

Heaven: You Don't Want to Miss it!

But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him." – 2 Corinthians 2:9

Introduction

The word "heaven" appears 692 times in the English Bible.

Meaning of "heaven"	Example
The atmosphere surrounding the Earth	<i>And God said, "Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens. – Genesis 1:20</i>
Outer space beyond the Earth's atmosphere	<i>When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? - Psalm 8:3-4</i>
The location of God's throne	<i>And whoever swears by heaven swears by the throne of God and by him who sits upon it. – Matthew 23:22</i>

The context of a verse reveals which meaning we are to use.

The Hebrew word in the OT that is translated as "heaven" literally means "heaved up things". The Greek word in the NT that is translated "heaven" means "sky" or "air".

Five truths about heaven

1. People from every tribe and tongue will be there

*After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, **from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages**, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" – Revelation 7:9-10*

*And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to **all nations**, and then the end will come. – Matthew 24:14*

2. Heaven is “up”, but it will come down.

*Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, **coming down out of heaven from God**, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. **He will dwell with them**, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” – Revelation 21:1-4*

3. Heaven is a place of indescribable beauty

[H]aving the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every kind of jewel. And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass. – Revelation 21:11, 19, 21

4. Heaven is full of light and life

And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. – Revelation 21:23-25

5. Heaven is a place of unbroken fellowship

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.

Questions for discussion:

1. What stood out to you most from this message?
2. What changes do you need to make in your life?
3. Discuss other ways to apply the message this week.