



HEAVEN

Week 6 - Heaven is Without Time (All Drummers Go to Hell)

Opening prayer

Prayer for the persecuted church:

INDONESIA

Pray for the ongoing discipleship classes held by the partners of Open Doors all across the country. Project evaluation reports revealed a good impact on churches. There was an increased number of lay leaders and members as well as increased capacity of the leaders to disciple others.

Prayer for a local church:

This morning we pray for our brother Kasey Crawford and Elevation Church.

Closing prayer

Opening Remarks

MYTH #9 - Heaven is without time.

FACT: Only God is outside of time.

NEW SAYING: We cannot be outside of time and place, because we are not God. (Only God is infinite.)

In Revelation chapter 6, we are given three different indications that heaven itself is not outside of time.

Revelation 6:9-11

9 When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. 10 They cried out with a loud voice, “O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”

11 Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.

First, verse 10:

10 They cried out with a loud voice, “O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood

Here we have the martyred saints in heaven asking, “How long?” You cannot ask, “How long?” if you are outside of time. Hello? Can I get a witness?

11 Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer,

You can't rest a little longer if you are outside of time. Amen? And amen!

until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.

The completion of something implies time. It takes time for something to be completed.

As with many of these myths, I've heard this idea from several Christians, who've said things like, “When we get to heaven we'll be outside of time.”

Maybe they think because God is outside of time that when we are with Him then we'll be outside of time, but that is not the case Scripturally.

God is outside of time now and yet He is here with us now. He is both transcendent — beyond us in every way, including space and time, and yet immanent — with us in space and time.

Isaiah gives us this truth of God being beyond us, but also near us.

Isaiah 57:15

15 For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy:
“I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite.

This is always the prerequisite in getting to know the Lord experientially — humility. If My people who are called by My Name humble themselves, then I will hear from heaven. In times of revival, God’s manifest presence is poured out more fully.

2 Peter 3:8

8 But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

This is speaking of the Lord, not us. He is outside of time. He knows the end from the beginning, because He planned it all out. We are finite and will always be finite, even in heaven.

Finite simply means we had a beginning. We began in space and time and will exist forever, not outside of time, but in the space and time of heaven.

But in heaven time will not be an enemy. We will not have to make the most of every opportunity, because the days will no longer be evil. Our timelines will be motivated by His glory. We will truly have all the time in the world. There will always be enough time in a day. It will not matter if time flies, because maybe we’ll fly, too. We will no longer be racing against time.

But even as we look at how the Bible describes the spiritual battle that is currently raging around us, it doesn’t describe it as existing in a timeless dimension.

In Daniel chapter 10, we have a description given by an angel who was in a spiritual battle in the spiritual realm.

Daniel 10:13

13 The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia,

This spiritual battle took place in space and time in the spiritual realm.

Isaiah describes the new earth with an understanding of space and time.

Isaiah 66:22-23

22 “For as the new heavens and the new earth that I make shall remain before me, says the Lord, so shall your offspring and your name remain.
23 From new moon to new moon, and from Sabbath to Sabbath, all flesh shall come to worship before me, declares the Lord.

From new moon to new moon and from Sabbath to Sabbath denote passages of time on the New Earth. (Just as a side note, he also mentions the moon here, as in the sense of day and night. More biblical evidence that there will be nighttime on the New Earth.)

Luke 15:7

7 Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

How can there be joy in heaven over a sinner who repents on earth if heaven is outside of time?

Randy Alcorn, in his book *Heaven*, gives a great explanation as to where this idea that heaven is outside of time comes from.

It comes from a misunderstanding of the King James Version of the Bible and how it translates this particular verse:

Revelation 10:6 (KJV)

6 And sware by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer:

On the basis of this single translation, some have that concluded there will be no time in Heaven. But other versions translate this phrase more accurately from the original language as ‘There will be no more delay!’

It’s not that the KJV is a bad translation, but whenever we study Scripture, it’s always

helpful to compare translations and when possible to consult the original language, in this case Greek.

Revelation 10:6 (ESV)

6 and swore by him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and what is in it, the earth and what is in it, and the sea and what is in it, that there would be no more delay,

Revelation 10:6 (NASB)

6 and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things in it, and the earth and the things in it, and the sea and the things in it, that there will be delay no longer,

Revelation 10:6 (NIV)

6 And he swore by him who lives for ever and ever, who created the heavens and all that is in them, the earth and all that is in it, and the sea and all that is in it, and said, “There will be no more delay!

