

Biblical answers about Heaven

[The third Heaven]

Pastor Craig Savige

Victory Faith Centre

www.victoryfaithcentre.org.au

Why does the Bible refer to 'heavens'?

The Bible makes it clear that there are 3 heavens.

- The heavens are in the order of how close they are to the planet Earth (i.e. first, second, third).
- The **first heaven** is the firmament – the atmosphere of Earth.
- The **second heaven** is the space filled with stars, planets etc.
- The **third heaven** is the place where God's throne is located.

What is the first heaven?

“And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. ... And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.”

(Genesis 1:6,8)

“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.”

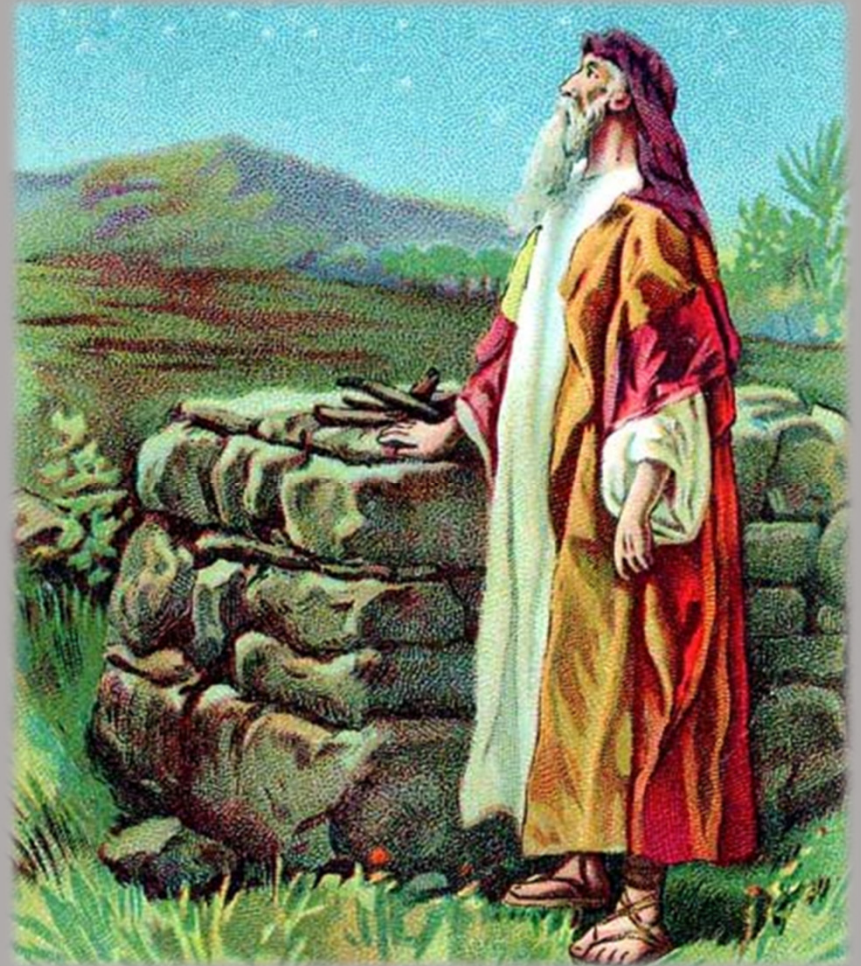
(Psalm 19:1)



What is the second heaven?

“And I will make thy seed to multiply
as **the stars of heaven**” (Genesis 26:4a)

“And the stars of heaven fell unto the
earth, even as a fig tree casteth her
untimely figs, when she is shaken of
a mighty wind.” (Revelation 6:13)



What is the third heaven?

“In the beginning God created **the heaven** and the earth.” (Genesis 1:1)

“... such an one caught up to **the third heaven**”
(2 Corinthians 12:2b)

“Behold, the heaven and **the heaven of heavens*** is the LORD's thy God, the earth also, with all that therein is.” (Deuteronomy 10:14)

* The highest or third.



What is Heaven?

“And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto [his heavenly kingdom](#): to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.” (2 Timothy 4:18)

“But now they desire [a better country, that is, an heavenly](#): wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath [prepared for them a city](#).” (Hebrews 11:16)

Where is Heaven?

“such an one caught **up** to the third heaven ...

