

Introduction:

There are numerous passages referring to heaven. We sing about it "To Canaan's Land I'm On My Way". But what is heaven?

I) Three Ways The Word "Heaven" is Used In The Bible

A) The earth's atmosphere. *Deut. 11.17, Acts 14.17*

1. Place where the clouds float and birds fly.
2. We understand this is not the heaven we desire to go to when we die.

B) Where the Sun, Moon, and Stars are, *Ps. 19.4*

1. We can see the beauty of heaven when we look out at the moon and stars at night.
2. But we realize this is not the heaven we are looking to go to when we die.

C) The dwelling place of God, *Matthew 5.16*

1. There are passages which speaks of this, *Psalms 11.4* "the Lord's throne is in heaven"
2. *Ps. 119.89* "Your word is settled in heaven"
3. This is the heaven we want to spend the rest of our lesson talking about.

II) Heaven Is...

A) The opposite of hell

1. Where Jesus talked about the pain and punishment of hell in *Matthew 25.30* and even *Mark 9.42-48*.
2. Jesus speaks about the good and joy of heaven. *Revelation 21.4*

B) The eternal home of the righteous

1. Home is the place we live, where we belong, a place of comfort and attachment.
2. The place those of faith desired to go, Abraham, *Hebrews 11.13-16*.
 - a. We sing "this world's not my home, I'm just a passing thru. My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue... And I can't feel at home in this world anymore."
 - b. This world really isn't our home, *Ecc. 12.5*.
3. Fact: we are eternal beings living in physical bodies living in a temporary world.

C) Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people, *John 14.1-3*

1. Prepared - to make ready (to prepared a meal, to prepare a bedroom).
 - a. In this verse it refers to Jesus dying so we can have the right to be there.
 - b. To make available for us.
2. While Jesus did His part we must do our part.

D) Heaven is a place of rest, *Hebrews 4.9-11*

1. Those who have worked out their salvation, been faithful in serving God will have a time of rest, *Revelation 14.13*.
2. Rest in this passage does not mean the same thing as inactivity.

E) Heaven is a place of worship, *Revelation 4.8, 11; 5.9-10, 12-14*

1. I have heard it said, "if you don't like or want to worship God now, what makes you think you will like heaven?"

F) Heaven is a place of friends, of those of like faith, *Hebrews 12.22-24*

1. We look forward to seeing our friends and loved ones here.
2. Everyone in heaven will be our friend, commonality in our desire to serve God.

G) Heaven is a place of beauty, *Rev. 4.1-4*

1. We often see things of beauty here, sunrise or sunset, landscape, flowers, etc. Such beauty is fading and eventually goes away.
2. The beauty of heaven does not fade away or disappoint us.
3. Bible writers give us descriptive terms, mentioning things of great value - streets of gold, pearly gates, etc.

H) Heaven is a place of light

1. There will be no night there, no darkness, *1 John 1.5*.
2. God is light, *Rev. 21.22-27*
3. Place of purity and cleanness.

I) Heaven is a place of joy, *Matthew 25*

1. Past pain will be forgotten; all cares and sorrow will be gone. *Rev. 21.4*
2. One day I was entering a restaurant that had a play area for the young children. As I was opening the door a lady came out with a crying child. He was crying "I don't want to go." I said to the momma, he is having too much fun to leave. That joy is what we will have in heaven.

Conclusion:

Remember God has a place for you and me. Jesus died to prepare that place, and it awaits our arrival. Do you want to go to such a place as heaven? If so then be prepared, make your preparations so you will be there.