

## 6-3-2026 – HEAVEN – week 1

Heaven. We sing about it. Movies about it. Books about it. Fascinating.

We all have a need to be wanted - loved - know where we're going.

**That's Heaven.** It fulfills those 3 needs.

- God created us with needs that ultimately lead to Him.

God “has **planted eternity in the human heart**, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end.” – [Ecc. 3:11](#)

Going on a trip? Research destination. Look forward to it.

[1 Peter 1:4](#) [Good News Tr] – “we look forward to possessing the rich blessings that God keeps for his people. He keeps them for you in heaven, where they cannot decay or spoil or fade away.”

We should want to know about heaven. But it's not for us to know ALL.

- [1 Corinthians 2:9](#) - “it is written: ‘No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no heart has **imagined**, what God has prepared for those who love Him.’”
  - o That's not entirely true. **Jesus** let **John** see some of it.

Why aren't more messages preached on heaven?

1 – It's complicated.    2 - It's incomplete.    3 – It's scary.

- **Rev. 22** - “<sup>18</sup>I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll. <sup>19</sup>And if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll.”
- Yep. Scary. I'll do my best. Give what I can. Share what I know. But I don't know it all . . . there are questions I can't answer.

People have questions about this destination.

What does it look like? Real place invisible spirit world? Angel wings?

Will our pets be there? Really streets of gold? Pearly gates? Mansions? Will we see God? What does He look like? Sense of humor? Who will be there? Loved ones? What will do in heaven? Eat?

This **series** - designed to answer questions. We ought to know about this destiny **where we'll spend eternity**. Anticipate it. Be encouraged.

**Heaven is a place.** Not just some mystical spiritual existence.

Jesus encouraged His disciples, saying: *“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.”*

“I go to prepare a place for you.” A place. Revelation describes a **“City.”** Isaiah’s prophecy - **“City of Zion”** – *“So the redeemed of the LORD will return and enter Zion with singing, crowned with everlasting joy. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee.”* [Is. 35:10](#)

- Heaven is a place; it’s real. *“In my Father's house are many mansions”*
  - o Greek work for “mansion” - dwelling place; family abode; staying.
    - Heaven is the place where God wants to **spend eternity w/us**
    - Heaven isn’t just where God dwells; *It’s being prepared for us!*

Spending eternity w/God, but does God have a **sense of humor?**

Fair Q - b/c religion teaches respect for God. Reverence. Fear the Lord.

- Humanity - **created in God’s image**; the human capacity for laughter and playfulness **must ultimately originate** from the Creator.
- Unusual design of some **animals** points to the humor of God: ostriches, playful porpoise, seals, platypus, kangaroos, . . . mischievous racoons.
- [Ecclesiastes 3](#) shows **God’s design** – “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: . . . <sup>2</sup> a time to be

born and a time to die. . . <sup>4</sup> a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance. . . .” **Design includes laughter.**

- **Jesus** – God incarnate – had a sense of humor. He said things like, **“Blind guides! You strain out a gnat yet swallow a camel!”** ([Matt. 23:28](#))
- And people **experience** God's humor in their daily lives; our Creator has used **comedic timing & gentle irony** to show us Himself; He’s there.
  - o **Prayer:** Asked God for a love song. **Holly** - reading a book; author said *“God delights in wooing us and that we can even ask Him to give us a love song.”* Based on [Zephaniah 3:17](#) - God will quiet us w/ His love & rejoice over us w/singing. So . . . ask for a love song!
  - o Girls cellphone; song by **The Doors:** ‘Hello, I love you, won’t you tell me your name? Hello, I love you, won’t U tell me your name?’
- Does God have a sense of humor? Yes. So . . . **laughter in heaven**

Will animals be in heaven? Yes.

- When Jesus reigns on His throne, there will be a **time of peace**. A radical transformation of nature **reminiscent** of the **Garden of Eden**.
- **Isaiah 11:6-7** – “In that day the wolf and the lamb will live together; the leopard will lie down with the baby goat. The calf and the yearling will be safe with the lion, and a little child will lead them all. The cow will graze near the bear. The cub and the calf will lie down together. The lion will eat hay like a cow.”
- **Genesis 9** – after the flood, God told Noah – all animals will now look on you with fear & dread; you can now eat meat, just not “with its lifeblood still in it.” **Vs. 5-** **“And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting. I will demand an accounting from every animal.”**
  - o We will give account in Heaven before great white throne of God.
  - o “<sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in

the books. <sup>13</sup>The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done.” – **Rev. 20**

Purgatory. – No mention in the Bible.

No scripture indicates there is a middle ground;

No Bible verse describes a temp place for spiritual purification.

**Revelation 21:27** says that "nothing unclean" can enter Heaven. We're either made clean by the blood of Jesus, or we are not.

Last - Heaven. Three heavens.

1 – **Heaven** above the earth.

[Deut. 10:14](#) – “To the LORD your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it.”

[Isaiah 66:1](#) – “This is what the LORD says: “Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool.”

Scriptures speak of the Heavens praising God. Psm 89:5; Psm 19:1

2 – **Paradise** is the second heaven.

[Luke 23:43](#) : Jesus, while on the cross, assures the repentant thief, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with Me in **Paradise**."

- This indicates Paradise is a place of immediate fellowship with Christ, suggesting a state of blessedness after death.

3 – A third heaven – the **ultimate heaven**.

[2 Cor. 12:2-4](#) - “I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the **third heaven**. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know—God knows.” . . . This man “was caught up to paradise and heard inexpressible things, things that no one is permitted to tell.”

- Calls it both the “**third heaven**” & **Paradise**
  - o **John** also called this third heaven Paradise:

- “To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the **tree of life**, which is **in the paradise** of God.” – **Rev. 2:7**

### **Third heaven is the “New Heaven” – the final destination**

- **Rev. 21** Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. <sup>2</sup>I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband”
  - **I believe this is what Jesus is preparing. Ultimate Paradise. The Holy City in the new Heaven.**

**Rev. 22** – “Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup>down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month.”

[Genesis 2:8-9](#) states, "And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, where He placed the man He had formed. And out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil."

Heaven – Paradise – will be the most amazing garden!

<sup>3</sup> **“Blessed** is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.” – [Rev. 1:3](#)

Next week – the Second Coming of Jesus