The delay here is referring to God’s judgment.

It doesn’t mean that “time itself will cease but that there is no time left before God’s judgment is executed.”

And God’s judgment will be executed on everyone. You, me and your beloved grandma, which we covered last week.

MYTH #10 - Heaven is about eternal happiness.

FACT: Heaven is about the glory of God.

NEW SAYING: God makes heaven glorious by just being there.

Psalm 16:11

11 You make known to me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy;
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

1. **God wants you to enjoy His presence.**

So few actually know or have experienced the fullness of joy in God’s presence that it’s not something we can easily discuss. That’s what revival is — a congregation aware of God’s presence.

- Sounds from Heaven quote

Revival gives us a glimpse of what the Psalmist is talking about here — in your presence is fullness of joy.

2. Christ wants you to enjoy His presence.

John 17:24

24 Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me,

The Father has given us to Christ. Do you realize that you are God's gift to His Son? There is such security in grace, because all pretense of what you can do to earn God's good favor evaporates. You have God's good favor because God has given it to you in Christ. And because of that — God's favor freely bestowed upon you — you are bound for heaven.

may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

The Apostle Paul tells us in his letter to the Christians in Ephesus that this is the same love with which the Father has loved us — a love from before the foundation of the world. But not just that He loved us before the foundation of the world, but that He chose us before the foundation of the world.

How do you know you've been chosen? Do you believe in Christ? Do you say yes to how the gospel's present Jesus Christ? Why? Why do you believe this testimony about Jesus Christ? Because God has given you ears to hear. That's a great gift and you should draw great security in that gift, because it has nothing to do with how you can earn God's love with your goodness.

And we will understand this glory of the gospel — this glory the Father has given the Son — more fully in heaven.

may be with me where I am, to see my glory

3. What's the glory of Christ like? And what does it do?

Ezekiel 1:26-2:7

26 And above the expanse over their heads there was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like sapphire; and seated above the likeness of a throne was a likeness with a human appearance. 27 And upward from what had the appearance of his waist I saw as it were gleaming metal, like the appearance of fire enclosed all around. And downward from what had the appearance of his waist I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and there was brightness around him. 28 Like the appearance of

the bow that is in the cloud on the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness all around.

Such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. And when I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard the voice of one speaking.

2 And he said to me, “Son of man, stand on your feet, and I will speak with you.” **2** And as he spoke to me, the Spirit entered into me and set me on my feet, and I heard him speaking to me.

Now, that’s the first thing the Holy Spirit does to us when He enters our lives. He reveals to us the glory of Christ in the gospel and then He sets us on our feet.

And then here’s what He does.

3 And he said to me, “Son of man, I send you to the people of Israel, to nations of rebels, who have rebelled against me.

Their call was the same as our call. Their commission was the same as our commission to go to all nations.

They and their fathers have transgressed against me to this very day. **4** The descendants also are impudent and stubborn: I send you to them, and you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God.’

That’s what the gospel is — the gospel is a command for all people to repent and turn to Christ. The gospel is a ‘thus says the Lord.’

5 And whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house) they will know that a prophet has been among them.

Some will hear and some will refuse to hear, but in the end they will remember every gospel conversation, every gospel tract, every book that they rejected and they will be flooded with regret because they will know that a prophet had been among them.

6 And you, son of man, be not afraid of them, nor be afraid of their words, though briars and thorns are with you and you sit on scorpions. Be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house. **7** And you shall speak my words to them, whether they hear or refuse to hear, for they are a rebellious house.

When we know the glory of the gospel, we take that glory to people.

Daniel confirms that just the hearing of the gospel message can be overwhelming.

Daniel 10:8-9

8 So I was left alone and saw this great vision, and no strength was left in me. My radiant appearance was fearfully changed,

and I retained no strength. 9 Then I heard the sound of his words, and as I heard the sound of his words, I fell on my face in deep sleep with my face to the ground.

He fell just because He heard the sound of God's words.

1 Corinthians 2:9

9 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”—

Romans 8:18

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

John 5:24

24 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

I don't have to worry about death, because Christ is Savior. And I don't have to worry about life, because Christ is Lord.