

Four Portraits, One *Savior*



That you may
have *life*

A Glimpse of Heaven – Part 1

John 17:24-26

What is “Heaven”?

Two distinct “homes” in scripture – one after the other:

A. Heaven (present) – the “intermediate” place.

- *2 Cor 5:8, Luke 23:43, Eccles 12:7*

B. Heaven (future) - “New Jerusalem” – the final home “come down.”

- *After final judgment. Rev 21*

C. Heaven – the answer to humanity’s deepest longings.



1. *What happens when a believer dies?*

- *Jn. 17:24 "Father, I **desire** that they also, whom **You have given Me, be with Me where I am**, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. (NAU)*

*A. **Is Heaven real?***

1. *"I desire ..."*
2. *"with Me"*
3. *Death defeated. 1 Tim 1:9*

*B. **What happens?***

1. *Soul/spirit departs to heaven (believers).*
 - ***Eccles 12:7, Luke 23:43, Acts 7:59, 2 Cor 5:6-8, Heb 12:22-23***
2. *Body remains. **Eccl 12:7, 3:20; 1 Cor 15:42-44***



In heaven, will my soul have memory? Consciousness of heavenly surroundings?

- *Rev. 6:9-11 When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw **underneath** the altar the **souls** of those who had been slain ... because of the **testimony** which they had maintained;¹⁰ and they **cried out with a loud voice**, saying, "**How long**, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and **avenging our blood** on those who dwell on the earth?"¹¹ And there was given to each of them a **white robe**; and they were told that they should **rest** for a little while longer, **until the number of their fellow servants** ... who **were to be killed** even as they had been, **would be completed** also. (NAU)*
- *Rev 7:9 “ ... great multitude... standing before the throne... white robes... palm branches in their hands...*



*(cont.) In heaven, will my soul have memory? **How else do we interpret Jesus' words?***

- *Jn. 17:24 "Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that **they may see My glory which You have given Me**, for You loved Me **before the foundation of the world.** (NAU)*
 - *Jesus has **memory; beautiful; personal; Home;***
 - ***Wants to share** with His followers.*
- *Heb 12:1 Therefore, since we have **so great a cloud of witnesses** surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance... and let us run the race...?*



2. *Will I truly know God and Jesus and be known by Him?*

- *Jn 17:3 "...and this is eternal life, **that they may know Thee and Jesus Christ whom you sent ...** ⁵ **"Glorify Me together with Thyself ... with the glory that I had with you before the world existed... ²⁴ ..., **for You loved Me** before the foundation of the world. ..., ²⁶ so that the love with which **You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.**" (Jn. 17:26 NAU)***
 - *Glory = living eternally in the love of the Father*
 - *"So that ... the **love you loved Me may be in them...**"*



*Rev. 5:9 And they sang a **new song**, saying, "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and **purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.** (NAU)*



3. *Jesus' atoning death purchased a place on heavenly "ground" for individual believers.*

A. *"Title deed." "Inheritance."*

- *Jn 14:3 "... I go to prepare a place for you..."*
 - *Soul is not lost trying to find a place.*
- *Jn 17:24 "I desire... be with me where I am..."*
- *Eph 1:13-14 "...Holy Spirit ... given as a pledge of our inheritance..."*

B. *Memory - without shame, guilt or condemnation.*

- *Jude 1:24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, (NAU)*

C. *White robes. Rev 6:11, 7:13-14, 3:18, 19:8*



Think of heaven as “home sweet home” secured for believers through the work of Jesus.



- *Think of heaven as “home sweet home” secured for believers through the work of Jesus.*
- A. *Gone before us:*
 - *Heb. 6:19-20 This hope **we have as an anchor of the soul**, which enters the **veil**, ²⁰ where Jesus has entered as a **forerunner for us**, ...*
 - *Rom 8:29 “... firstborn of many brethren...”*
- B. *To prepare a place:*
 - *Jn 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**.*
- C. *To bring us into the presence of God.*
 - *1 Pet. 3:18 For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might **bring us to God**... (NAU)*



- *What we know to be good on earth is like rain sprinkling good from heaven.*

*Jn. 17:24 "Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, **be with Me** where I am, **so that they may see My glory which You have given Me**, for You loved Me **before the foundation of the world.** (NAU)*

- *James 1:17 "**Every** good thing given... is **from above**, coming down from the Father of lights..."*
- *Gen 1:31 "God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good."*



What are the most frequently asked questions about heaven (“trends.google.com”)?

What happens when we die?

Will we recognize our loves ones in heaven?

What will we do in heaven?

What is heaven like?