How that he was caught **up** into paradise” (2

Corinthians 12:2b,4a)

“After this I looked, and, behold, a door was
opened in heaven ... Come **up** hither” (Revelation

4:1)

“For thou hast said in thine heart, I will **ascend**
into heaven” (Isaiah 14:13a)

See also Psalm 14:2; Psalm 55:15.



Why are Christians strangers and pilgrims on Earth?

“These all died in faith ... and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.” (Hebrews 11:13)

“... [O]ur Lord Jesus Christ, Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from **this present evil world**, according to the will of God and our Father” (Galatians 1:3,4)



What is in Heaven?

“... such an one caught up to the third heaven” (2 Corinthians 12:2b)

“... for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth ...” (Ecclesiastes 5:2)

“And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.” (Revelation 4:2)

“... hear thou from thy dwelling place, even from heaven; and when thou hearest, forgive.” (2 Chronicles 6:21b)

What is in Heaven?

“And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight ... this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.” (Acts 1:9,11b)



What is in Heaven?

“And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and **Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.**” (2 Kings 2:11)

See also Acts 7:55,56.



What is Heaven like?

The heavenly Jerusalem gives an indication of what Heaven is like – spiritual, great, glorious, beautiful, full of light, rich.

“And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal” (Revelation 21:10,11)

What has God prepared for us in Heaven?

“In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.” (John 14:2,3)

He has prepared:

- A place for us.
- A reception for the righteous to be with Him.

Does a saved person go directly to Heaven?

“We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.” (2 Corinthians 5:8)

“And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise*.” (Luke 23:43)

* Paradise is now in Heaven according to 2 Corinthians 12:4.



Will we know each other in Heaven?

“... rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.” (Luke 10:20b)

“Then Abraham gave up the ghost, and died ... and was gathered to his people.” (Genesis 25:8)

“I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.”

(Matthew 22:32)

Will we know each other in Heaven?

“For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?”

(1 Thessalonians 2:19)

“For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. ... Wherefore comfort one another with these words.” (1 Thessalonians 4:14,18)

Will we know each other in Heaven?

“And, behold, there talked with him two men, which were Moses and Elias: Who appeared in glory, and spake of his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem.” (Luke 9:30,31)

“But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.” (Luke 16:25)

Can we communicate with those in Heaven?

“But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.” (2 Samuel 12:23)

“For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten.” (Ecclesiastes 9:5)

Is Hebrews 12:1 about those in Heaven watching us?

“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us” (Hebrews 12:1)



Is Hebrews 12:1 about those in Heaven watching us?

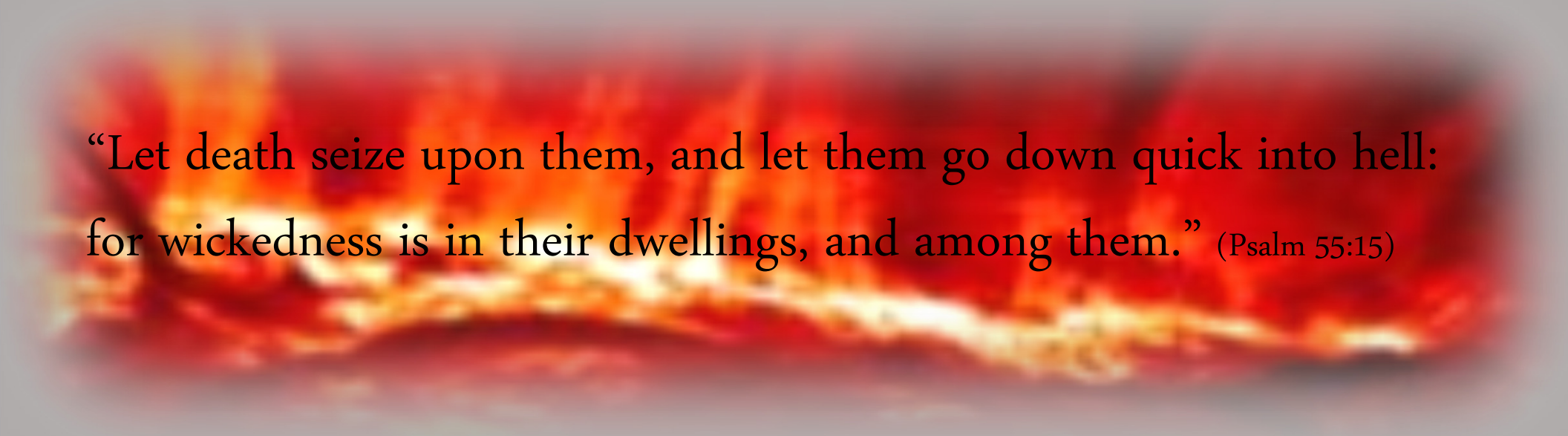
This is referring to:

