



# Exploring God's Home

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# WHAT IS HEAVEN LIKE?

- Images of heaven?
- Animals?
- Trees, rivers, mountains?
- Food?
- Time?
- Where?
- Know loved ones?

# WHAT IS HEAVEN LIKE?

What would life be like:

- If we couldn't die?
- If we didn't sin?
- If our bodies were perfect?
- If our loved ones weren't selfish?
- If we saw God face to face?

# WHAT IS HEAVEN LIKE?

- ☐ God is awesome.
- ☐ God's home is awesome.
- ☐ What we think about heaven...  
reflects what we think about God.

6

And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God,  
to blaspheme

Revelation 13

- His name
- and His dwelling<sub>n</sub>,  
= those who dwell<sub>v</sub> in heaven.

# FOUR HEAVENS

- ❑ Original Heaven = Garden
  - ❑ Current Heaven = Paradise
  - ❑ Almost Heaven = Millennium
  - ❑ Eternal Heaven = New Earth
- 
- ❑ Rank?

# FOUR HEAVENS

- ❑ **Original Heaven** = **Garden**
- ❑ Current Heaven = Paradise
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- ❑ Eternal Heaven = New Earth



9a

And the LORD God caused every tree to sprout up  
from the ground,  
[trees]

Genesis 2

- that are desirable to the sight
- and good for food.

- What?
- Description?
- Trees in heaven?

9a

And the LORD God caused every tree to sprout up  
from the ground,  
[trees]

Genesis 2

- that are desirable to the sight
- and good for food.

9b

Now the tree of life<sub>n1</sub> [was] in the midst of the garden,  
and [also] the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

- Special trees?
- Restriction per 2:17?
- Trees in heaven?



# FOUR HEAVENS

- ❑ Original Heaven = Garden
- ❑ **Current Heaven** = **Paradise** ←
- ❑ Almost Heaven = Millennium
- ❑ Eternal Heaven = New Earth

43

And he said to him,

“Truly,

I say to you,

today

you will be with me in paradise.”

Luke 23

- When?
- Where?

43

And he said to him,

“Truly,

I say to you,

today

you will be with me in paradise.”

Luke 23

## Paradise:

- OT: the Garden of Eden
- NT:
  - place for the righteous dead
  - heavenly place where God dwells

43

And he said to him,

“Truly,

I say to you,

today

you will be with me in paradise.”

Luke 23

- ❑ Thief resurrected?
- ❑ Was Jesus?

8

Now we are of good **courage**,

and we would more pleased

- to be **absent** from the **body**
- and to be **at home** with the Lord.

2 Corinthians

- Contrast?
- Image?
- Loved ones are at home with Jesus.

# FOUR HEAVENS

- ❑ Original Heaven = Garden
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- ❑ **Almost Heaven = Millennium**
- ❑ Eternal Heaven = New Earth



4a

And I saw thrones,  
and they sat on them,  
and judgment was given to them—

- What?
- Who??

4b

(a) even the souls of those who had been beheaded

- because of the testimony of Jesus
- and because of the word of God,

Revelation 20

(b) and whoever

- had not worshiped
  - the beast
  - nor his image,
- and had not received the mark
  - on [their] forehead
  - and on their hand.

- ❑ Beheaded...
- ❑ Not worshiped the beast...
- ❑ Not received his mark...



4c And they came to life  
and they reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

4a And I saw thrones,  
and they sat on them,  
and judgment was given to them—

- ❑ Raised from the dead...
- ❑ To reign with Christ...
- ❑ As intended at creation.
- ❑ Impact on justice system?

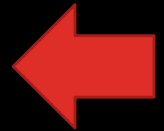
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# FOUR HEAVENS

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- Revelation 22:1-5



1

Then he **showed** me a **river** of the water of **life**,

**bright** as crystal,

**coming** from the **throne**

- of **God**
- and of the **Lamb**.

Revelation 22

- What?
- Where?
- Who?
- Rivers in heaven?

2

In the middle of its main street  
and on either side of the river  
[*was*] the tree of life,  
bearing twelve [*crops*] of fruit,  
yielding its fruit  
each month;  
and the leaves of the tree [*were*]  
for the healing of the nations.

Revelation 22

- What?
- Where?

2

In the middle of its main street  
and on either side of the river  
[*was*] the tree of life,  
bearing twelve [*crops*] of fruit,  
yielding its fruit  
each month;  
and the leaves of the tree [*were*]  
for the healing of the nations.

Revelation 22

## Eternal Heaven:

- Trees?
- Food?
- Time?

3 Every curse will be no longer.

The throne

- of God
- and of the Lamb

will be in it,

and his servants will serve him.

4 They will see his face,

and his name will be

on their foreheads.

- What's gone?
  - Everything cursed from the fall
- Who's there?

3 Every curse will be no longer.

The throne

- of God
- and of the Lamb

will be in it,

and his servants<sub>n</sub> will serve<sub>v</sub> him.

4 They will see his face,

and his name will be

on their foreheads.

- We will serve God.
- We will see God's face.
- His name will be on our foreheads.



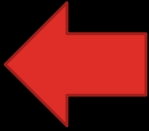
5

Night will be no longer;  
and they will not have need  
of the light of a lamp  
nor the light of the sun,  
because the Lord God will illumine<sub>v2</sub> them;  
and they will reign  
forever  
and forever.

Revelation 22

- ❑ What's gone?
- ❑ Who provides light?
- ❑ Who reigns?

