

Title of Study: “The Revelation of Jesus Christ”

Theme of Revelation: The majesty and glory of the warrior lamb, King Jesus, who is coming again to rule and reign forever.

Purpose: To encourage and give hope to the persecuted church and call the church to faithful obedience.

Title: “Revelation: Questions About Heaven”

Questions about Heaven?

1. Will we experience all of heaven? Will we see the 3rd heaven?
 - We know we will experience the new heaven and new earth and the new Jerusalem coming down out of heaven.
 - Revelation 21:1-3
 - The question is: Is the new Jerusalem the 3rd heaven?
 - The fact that it is “coming down out of heaven” suggests that it’s not.
 - But, could “coming down out of heaven” mean out of the 1st heaven? When God makes the new heaven it seems to be the 1st or perhaps even the 1st and 2nd.
 - Revelation 22:1-3 seem to point to God’s throne being in the new Jerusalem.
 - Does this take the place of the 3rd heaven?
 - Is it possible that the “new heaven” might include changing even the 3rd heaven? Will there be 3 any longer?
 - We are not told, but it seems that the third heaven is opened up and part of it comes down to earth, including the throne.
 - Believers do go to the 3rd heaven now!
 - 2 Corinthians 12:2-4
 - Paul associated the 3rd heaven with paradise!
 - Jesus told the thief on the cross “today you will be with me in paradise” (Luke 23:43)

*It seems best to say we will have all of heaven (no matter whether there is a 1,2, or 3) and all of earth to enjoy.

2. Will we have bodies and if so what will they be like?
 - Romans 8:29-30
 - 2 Corinthians 5:1-8
 - 1 Corinthians 15:35-49
 - Philippians 3:20-21
 - 1 John 3:2

Characteristics of our new body

A. It can be seen

- Luke 24:36-43

- B. It can be recognized
 - Luke 24:39
 - Luke 24:13-16
 - Luke 24:31
- C. It can be touched
 - Matthew 28:9
 - John 20:27
- D. It can speak (see above passages)
- E. It can appear and disappear
 - Luke 24:31
 - John 20:26
- F. It can eat
 - Luke 24:41-43 (see also John 21:1-14)
 - Luke 22:15-16
- G. It will have a brightness to it!
 - 1 Corinthians 15:43
 - Matthew 13:43
 - Daniel 12:3
- *What about the people who are there now? Do they have a body?
 - Hebrews 12:22-23
 - Revelation 6:9
 - The transfiguration has led some to say that there is an intermediate body because the disciples recognized them.
 - Certainly they could have some sort of temporary body but also God could have given them a body at the transfiguration.
 - I lean towards the spirits being there now and the body coming later at the resurrection.
 - So I am reluctant to say they are up there doing this or that now.
 - What we know for sure is they are present with the Lord in the 3rd heaven or Paradise and at some point will have a body fit for eternity.
- 3. What age will we be?
 - First, I don't believe we will age in heaven because that is part of curse in my opinion.
 - There are some who say we will be about 33 because the Bible says we will be like Jesus and He was about 33.
 - This is certainly possible.
 - We might also expect we might be the age of Adam and Eve.
 - While we don't know for certain their age, from the study of the begats we see that most people had their children between the ages of 25 and 35.
 - So Adam and Eve were likely between those ages.
 - Will everyone be that age? I believe this is likely.
 - I believe we will be fully mature humans.

4. Will we become angels?
 - Matthew 22:30
 - People have taken this to mean we become angels but Jesus just means in heaven we won't be married.
 - Psalm 8:5
 - 1 Corinthian 6:3
 - Hebrews 1:3-14
 - We will not be angels. Angels will minister to us.
 - Angels aren't sons, we are!

5. Will we be married?
 - We already answered that in Matthew 22:30

6. Will we know each other?
 - Matthew 8:11
 - Luke 9:28-31
 - Luke 16:23
 - 1 Corinthians 13:12
 - I believe I will be me and you will be you. I believe we will know all people intuitively.

7. Will we be with our families?
 - I believe we will.
 - Genesis 25:8
 - Genesis 35:29
 - Genesis 49:29
 - Numbers 20:24
 - 2 Samuel 12:22-23

8. Do believers there now know what's going on here?
 - 1 Samuel 28:15-19
 - Luke 9:30-31
 - Luke 15:10
 - Luke 16:27-31
 - Revelation 6:9-11
 - Hebrews 12:1 I do not believe this means they are watching us but that the life testimony of those in chapter 11 should encourage us.

9. Will we remember this life? What about someone we loved who didn't go to heaven?
 - Isaiah 65:17 "Literally come upon the heart".
 - We know there won't be any sadness but this verse suggests we may not remember.
 - While it hard for us to imagine that I believe we will be so focused on our relationship and fellowship with the Lord we would not think about it.

10. Will we go to other planets?

- Psalm 115:16
- Isaiah 45:18
- Now, this could just mean the earth is ours now but in the eternal state, when the New Jerusalem comes down we would access the entire universe.
- It could also be that the new heaven and earth will not have other planets.
- I personally believe there are too many verses that say we will inherit the earth. So I doubt we go to other planets.

11. Is there time in heaven?

- Revelation 6:9-11
- Revelation 7:15
- Revelation 8:1
- Revelation 22:2
- God is outside of time (2 Peter 3:8)
- So is heaven also outside of time?
- Do these verses suggest that there is time? Some say these verses are about heaven now and not the eternal state.
- However Revelation 22:2 clearly points to the eternal state.
- Some say John just described them from his earthly perspective.
- Others argue that since there will be no sun or moon (Revelation 21:22) and no more night (Revelation 21:25; Revelation 22:5) that there will be no more time.
- Others argue that God created the original creation with time. It happened “in the beginning”. It had day and night. Why would He not restore it to that?
- But we already saw there won’t be night. God’s new creation is similar to the original but even better.
- My opinion, we just can’t know for sure!
- What we know is this, we will not age.
- Life won’t get any shorter!

12. Will there be animals? Dinosaurs? Our pets?

- Revelation 19:11
- Many use this verse as proof.
- Now I mentioned earlier that this could be symbolic. But it could be actual horses.
- So I won’t answer from just this verse.
- First, God made animals as part of His original creation and it was “good”.
- God cares about the animals. He made a covenant with them.
- Genesis 9:9-12
- God’s creation (animals included) longs for redemption.
- Romans 8:19-21
- We also know that the earth in the millennial kingdom will have animals living in the way they did before the fall.
- