Revealed—Resurrected Bodies

May 4, 2014

When Do Christians Go to Heaven?

- 2 Corinthians 5:8
- Luke 23:42-43
 - There is no soul sleep, lying in the dirt, or waiting. There is no purgatory from which you are prayed out, or bought out by people living on earth. Christians go to heaven immediately upon death!

Intermediate Heaven

- Revelation 6:9-11
- Revelation 7:9-17
 - Randy Alcorn, in his book *Heaven*, refers to the first heaven as "Intermediate heaven" and then comes the new heaven and new earth of Revelation 21. Christians can relax as they are both wonderful places—if you are in one, then you, without hesitation, go to the other.
- What does the intermediate heaven hold for the Christian?
 - There is desire for justice, and the knowledge that the second heaven hasn't yet happened.
 - There are White robes—communicates purity. They are the clothes of the day.
 - They are told to rest, take ease, be refreshed.
 - Nationalities are obvious.
 - There is passionate worship.
 - There is serving before the throne of God.
 - There is a knowing that God lives among them.
 - There is no hunger, thirst, or physical discomfort.
 - In heaven, Jesus shepherds us, and leads us to fountains of living water.
 - God wipes tears away—there are emotions and knowledge of events on earth (crying isn't stopped until Revelation 21:4).
- There are many hints of physical bodies and physical properties in the intermediate heaven.
 - The Transfiguration (Mark 9:1-13; Matthew 16:28-17:13; Luke 9:27-36)

New Heaven and New Earth

- Revelation 21:1-5
 - The New Heaven and the New Earth happens after the return of Jesus Christ to the earth.
 - 1 Corinthians 15:12-14; 20-24
 - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
 - When Christ returns to earth those who have previously died will receive their resurrected bodies first, and then those who were on earth when Christ returned, will receive their resurrected bodies.

What Kind of Body Will We Have?

- 1 Corinthians 15:42-44
 - We will have powerful, spiritual resurrected bodies that are full of glory.
 - 1 Corinthians 15:48-49
 - Philippians 3:20-21
 - 1 John 3:2
- What are characteristics of Christ's Resurrected Body?
 - Luke 24:36-43
 - There appear to be some very normal aspects about our resurrected bodies—recognizable, touchable, and they eat! In John 21:3-13, we find Jesus fishing, building a fire, cooking, and baking.
 - Luke 24:31
 - John 20:19
 - Acts 1:9
 - We need to have hopeful expectation as our bodies in heaven will be glorious, powerful and spiritually resurrected. We shall have bodies just like Jesus' body.
- What age will we be? How will we look?
 - Isaiah 11:6-8
- What do we clearly need to remember?
 - We will have perfected Resurrected Bodies—similar to, but more amazing than our current bodies.
 - We will have our identity but we are all still unique individuals.
 - We will have memories, relationships, emotions, intellect, and desires. All of which are perfected by God and perfectly suited for our eternal lives with Him in Heaven!

That is What Heaven Is

- Heaven is above and beyond, exceedingly and abundantly above all we could imagine and yet God gives us a bit of insight into heaven's glory to stir our hearts and give us a longing for home.
 - Hebrews 13:14, 15
 - Colossians 3:1-4
 - Hebrews 11:8-10

Discussion Questions

1. While heaven is good news, part of the Gospel, what are some problems many Christians have about it? Do you think they have never heard? They don't believe? Or, do they not look forward to it? Why?
2. In 2 Corinthians 5:8, what reality motivates Paul? How does this reality help him to face any challenge? How does it motivate and help you in your daily walk?
3. In Revelation 6:9-11 we find an important insight into heavenly reality for John's first century readers enduring persecution. Why is this an important insight for you and other modern-time Christians?
4. Describe the worship you think we'll find in heaven? The rest? The awe of God?

5. In what ways does this message (especially Revelation 7:16, 17) give you comfort and joy? Describe it.
6. How does knowing about our resurrected body help you share heaven with a non-believer?
7. Revelation 21:1-5 records the fulfillment of a series of Old Testament prophecies (Leviticus 26:11,12; Ezekiel 37:27; Ezekiel 48:35; Isaiah 25:8 and 1 Corinthians 15:54). What are the promises? Why are these promises so important? What are its implications for you?
8. In the limits of sanctified imagination and biblical truth describe how you think your heavenly body will look? What are some things you look forward to doing in your new body?
9. Paul contrasts “those who are of the earth” with “those who are in heaven” (1 Corinthians 15:48). What does it mean to be “of heaven” rather than “of the earth”? What does this imply about these people other than the nature of their bodies?
10. In what way would you like the glory of heaven to have an impact on your daily life?