

Heaven

Theology 2
Moody Bible Institute
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The Resurrection of the Saints

- There are three major Resurrections according to 1 Corinthians 15:23-24
 - Christ and the “Firstfruits” - occurred at Christ’s resurrection - Matthew 28:15-16
 - The Main Harvest - occurs at Christ’s Second Coming
 - The Last Gleanings - occurs at the end of the Millennium

Two Resurrections

- The First Resurrection
 - Reserved exclusively for the Saints - Revelation 20:6
 - Consists of several phases - Firstfruits, Main Harvest, and Last Gleanings
- The Second Resurrection
 - Reserved mainly for the Unredeemed
 - Possibly applies to Millennium believers as well

The Resurrection Body

- It will be like Christ's - Philippians 3:21, 1 John 3:1-3
- It will be physical in nature - Luke 24:39-40
- It will be able to eat - Luke 24:41-43
- It will be recognizable - Matthew 8:11, Luke 16:23

The Resurrection Body

- It will not be spatially limited - John 20:19, Luke 24:31, 36
- It will be eternal - 2 Corinthians 5:1
- It will be immortal and incorruptible - 1 Corinthians 15:51-54

Where Is Heaven?

- It is “UP”
- Three heavens are mentioned in the Bible
 - First Heaven - atmosphere - Jeremiah 4:25
 - Second Heaven - stars - Genesis 22:17
 - Third Heaven - the abode of God - 1 Kings 8:27-30
- Both the Greek and Hebrew words for “heaven” denote something that is “up”

When Was Heaven Created?

- In the “beginning” - Genesis 1:1
 - Not only did God create the earth, but He created the “heavens”
 - This most certainly refers to the atmospheric, stellar, and abode of God.

Does God “Live” In Heaven?

- God is omnipresent, which means He is everywhere, at the same time, in the same measure - He is not more “there” than “here”
- However, the manifest presence of God is seen in Heaven, not here

The Citizens of Heaven

- The Holy and Elect Angels - Hebrews 12:22, 5:11; Revelation 12:3-4, 7-9
- The 24 Elders - Revelation 4:4
- The Church - Hebrews 12:22-23, Revelation 19:1, 21:1
- Redeemed Israel - Matthew 25:10, 23; Hebrews 11:16; Revelation 14:1-3, 7:1-8

The Citizens of Heaven

- All the Redeemed of All Ages - Revelation 3:12, 5:9, 7:9-10
- The Father - Revelation 4:2-3, 5:1-7
- The Son - Revelation 5:6, 15:3, 19:13
- The Holy Spirit - Revelation 14:13, 22:17

The Heavenly Temple

- At this time Heaven contains a Temple signifying the fact that unfettered and unhindered access to God is a reality for the future and not for now.
- Moses was instructed to construct the earthly tabernacle exactly as God instructed since it was a shadow of the Heavenly Temple, which is the reality - Hebrews 8:5

The Temple Furniture

- The Outer Courtyard
 - Brazen Altar
 - Used for sacrifices
 - Not present in Heaven
 - The Bronze Laver or Sea
 - Used for ceremonial washings
 - Not present in Heaven

The Temple Furniture

- The Holy Place or Outer Sanctuary
 - Candlestick
 - Used in the tabernacle to give light
 - Seen in Heaven as seven burning lamps before the throne of God representing the sevenfold ministry of the Holy Spirit - Revelation 4:5
 - Table of Shewbread
 - Signified God's provision for His people
 - Not seen in Heaven

The Temple Furniture

- The Holy Place or Outer Sanctuary
 - The Altar of Incense
 - Signified the prayers of the people of God ascending to Heaven - the smoke also screen the High Priest from the Presence of God on the Day of Atonement
 - Seen in Heaven before the Throne of God - Revelation 5:8, 6:9, 8:3-5

The Temple Furniture

- The Holy of Holies or Inner Sanctuary
 - The Ark of the Covenant
 - Contained mementos of God's covenant with His people
 - Seen in Revelation 15:5
 - The Mercy Seat
 - Place where the Blood was put on the Day of Atonement and the place where God dwelled
 - Seen in Revelation 15:5-8

The Temple Furniture

- The Holy of Holies or Inner Sanctuary
 - The Cherubim
 - Covered the Mercy Seat with their outspread wings
 - Seen in Heaven as the Four Living Creatures of Revelation and the Living Creatures in Ezekiel 1.
 - The Cherubim are protectors of God's Holiness - protecting us from Him - not Him from us.

Things Missing in Heaven

- No more sea - signifying no more boundaries or separation - Revelation 21:1
- No more tears, death, sorrow, or pain signifying the removal of the curse - Revelation 21:4
- No more insecurity or night signifying perfect peace and the absence of any threats - Revelation 21:25, 22:5

Things Missing in Heaven

- No more sickness, again signifying the absence of the curse - Revelation 22:2
- No more Satan - Revelation 20:10
- No hunger, thirst, or heat signifying a perfect environment - Revelation 7:16
- No Temple signifying total and complete access to God - Revelation 21:22
- No Curse - Revelation 22:3

Things Missing in Heaven

- No Sun since the Glory of God and Christ is the light - Revelation 21:23
- Nothing that defiles or produces sin of any kind - Revelation 21:27
- No Unredeemed - Revelation 21:8, 22:15
- No Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil - only the Tree of Life - Revelation 22:2

Things Present in Heaven

- The Holy City - New Jerusalem - the City of the People of God - Revelation 21:2
- God's manifest presence - Revelation 21:3
- Every New Thing - Revelation 21:5
- The Fountain of the Water of Life - Revelation 21:6
- The undiminished Glory of God - Revelation 21:23-24

Things Present in Heaven

- The River of the Water of Life - Revelation 22:1
- The Tree of Life - Revelation 22:2
- The Throne of God and the Lamb - Revelation 22:3
- The Spirit and the Bride - Revelation 22:17

The New Jerusalem

■ It's Size

- 1,400 miles on each side - a perfect Cube
- Contains 2,744,000,000 square miles
- Gives each redeemed saint about 1 square mile to themselves

■ It's Architect

- God - Revelation 21:2, John 14:3

The New Jerusalem

■ It's Description

- It's foundations consist of multicolored layers of shimmering and translucent gemstones - Revelation 21:11-21
- It's twelve gates are giant Pearls - Revelation 21:21
- It's streets are translucent gold - Revelation 21:21
- It's wall is one large diamond - Revelation 21:11

The New Jerusalem

- It's Occupants
 - The Church - the Bride of Christ - Revelation 21:9-10
 - The Redeemed of all ages may enter - Revelation 21:24-26
 - God Himself - Revelation 22:3-4
- It's Location
 - The New Earth - Revelation 21:1