- The witnesses around us as we run the race on Earth.
- It is centred on Earthly things and witnesses (e.g. angels and men on Earth) where there are located weights and sins.
- It follows Hebrews 11 where those prior to us in faith walked before many witnesses.

Will the knowledge of Hell spoil Heaven?

“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.” (Revelation 21:4)

“Let death seize upon them, and let them go down quick into hell: for wickedness is in their dwellings, and among them.” (Psalm 55:15)



Will the knowledge of Hell spoil Heaven?

“He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it.” (Isaiah 25:8)

“Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, *the righteous judge*, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.” (2 Timothy 4:8)

Will the knowledge of Hell spoil Heaven?

“So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting?” (1 Corinthians 15:54,55a)

“For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.” (1 Corinthians 13:12)

Will babies who die go to Heaven?



By nature all are sinful but by personal transgression babies are innocent (see Psalm 51:5; Psalm 58:3; Ephesians 2:3; John 3:16 – believe).

“But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.”

(Matthew 19:14)

“Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.” (Matthew 18:10)

Will babies remain babies in Heaven?

Christ is representative of all the redeemed
— in Christ.

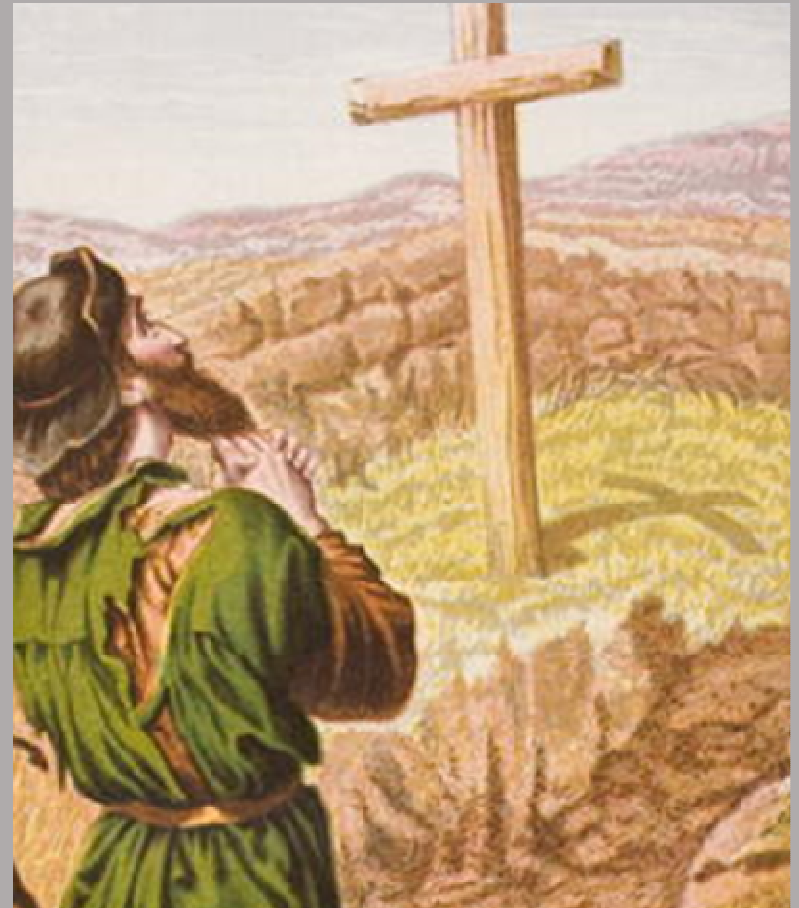
“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, **we shall be like him**; for we shall see him as he is.” (1 John 3:2)



How can people get to Heaven?

“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” (John 14:6)

“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)



How can people get to Heaven?

“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name” (John 1:12)

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.” (John 5:24)

References

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