

Answers About Heaven: Part Two

Sunday, July 7, 2024

Big Idea: The Bible has a lot to say about heaven

1. Is there a difference between the **current** Heaven and the **future** Heaven ?

Current Heaven (**Immediate** Presence with God)

Doctrine of Immediate Presence: This doctrine teaches that when believers die, they are immediately in the presence of God.

2 Corinthians 5:8: "We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord."

Future Heaven and Earth:

Doctrine of the New Creation: This doctrine teaches that at Christ's return, there will be a complete renewal and transformation of creation.

Revelation 21:1-3:

The **promise** of a new heaven and new earth gives us hope that all things will be made right. Every pain, sorrow, and injustice will be undone in God's perfect new creation.

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2. Will we do anything else in Heaven other than **worshipping** God?

Living in a world corrupted by sin **limits** our experience of feeling and living in the unhindered presence of God.

Worship in heaven will be an unfiltered **engagement** in the unfiltered presence of God.

If God is love, then God is joy, and God is peace, and God is goodness, and God is freedom.

We will reign with Christ on the New Earth:

1. Judicial Authority:

1 Corinthians 6:2-3

Augustine "He will assign us a place of honor and authority, fulfilling the promise that we will judge angels and men."

2. Priestly Roles:

Revelation 5:10 3

3. Creative Expression:

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3. Will There Be Rewards in Heaven?

1 Corinthians 3:14 (NIV): "If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward."

God's rewards are not based on competition but on our personal stewardship of our time, talents, and spiritual gifts. Only the works that we allow the **Holy Spirit** to do through us will count.

Are These Rewards Allegorical or Literal?

- **Millard Erickson:** "These rewards will be **real** and meaningful, enhancing our experience of eternal life."

Will I Be Disappointed if I Have No Rewards?

1 Corinthians 3:15 (NIV): "If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames."

Those without rewards will still experience the fullness of joy in God's presence, but there is a **sense** of missing out on the additional honors and responsibilities that rewards bring.

Are These the Only Rewards We Will Ever Get in All Eternity?

- **Randy Alcorn:** "God's generosity is boundless, and there may be **ongoing** rewards and responsibilities in eternity."

Crowns for Our Faithfulness:

1. The Crown of Righteousness:

2 Timothy 4:8

John Wesley: "This crown is for those who long for Christ's appearing and live a life reflecting His righteousness."

2. The Crown of Life:

Revelation 2:10

3. The Crown of Glory:

1 Peter 5:4

4. The Incorruptible Crown:

1 Corinthians 9:25

5. The Crown of Rejoicing:

1 Thessalonians 2:19

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