

**IS HEAVEN FOR REAL?
JOHN 14:1-3 / 3-25-18 / AM**

I. WHY DO NON RELIGIOUS PEOPLE BELIEVE HEAVEN IS REAL OR THERE IS AN AFTERLIFE?

A. The Argument From Design also called the “Teleological Argument”

When we look at anything which has a design, we rightly conclude that it had a designer.

B. The Argument From Anthropology.

Humans have a complex personality. It seems absurd that such complexity could have emerged from nothing, with no cause. .

C. The Argument from Cause-Effect also called the “Cosmological Argument”.

Everything we can think of, and which we encounter, has been caused by something.

D. The Argument From Ontology.

If there is a concept of something, this implies that the something does exist. I can conceive of God, therefore He must exist.

E. The Argument From Morality.

The sense of morals which most people have 'built-in', points to the existence of a moral Maker.

F. Pascal’s Wager

Frenchman Blaise Pascal was a mathematician and physicist as well as a philosopher and theologian. His argument is a pragmatic rather than an evidential argument for belief in God.

Pascal’s Wager seeks to justify Christian faith by considering the various possible consequences of belief and disbelief in the God of Christianity. If we believe in the Christian God, the argument runs, then if he exists then we will receive an infinitely great reward in heaven while if he does not then we will have lost little or nothing.

II. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TELL US ABOUT THE REALITY OF HEAVEN?

- A. There are many people who have said they had a “near-death” experiences then went on to write books and make movies about them.

- B. Although such movies tickle our curiosity, Billy Graham once said **“God may give some people a glimpse of heaven, although I believe such instances are rare and need to be treated with caution.”**

- C. Let’s consider 7 things the Bible says about heaven.
 - 1. First, Jesus is in heaven right now—1 Peter 3:21-22.

 - 2. Second, Jesus is preparing a place in heaven for Christians—John 14:2.

 - 3. Third, there millions of angels in heaven—Heb. 12:22.

 - 4. Fourth, our ultimate residence as Christians is to be heaven—Phil. 3:20-21.

 - 5. Fifth, heaven is a place where there will be no more sorrow or pain—Rev. 21:4.

 - 6. Sixth, Jesus will return to earth from heaven someday—1 Thess. 4:16.

 - 7. Seventh, heaven is a glorious place—Rev.21:23.