

The Reality of Heaven

Life Focus

The hope of heaven encourages believers to serve Christ faithfully.

Bible Focus

Luke 16:19–31, 23:39–43; John 3:16; Romans 5:8, 3:23, 6:23, 10:9, 10, 13; 2 Corinthians 2:1–4, 5:21; Revelation 21:1–4

Key Verse 2 Corinthians 4:18

“So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal” (NIV).

“We look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal” (KJV).

So, what do you think? Do you have an answer to any of these questions? What questions might you want to add to this list?

Because we’ve never been there, heaven is a very unknown place. For this reason, we can merely speculate and make educated guesses on many of the details. But thankfully, some details can be gained by a close reading of God’s Word. That’s what this week’s lesson is about.

Follow and Fill

Below are the main points to the lesson. Fill in the Scripture references from each point so you can study them on your own this week.

1) Heaven: Here and There

Luke 16:19–_____

Luke 23:99–_____

2 Corinthians 2:1–_____

Revelation 21:1–_____

2) We’ll All Be Changed

1 Corinthians 15:_____–57

3) The Ultimate Treasure Map

John 3:_____

Romans 5:_____

Romans 3:_____

Romans 6:_____

2 Corinthians 5:_____

Romans 10:_____, _____

Romans 13:_____

1 Heaven FAQs

Here are a few common questions when discussing heaven:

- Will animals and pets be there?
- What will my loved ones look like—young, old, different?
- At what age is a child accountable, that is, when a child dies, are they automatically “in”?
- What about those who’ve died without ever hearing the gospel message?

Pause and Ponder



When you think of heaven, what images come to mind?

Why do you have this image of heaven? Where have your beliefs about heaven come from? How were they formed?

How many, if any, passages in the Bible can you name that give us details about heaven?

sun or the moon after death. Native Americans believed that, in the afterlife, their spirits would hunt the spirits of buffalo.

The Gilgamesh epic, an ancient Babylonian legend, refers to a resting place of heroes and hints at a tree of life. In the pyramids of Egypt, the embalmed bodies had maps placed beside them as guides to the future world. The Romans believed that the righteous would picnic in the Elysian Fields, while their horses grazed nearby. Seneca, the Roman philosopher, said, "The day thou fearest as the last is the birthday of eternity."

Although these depictions of the afterlife differ, the unifying testimony of the human heart throughout history is belief in life after death. Anthropological evidence suggests that every culture has a God-given, innate sense of the eternal—that this world is not all there is.

—Randy Alcorn, *Heaven*, p. ixx

4 Longing For Heaven

The sense that we will live forever somewhere has shaped every civilization in human history. Australian aborigines pictured Heaven as a distant island beyond the western horizon. The early Finns thought it was a distant island in the far away east. Mexicans, Peruvians, and Polynesians believed that they went to the

Answers:

Follow and Fill: 1) 31, 43, 4, 4; 2) 35; 3) 16, 8, 23, 23, 21, 9, 10, 13