

THE DISPENSATION OF ETERNITY & HEAVEN- Lecture 11

John 14:1-6; Philippians 1:21-24; Revelation 21:1-22:4.

When Paul wrote Philippians, he was imprisoned in Rome and was not sure whether he would be executed or set free. Either way, he was determined to trust the Lord.

For Paul, heaven was not a celestial dream. He probably knew more about heaven than any other human who ever lived. He wrote about it in 2 Corinthians 12:2-4. 2 Corinthians 12:2-4 For some reason, God had given Paul a glimpse of heaven.

In Colossians 3:1-2, we are commanded to think about heaven. Most Christians today do not obey this command. As a result, the church becomes indulgent, self-centered, and weak.

I. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE STUDY ABOUT HEAVEN

1. The study of heaven enhances our _____.
2. The study of heaven motivates our _____.
3. The study of heaven prioritizes our _____
John 3:3

THREE HEAVENS

1. The atmospheric heavens (Gen. 1:1; Isa. 55:9; Ps. 147:8):
2. The _____ heavens:
3. There is the _____ heaven (2 Cor. 12:2): Paul was caught up into the "*third heaven*."

II. HEAVEN IS GOD'S HOME

1. The Old Testament speaks of heaven as God's special _____ place. It is where God lives (Isa. 57:15; 63:15; Ps. 33:13, 14).
2. The New Testament speaks of the Father who is _____ heaven.
(Matt. 5:16, 34, 45; 6:1, 9, 11, 21).

_____ times in the New Testament we read of the Father being in heaven, and in each case, the words came directly from Jesus. Jesus came from heaven (John 5:30; 6:33, 41).

III. HEAVEN IS OUR ETERNAL HOME

Heaven is not only God's home; it is the home of every believer, of everyone whose name is "*written in the book of Life*" (Rev. 17: 8).

Heaven is more than mansions. Jesus said, "my Father's house" (John 14:2). The Bible describes heaven in several ways.

In Hebrews 11:16, it is called a _____ emphasizing its vastness.

In Hebrews 11:10, it is called a _____.

In 2 Peter 1:11, it is called a _____, referring to God's _____.

In Luke 23:43, it is called _____, emphasizing _____.

When Jesus spoke of "my Father's house," He was conveying the meaning of home. Whatever heaven is it will feel like home.

Look down to John 14:23:

*23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our **abode** with him.*

NOTE:

The same word translated abode (our home) is used for mansions.

Once you have grown up reading this as mansions, the translation of rooms is hard to swallow. We have rooms here on earth, so mansions sound _____.

To prepare is not the same thing as to build. To prepare is simply to make ready.

IV. HEAVEN WILL BE FILLED WITH ETERNAL BLESSINGS

1. We will never have to _____ what God is like; we will see Him face to face.
2. We will never sin or be _____ to sin again.
3. We will never grow old; our bodies will never know pain, and we won't die.
4. We will have a reunion with all our loved ones who died in Christ!
5. We will form new relationships with believers we never knew on earth.
6. We will find joy and _____ that surpass any known on earth.
7. We will have _____ knowledge.
8. We will sing! We will worship! The music of heaven will surpass anything on earth.

V. WHAT HEAVEN HOLDS

The Bible teaches that heaven is not just a state of mind and not just a future place, but a place that is _____ (2 Cor. 5:8).

1. Our Father is in heaven.
2. Our Savior is in heaven (Heb. 8:1).
3. Our family is in heaven (Heb. 12:23).
4. Our names are in heaven (Luke 10:20).
5. Our inheritance is in heaven (1 Pet. 1:3, 4).
Incorruptible....undefiled...fadeth not away....reserved in Heaven
6. Our rewards are in heaven (Matt. 5:12).
7. Our citizenship is in heaven (Phil. 3:20).
8. Our hope is in heaven (Col. 1:5).

VI. THINGS NOT FOUND IN HEAVEN

No more sea (Rev. 12:1),
tears, pain, or death (1 Cor. 15:54-57; Rev. 21:4)
insecurity, night (Rev. 21:25),
sin (Rev. 21:27),
sickness, curse (Rev. 22:2),
Satan (Rev. 20:10),
thirst, hunger, excessive heat (Rev. 7:16),
condemnation (John 5:24),
or corruption (1 Cor. 15:54; 1 Pet. 1:4).

VII. MOST COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT HEAVEN

A. Will we be married in heaven? What does the Bible say? See 1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Look at the word "fashion" in verse 31. The word comes from the Greek word "schema" and refers to our fashion, our way of life here on earth. The way we live here and now is passing away. Marriage is a _____ arrangement.

