

Lesson 10

Basic Bible-Based Beliefs

Heaven

Instructor:

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I. Introduction

A. Prayer and Goal:

Heaven is a real place for real people and a prepared place for prepared people.

Goal: To get excited about spending eternity there with You, and to try to help other people to prepare to go to Heaven, by accepting JESUS CHRIST as their personal SAVIOR.

B. Memory Verse:

- **John 14:2:** "In my father's House are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. **I GO TO PREPARE A PLACE FOR YOU**".

II. The Location and Identity of Heaven

A. The Three Heavens

- Paul was "caught up to the **third Heaven**".
 - **2 Corinthians 12:2:** "I 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".
- 1. **First Heaven:** The **Atmospheric Heaven**, where the clouds, birds, are.
- 2. **Second Heaven:** The **Starry or Planetary Heaven**.
 - Believed by most Bible scholars to be Satan's abode.
 - **Ephesians 2:1-2:** "...prince of the power of the air...".
- 3. **Third Heaven:** The **abode of GOD**.

B. Location and Direction

- Heaven is located "**in the sides of the North**".
- **Isaiah 14:13**: "For thou hast said in thine heart, 'I WILL ascend into Heaven, I WILL exalt my throne above the stars of GOD; I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the **sides of the north**'".

III. The Nature of Heaven (New Jerusalem)

A. What Will NOT Be in Heaven (Absence of Sorrow and Curse)

- **Revelation 21:4**: "And GOD shall wipe away all **tears** from their eyes; and there shall be **no more death**, neither sorrow, nor **crying**, neither shall there be any more **pain**; for the former things are passed away".
- **Revelation 21:27**: "And 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**".
- Other things absent: No fearful ones, no unbelieving ones, no murderers, no liars, etc. .

B. What IS in Heaven (Presence and Light)

- **The River and Tree**:
 - **Revelation 22:1-2**: "And he shewed me a **pure river of water of life**, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of GOD and of the LAMB. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the **tree of life**, which bare **twelve manner of fruits**, and yielded her fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations".
- **The Light**:
 - **Revelation 21:23**: "And the City had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it; for the **glory of GOD lightened it**, and the **LAMB is the light thereof**".

IV. Who Goes to Heaven & The Change in Location

A. Eligibility (Salvation is the Key)

- Only those which are **written in the LAMB'S Book of Life**.
- **John 3:36**: "He that **believeth on the SON**, hath **everlasting life**: and he that **believeth not the SON shall not see life**; but the wrath of GOD abideth on him".

B. The Central Event (The Cross)

- **BEFORE CHRIST (Old Testament):** Saints looked **forward** to His coming by faith. Their souls went to **Paradise** (a place in the heart of the earth).
- **AFTER CHRIST (New Testament/Church Age):** Believers look **back** to Christ's death and resurrection by faith. When believers die, they go **directly to Heaven**.
- **2 Corinthians 5:8:** "...to be **absent from the body, is to be present with the LORD**".
- **Philippians 1:23:** "For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to **be with CHRIST, which is far better**".

V. Life of the Redeemed

A. Recognition and Knowledge

- We will recognize each other (Moses and Elijah were recognizable on the Mount of Transfiguration).
- **1 Corinthians 13:12:** "For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face; now I know in part; but then shall I know **even as also I am known**".

B. Awareness of Earthly Events

- **Luke 15:7:** "I say unto you, that likewise **joy shall be in Heaven over one sinner that repenteth**, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance".
- **Hebrews 12:1:** "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a **cloud of witnesses...**".

C. The New Body

- The soul and spirit occupy a temporary body between death and resurrection.
- **1 John 3:2:** "Beloved, now are we the sons of GOD, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that when HE shall appear, **we shall be like HIM**; for we shall see HIM as HE is".
- **1 Thessalonians 4:16:** "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first".