

Introduction: What's your idea of heaven?

Review – A biblical overview* of heaven:

PAST Genesis 1-2	PRESENT Genesis 3 – Revelation 20	FUTURE Revelation 21-22
Original mankind	Fallen mankind; some believe and are transformed	Resurrected mankind
Original earth	Fallen earth with glimmers of the original	New earth; resurrected on mankind's coattails
God delegates earth's reign to innocent mankind	Disputed reign with God, Satan, and fallen mankind	God delegates earth's reign to righteous mankind
Creation and mankind are perfect	Creation and mankind are tainted by sin	Creation and mankind restored to perfection
Mankind in ideal place	Mankind banished, struggles, and wanders in fallen places	Mankind restored to ideal place, but much improved
God's plan for mankind and earth revealed	God's plan for mankind and earth delayed and enriched	God's plan for mankind and earth realized

*From Randy Alcorn's book *Heaven*

Question: What's Heaven like?

What will heaven be like if you died today? Revelation 4-20

A moment after a believer dies...

1. Angels usher your soul to heaven. Luke 16:22
2. You immediately enter God's presence. 2 Corinthians 5:6-8
3. You are conscious, in command of your faculties of thinking, feeling, speech and memories. Luke 16:19-31
4. You participate in magnificent worship with angels and believers before the throne of God and Christ. Revelation 4-5
5. You are aware to some degree of activities and events on earth. Revelation 6:9-10
Hebrews 11 & 12
6. You will recognize and communicate with believers who preceded you to heaven. Luke 9:28-36
7. You will be joined by all living Christians when Jesus "raptures" the Church from the earth to be judged for rewards at the Bema Seat. You will then enjoy the Marriage Supper of the Lamb in heaven with Christ and His Bride. 2 Corinthians 5:10
Revelation 19:6-10
8. You will await God's judgment of the earth at the end of the tribulation and will be bodily resurrected to reign and judge with Christ for 1,000 years on the earth. Revelation 20:4-6
9. You will witness the justice of God at the judgment of Satan, angels and the wicked dead at the Great White Throne. Revelation 20:11-15
10. You will witness the new heaven coming down on the new earth. Revelation 21:1

What will heaven be like in the new heaven and the new earth? Revelation 21-22

1) It will be a lot like the “new” _____.

- Just as my body will be _____, 1 Corinthians 15:40-53
so the earth will be _____.
- My new body will be like _____, 1 John 3:2-3
- Jesus’ resurrected body _____ and _____ and
had flesh and bone and new capabilities. Luke 24:39

2) It will be a lot like the old _____.

- The new heaven and new earth is _____, Revelation 21:1
- The old earth “passes away” not _____, 2 Peter 3:8-9
- Like the “old me” passed away, so will the old _____, 2 Corinthians 5:17
- The new earth = New, better, different, but with continuity from the old earth.

Summary:

- As mankind was, so was the earth.
- As mankind went, so went the earth.
- As mankind will be, so will be the earth.

Two big questions for you:

1. Do you know for certain that you've trusted God's plan and accepted Jesus' sacrifice for your salvation?
2. On what are you focusing / how are you living today?

Discussion Questions:

1. What new fact about heaven or the intermediate heaven most surprised you? Why?
2. What about heaven give you the most comfort and hope? Why?
3. How does a specific and clear view of heaven impact how and why you live each day?
4. What are some of the sobering aspects of entrance into heaven and the justice of God's judgment for those who reject Him?

Recommended Resources:

Book – *Heaven* by Randy Alcorn
Book – *The Glory of Heaven* by John MacArthur
CD Series – *The Revelation* by Chip Ingram