

Heaven

Ladies, I am going to start this study with the last question I ended my study with the last time I taught on 1 John 2:15.

Ladies, who here is eagerly awaiting their Savior? Why?

I too am also eagerly awaiting my Savior. But what does the Bible say about Heaven?

Well, I can tell you I have not been there, but one day I will be there. I am going to share with you what I learned about Heaven scripturally.

Heaven is a joyful existence in the presence of God for those who believe in His Son Jesus Christ and have made Him Lord and Master of their lives.

The Hebrew word for “heavens” is Shaw-mah-yim a plural form meaning “heights,” “elevations”. The place of everlasting blessedness of the righteous; the abode of departed spirits. *Easton Bible Dictionary*

The Greek definition for heaven is <Ouranos>, the sky: by extension heaven as the abode of God. Heaven is a place inhabited by God from eternity.

God has always existed and will never cease to exist. Before the world was created, God was. He is the Creator of all things. He is the absolute authority over heaven and earth. Nothing is outside of His control!

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

Acts 17:24 The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man.

Colossians 1:16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

Ladies, why is heaven important?

Heaven is where the Supreme One dwells and where His throne is. The best thing about heaven is the presence of our Lord and Savior where we will worship and serve Him.

Psalm 11:4 The Lord is in his holy temple; the Lord’s throne is in heaven; his eyes see, his eyelids test the children of man.

Isaiah 66:1 Thus says the Lord: “Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool; what is the house that you would build for me, and what is the place of my rest?”

Matthew 5:34-35 But I say to you, do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.

Acts 7:48-49 Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made by hands, as the prophet says, “Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me, says the Lord, or what is the place of my rest?”

According to the Jewish belief there are three heavens.

1. The firmament, sky

Genesis 1:6 Then God said, “Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.”

Genesis 2:19 Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name.

Isaiah 55:9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Psalms 147:8 He covers the heavens with clouds; he prepares rain for the earth; he makes grass grow on the hills.

2. The starry heavens, sun, moon

Deuteronomy 17:3 Who has gone and served other gods and worshiped them, either the sun or moon or any of the host of heaven, which I have not commanded.

Matthew 24:29 “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.”

3. The heaven of heavens, or the third heaven

Deuteronomy 10:14 Behold, to the Lord your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it.

1 Kings 8:27 “But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you; how much less this house that I have built!”

Psalms 148:4 Praise Him, you heavens of heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

2 Corinthians 12:2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows.

Heaven is holy and full of the Lord's glory.

Isaiah 6:1, 3 In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"

Isaiah 57:15 For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite.

Imagine the choirs of angels around His throne singing and praising the One who is worthy! **Revelation 15:4** *Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.*

Because our God is Holy in the absolute sense, God is Supreme in Majesty over all creation. He is the High and Exalted One Who towers above all, surpassing the ordinary, exceptional, existing apart from and not subject to the limitations of the material universe. He is the Majestic One! He is the One Who is separate and different, there is no impurity or defilement found in Him. His glory (magnificence, splendor, beauty, and grandeur of his many perfections) shines throughout heaven and earth! He is the Only One who deserves honor and glory!

Psalm 8:1 O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

Psalm 57:5 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!

How do we know if we will be in God's heavenly home when our journey on earth is over?

John 5:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment but has passed from death to life.

John 17:3 And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

Oh, how I love the good news of the gospel message! We can never hear it enough for it is a reminder of Christ's redemptive work in our lives. Heaven is a free gift! We have done nothing to earn or deserve it.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Salvation is through Jesus Christ alone, His death, burial and resurrection! We must confess our sin, before our holy God. Then accept God's gift of a Savior on our behalf. Because of Jesus sacrifice on the cross, we have access to the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit!

Because God is holy what is God's standard for us?

1 Peter 1:15-16 But as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, You shall be holy, for I am holy.

Not only is God in Heaven, but God dwells within us!

2 Corinthians 6:16 What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

1 John 4:12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

1 John 4:15-16 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

The Lord Jesus dwells in Heaven.

Mark 16:19 So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.

Acts 1: 9-11 And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Hebrew 9:24 For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf.

1 Peter 3:22 Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

Jesus dwells within us!

Ephesians 3:17-19 So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

John 14:20 On that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you are in Me, and I in you.

2 Corinthians 13:5a Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?

Colossians 1:27 To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

The Holy Spirit dwells in Heaven.

Psalm 52:11 Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Psalm 139:7-8 Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Hell, you are there!

The Holy Spirit dwells within us!

Romans 5:5 And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Galatians 4:6 Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.”

John 14:16-17: “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.”

This earth is not our home! It is temporary. We do not belong here, our permanent home is elsewhere; our citizenship is in Heaven and our heavenly home is eternal.

1 Corinthians 2:9 But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”.

2 Corinthians 4:18 As we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

Philippians 3:20-21 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

What truths about Heaven do we discover from these verses?

In heaven, there are eternal spiritual blessings.

Ephesians 1:3-10 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

In heaven, we have an eternal inheritance (birthright) and kingdom.

Matthew 25:34 Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’

Ephesians 1:11-14 In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

1 Peter 1:4 To an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you.

Hebrews 9:15 Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.

James 2:5 Listen, my beloved brethren, has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?

Hebrews 12:28 Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe.

In heaven, there are eternal benefits.

Matthew 5:12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Revelation 3:12, 21 The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name. The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.

Revelation 22:3-5 No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Something to ponder: Do I rejoice in the spiritual blessings my Lord has given me?

In heaven, we find eternal paradise.

Luke 23:43 And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Revelation 2:7 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God."

In heaven, there will be no more suffering or evil.

2 Timothy 4:18 And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!

Revelation 7:16-17 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Revelation 21:27 But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

In heaven, there will be safety and fullness of joy forever.

2 Corinthians 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.

2 Timothy 4:18 The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 5:10 And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

How should the thought of Heaven affect our daily lives?

In heaven, our eternal heavenly home awaits. King Jesus is preparing a place for you and me in heaven now. How marvelous it must be! There is nothing on earth that will compare with our heavenly dwelling.

John 14:2 In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?

Revelation 21:18-25 The wall was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold, like clear glass. The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every kind of jewel. The first jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst. And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass. And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.

Lord, keep our eyes, heart and minds looking up!