See Matthew 22:29-30

Will we recognize each other in heaven?

The Scripture answers this question with a YES! Saul recognized Samuel, who was allowed to reappear after his death and rebuke the wicked king (1 Sam. 28:15). Moses was recognized as Moses when he appeared in Matthew 17:3. The disciples recognized Jesus (John 20:18; 21:7), and we will have glorified bodies like His (Phil. 3:21; 1 John 3:2).

Stephen recognized the ascended Christ (Acts 7:55, 56).

What will we do in heaven? A perverted concept of heaven is a life floating on a cloud playing a golden harp. This may be heaven according to Walt Disney, but not according to the New Testament.

Heaven will be a place of singing (Ps. 102:2; Isa. 49:13; Rev. 5:9; 14:3; 15:3, 4).

Heaven will be a place of fellowship.

Heaven will be a place of service (Rev. 7:15; 22:3).

Heaven will be a place of learning (1 Cor. 13:9, 10).

What kind of bodies will we have in heaven? See Philippians 3:21; 1 John 3:2. Note the features of Christ's resurrected body:

1. It consisted of flesh and bone (Luke 24:39, 40).
2. He ate in this body, partaking of fish, honeycomb and bread (Luke 24:41-43; John 21:12-15).
3. His body was not subject to the regular laws of time and gravity (John 20:19; Luke 24:31, 36).

The nature of our bodies:

1. They will be recognizable bodies (Matt. 8:11; Luke 16:23; 1 Cor. 13:12).
2. They will be eternal bodies (2 Cor. 5:1).
3. They will be bodies in which the spirit predominates (1 Cor. 15:44, 49). Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 15:44 that "There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body."

What age will we be in heaven? _____?

Are those in heaven now aware of earthly activities? Based on the following Scriptures, this seems to be the case (Luke 15:10). It is not the angels that are rejoicing (Luke 16:29).

Do all babies and small children who die go to heaven?

It is impossible for a little one willfully to reject Jesus Christ; therefore, it must be concluded that babies and small children are protected by the grace of God until they are able to either receive or refuse that divine grace.

Both King David and the Savior made this very clear (2 Sam. 12:22, 23; Matt. 18:2, 3; 19:14).

How can we be happy knowing we have loved ones in hell?

Instead of resenting the sentence of justice against such rebellious unbelievers, we shall heartily extol the 'Judge of All the Earth' for rendering it." The Scripture clearly teaches we will be satisfied in heaven when we are separated from all earthly ties by death.

If we really love our loved ones, now is the time to win them.

How big is heaven?

The Apostle John gave us the answer in Revelation 21:9-20. In verse 16, a reed was a common Jewish measurement that was roughly ten feet. A furlong was 582 feet. The city will be approximately _____ miles on all sides. The atmosphere of the earth is only about _____ miles in depth.

If this city were to descend upon the present earth, most of it would extend far out into space. What's more, if you placed the southwest corner in Texas, it would stretch from Texas eastward to the North Carolina coast and northward to the uppermost part of Saskatchewan, Canada.

That is a surface area of some _____ million square miles!

The fact that it is 1,500 miles high has suggested millions of multiple layers too. Scientist Henry Morris has suggested that if 20 billion people inhabited this city, that only 25 percent of it would be used for habitation, and each person would have 75 acres!

God wants us to know there is plenty of room available for everyone who believes!
"In my Father's house are many mansions."

In John 14:5, "Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?" Thomas asked the most important question anyone ever asked. Jesus answered Thomas' question in verse 6: "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

The important question is, how can you know you are going to heaven?

Dispensationalism
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1. How can I be saved? Jesus answers, "I am the way." He is not a way, or one way, He is the only way.
2. How can I be sure? Jesus answers, "I am the truth." All of the world's religions and philosophical systems falter and fail.

Jesus said that no one goes to heaven but through Him. That rules out other religious systems (Acts 4:12; John 3:36).

3. How can I be satisfied? Jesus answers, "I am the life." There is no life apart from the eternal life we have in Jesus.

President John Quincy Adams was once asked late in his life how he was doing. He said, "John Quincy Adams is well, sir, very well. The house in which he has been living is dilapidated and old, and he has received word from its maker that he must vacate soon. But John Quincy Adams is well, sir, very well."

Conclusion:

The most desired times of all the dispensations will be our time forever spent in the new heavens and new earth in the holy city John the apostle saw coming down. This is the last dispensation