

Everybody wants to go to Heaven, but nobody wants to die. —Unknown.

We talk and sing a lot about Heaven. It is portrayed in all kinds of fanciful ways. But what do we know about it for sure from the Bible?

1. In the New Testament, the phrase “kingdom of heaven” is used thirty-two times, all in Matthew. The phrase “Kingdom of God” is used sixty-nine times.
 - a. Opinions on the meanings of those two phrases vary. After my review of it, I think:
 - i. The Kingdom of Heaven is a real kingdom yet to be fulfilled. It is physical and temporal.
 - ii. The Kingdom of God is considered to mean all beings and believers in all places and times who believe and honor God. It is spiritual and eternal, a relationship with God.
 - b. We are not talking of those, but of the place called Heaven.
2. The place we usually mean by “Heaven” is the “third heaven.” We are speaking of this Heaven, the place where God is now. Even after the “New Heaven,” the same things will be true for us.
 - a. Where God dwells on His throne Is. 6:1
 - b. Described as to the “North” Ps. 48:2, Is. 14:3
 - c. Beyond the second and third heavens (atmosphere and space)
 - d. Where the angels surround the throne Is. 6:2-3, Rev. 4:8
 - e. From which angels come and go Matt. 28:2, Luke 2:15, Luke 22:43, Gal. 1:8
 - f. A real place Heb. 9:24, I Pet. 3:22
 - g. Also called Paradise Luke 23:42-43, 2 Cor. 12:14
 - h. A place of NO sin Rev. 21:27, 21:8
 - i. A place of beauty Rev. 21:11,18,19
 - j. Jesus is there at the right hand of the Father Rev. 21:23, Acts 2:33; Acts. 7:55-56
 - k. The saints who have died are there Rev. 21:27
 - l. it is described as being “up” from earth Deut. 30:12, Josh. 8:20 2 Kings 2:1 and 11
 - m. What we do here has an effect on how it will be for us there *Matt. 5:19: Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the **kingdom of heaven**: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the **kingdom of heaven**.*
3. There will someday be a “new Heaven”, a city also called “New Jerusalem” coming down. Rev. 21:1-3
 - a. Jesus will be there
 - i. He will rule it Rev. 22:3
 - ii. He will be the light of it Rev. 22:5
 - b. All the saints of all the ages will be there. I Thess. 4:17

4. What will NOT be in Heaven? *Rev. 21:27: ²⁷And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.*
 - a. Sin Col. 1:14, 2:13
 - b. Death 1 Cor. 15:53
 - c. Disease or corruption Matt. 6:19, 1 Cor. 15:54
 - d. Marriage Matt. 22:30
 - e. Fakers Matt. 7:21 Not all we be there.
5. What will be in Heaven?
 - a. Crowns 1 Cor. 9:25; 2 Tim. 4:8; James 1:12; Rev. 2:10; Rev. 3:11
 - b. Singing Rev. 5:9, 14:3, 15:3
 - c. Praising Rev. 19:1-3
 - d. Angels Rev. 7:11, 21:12
 - e. Saints Rev. 21:24, 27
6. No one has been there and come back to tell about it. There is much confusion and deception today about this idea. At death, believers go instantly, directly, and permanently to Heaven (2 Cor. 5:8)
 - a. *2 Cor. 12: ²I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.³ And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;)⁴ How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.*
7. Are we ready to go? It is a matter of life and death for all eternity. Are we compelled, convicted, and committed to tell others? Ezek. 33:8-9; Matt. 28: 19-20

Revelation 21:2: And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.³ And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

Revelation 21:10: And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

Revelation 21:18: And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass.

Revelation 21:21: And the twelve gates were twelve pearls: every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass. ²²And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.

²³And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. ²⁴And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.

²⁵And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. ²⁶And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.

²⁷And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life