# FOUR HEAVENS

- ❑ Original Heaven = Garden
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  - ❑ **Eternal Heaven = New Earth** 
- Revelation 22:1-5
  - Revelation 21:1-4

1

(1) Then **I saw**

(a) a **new** heaven

(b) and a **new** earth.

(a) **For** the **first** heaven

(b) **and** the **first** earth

**went away,**

**and** the sea **is no longer.**

Revelation 21



- See?
- What is gone?

(2) **And I saw**

the **holy city**

= the **new Jerusalem**

(a) **coming down**

- **out of heaven**

- **from God,**

(b) **made ready as a bride**

**adorned** for **her husband**<sub>n1</sub>.

Revelation 21

□ See?

□ Where?

(3) And **I heard** a **great** voice  
out of the **throne**,  
**saying**,

Revelation 21

“**Look!**

- (a) The **dwelling<sub>n</sub>** of God [*is*] **with** **mankind<sub>n2</sub>**,  
 (b) and **he will dwell<sub>v</sub>** **with** **them**,  
 (c) and **they will be** his people,  
 (d) and God **himself will be with** **them**,

- Heard?
- God's goal since the garden.
- Our greatest longing?

(e) and he will wipe away every tear  
from their eyes.

Revelation 21

(f) And death will be no longer.

- Neither mourning,
- nor crying,
- nor pain—

(g) [these] will be no longer.

The first [things] went away.”

- God's action?
- What's gone?

# FOUR HEAVENS

- ❑ Original Heaven = Garden
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  - ❑ **Eternal Heaven = New Earth** ←
- Isaiah 66:22-24



“For just as the **new heavens** and the **new earth**  
which I **make**  
**will endure** before me,”

Isaiah 66

declares the LORD,

“So **your** offspring and **your** **name will endure.**”

- What?
  - Isaiah's imagery is John's foundation.



And it **shall be**

from new moon to new moon  
and from Sabbath to Sabbath,

**all mankind will come to bow down before me,**”

says the LORD.

Isaiah 66

- Time?
- Travel?
- Worship?

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  - Isaiah 66:22-24
  - Isaiah 65:17-25

17a

For behold,

Isaiah 65

**I create**

- new heavens
- and a new earth.

17b

And the former [*things*]

(a) will not be remembered

(b) and will not come upon the heart [*i.e. mind*].

- What?
- Action?
- Why not “come upon heart”???

18a

- (a) For be glad<sub>v</sub>  
 (b) and rejoice<sub>v</sub> until forever  
 [*in*] what I create.

18b

- For behold,  
 I create
- Jerusalem for rejoicing<sub>n</sub>
  - and her people for gladness<sub>n</sub>.

- Repetition = EMPHASIS
- Created for rejoicing!
- Will heaven be boring?
- Is God a grumpy old grandpa?

21

- (a) **They will build** houses
- (b) and **inhabit** *them*;
- (c) And **they will plant** vineyards
- (d) and **eat** **their** fruit.

Isaiah 65

## Eternal Heaven:

- Houses?
- Vineyards?

25a

- (a) The wolf and the lamb will graze like one,  
(b) and the lion will eat straw like the ox,  
(c) and dust [*will be*] the serpent's food.

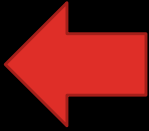
Isaiah 65

25b

- (a) They will not cause evil  
(b) They will not cause ruin  
in all my holy mountain,"  
says the LORD.

- ❑ What changes?
- ❑ Animals in eternal heaven?
- ❑ How change perspective?

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- Isaiah 66:22-24
  - Isaiah 65:17-25
  - Isaiah 25:1-12

6

The LORD of hosts will make  
for all peoples  
on this mountain

Isaiah 25

- a feast of rich food,
- a feast of well-aged wine,
- of rich food full of marrow,
- of aged wine well refined.

- Where?
- What?
- Quality?
  - Repetition = EMPHASIS



7

And on this mountain

Isaiah 25

He will swallow up

- he covering that is cast over **all** peoples,
- the veil that is spread over **all** nations.

8a

He will swallow up death to forever.

- Action?
- What?

8b

And the LORD Lord will wipe away tears

from upon all faces,

And he will remove the reproach of his people

from upon all the earth,


for the LORD has spoken.

Isaiah 25

## □ Action?

- Isaiah's imagery is John's foundation.

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- Isaiah 66:22-24
  - Isaiah 65:17-25
  - Isaiah 25:1-12
  - Isaiah 2:1-4

2

And it will come about in the last days

Isaiah 2

the mountain of the house of the Lord

will be established as the head of the mountains<sub>n1</sub>,

and will be lifted from the hills<sub>n2</sub>,

and all the nations will stream to it.

- Who?
- Action?
  - All ethnic groups will worship God.
- Travel?

3a

And many peoples will come

and say,

“Come,

let us go up

➤ to the mountain<sub>n1</sub> of the Lord,

➤ to the house of the God of Jacob,

▪ that he may teach us his ways

▪ and we may walk in his paths.”

Isaiah 2

□ Why?

- 3b For the law will go forth from Zion  
And the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
- 4a And He will judge between the nations,  
And will render decisions for many peoples;  
And they will hammer  
    their swords into plowshares  
    and their spears into pruning hooks.
- 4b Nation will not lift up sword against nation,  
And never again will they learn war.

□ World peace. Forever.

# WHAT IS HEAVEN LIKE?

- ❑ God is awesome.
- ❑ God's home is awesome.
- ❑ Think about heaven...
  - Thank God for our future.
  - Endure the present.

