

Who Art in Heaven

LESSON 2: HEAVEN IS FOR REAL

The Matthew account of The Lord's Prayer does not include this phrase "Who art in heaven", but the Luke version does. Since I ALWAYS include "who art in heaven", let's look at what this phrase means. It begs the question, where is heaven? Where is God the Father? Is he up in outer space? Is he just beyond a veil that separates this present life from heavenly existence? What is heaven like?

1. Read Genesis 1:1. Who created heaven? What did he create with heaven? Who was in heaven with the angels? See Job 1:6-7. Read Luke 10:17-18. What happened to Satan when Jesus' disciples returned from proclaiming the gospel? What do you learn about Satan (the accuser of the brothers) in Revelation 12:10-12?

2. Ezekiel 1 and Revelation 4 are detailed descriptions of the heavenly realms. What do you learn from each of these accounts?

3. What do you learn from these Old Testament verses about heaven? Exodus 16:4, Genesis 28:17 and 2 Samuel 22:10,17.

4. In Old Testament times, Moses was given specific instructions on how to build the Tabernacle during the wilderness journey. Hebrews 8:5 tells us the Tabernacle and the ancient Hebrew Temple were shadows of the heavenly reality. In that ancient time, the presence of God in the Holy of Holies was off limits to the people. Only the High Priest could enter that space and only once a year on the Day of Atonement or Yom Kipper. That changed when Jesus came to earth. What does Luke 23:44-46 say happened at the time of Jesus' death on the cross? What is the significance?

5. Read Matthew 3:2 and Matthew 4:17. Who makes these statements? What do you think that means? Is there a hint in Matthew 3:16-17?

6. No matter where heaven is, we have an eternal destiny to be there. What do these following verses promise? John 14:1-3, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, 2 Corinthians 5:1,2 Philippians 3:20, 1 Thessalonians 4:16. What is the great promise of Revelation 21:1-7?

APPLICATION: The ancient Hebrews worshiped a God whom they heard from occasionally, yet they were prohibited from entering his presence. Now as believers in Jesus our Savior, we are given the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. Ask your Heavenly Father to give you a foretaste of heaven. It may be an answer to a prayer, a guiding direction or a deeper understanding of His word. Write it down so you won't forget that the God who is in heaven is within you.

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, you reign on earth as you reign in heaven. We praise you that you opened the curtain into your nearer presence through the cross of Jesus. Thank you for not leaving us as orphans but giving us your Holy Spirit as a deposit guaranteeing what is to come. (2 Corinthians 1:21,22). We give you all honor and glory as we worship and love your Son Jesus, our Savior. Amen.