



## OUR ETERNAL HOME

Study 14

Heaven

Heaven is real! Angels are real! People who have gone to heaven are real, and they recognise each other. No, we cannot see heaven with earthly eyes, but we should not close the conversation as to what heaven is like. Write the full context of 1 Corinthians 2:9-10 here: *"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."* (verse 9)

*"But* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (verse 10)

A few individuals have been blessed with actual glimpses of heaven. Name such people - two from the Old Testament and four from the New as shown.

• Gen. 28:11-12 \_\_\_\_\_

• Ezekiel 1:1 \_\_\_\_\_

• Mark 1:9-11 \_\_\_\_\_

• Acts 7:55-56 \_\_\_\_\_

• 2 Cor. 12:2-4 \_\_\_\_\_

• Rev. 4:1-11 \_\_\_\_\_

Most of us, however, understand in our spirit, and believe in heaven even though we have not yet seen. Write verse seven from 2 Corinthians 5:6-8 here: *"Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord."*

*We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and **at home with the Lord.**"*

What this verse is telling us is that, upon death, we who live by faith go immediately to heaven. (See diagram in Rock study ten) Jesus made the same promise to the thief dying beside him.

*One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: ... But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, **today you will be with me in paradise.**" (Luke 23: 39-43)*

This is a remarkable story, because the man had no opportunity to make good for his dishonest life. Neither had he ever seen heaven. It also gives us insight into what heaven is like because Jesus uses the term, 'Paradise.' It is from a Persian word, 'pairidaeza', meaning a cultivated, beautiful garden. So, Jesus depicts heaven as a physical place of great splendour similar to the garden of Eden.

Read the following descriptions of Paradise then cross out those ideas of heaven that are wrong. (Note: Four lines should remain. Only these four are truly correct.) (Genesis 2:8-14, Revelation 21:18-21, Rev. 22:1-5,14)

In the box opposite write out Revelation 2:7.

- Heaven has trees, fruit and rivers.
- It will be monotonous in heaven.
- The 'tree of life' is in heaven.
- Gold and jewels are abundant.
- We will worship and reign.
- We will sit on clouds with harps.

*Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious ...*

## WILL WE KNOW EACH OTHER IN HEAVEN?

One of the most often asked questions about heaven is whether we will recognise each other or not. Four Bible descriptions, when added together, provide the answer. Read all of them, then connect them with an arrow to the summaries on the right-hand side.

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| Luke 16:19-31                              | 1. God has a Book of Life written in heaven containing the names of all who go there. This proves we are known by God in Heaven, and suggests we may be known by others who see the book too.                                       |
| Hebrews 12:22-23<br>Luke 10:20, Rev. 22:27 | 2. Jesus tells the story of a rich man and a beggar. Eventually, both of them die and the beggar goes to 'Abrahams side'; the rich man to 'Hades.' The example is pre-atonement, but it makes the point that people saw each other. |
| Luke 13:28-29                              | 3. Moses and Elijah were talking together even though they lived six-hundred years apart. Jesus was nine-hundred years later and yet they all recognised each other. We are not ghostly apparitions in heaven.                      |
| Matthew 17:1-3                             | 4. There will be a feast and people will come from the east, west, north and south to gather at the feast in the kingdom of God. We will see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and all the prophets there.                                      |

## HEAVEN - OUR ETERNAL HOPE.

*Then the King will say to those on his right ...*

The last five Rock studies belong to a theological category called 'eschatology.' It concerns prophecy of 'last things.' Unfortunately, there is a tendency to focus our energy on the rise of Antichrist, the great tribulation and end of the world. These are valid subjects, but the grand climax of bible prophecy is the hope of the Christian - heaven. Write Matthew 25:34 in the text box.

## HEAVEN - OUR ETERNAL HEALING.

No more crying; no more pain. This has been the prayer of every Christian down through the ages. Will God do it? Finish Revelation 21:3-4 here.

*I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God ..."*

*Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you ...*

## HEAVEN - OUR ETERNAL HOME.

Finally, one of the most wonderful promises. Some translations speak of 'mansions' and others say 'rooms.' The detail doesn't matter. What is so wonderful is that Jesus is preparing for us our **future home**. Write John 14:1-3 in the box and learn verse three **off by heart**.

More studies (and answers) here:  
[www.5loaves2fishes.net/free-resources](http://www.5loaves2fishes.net/free-resources)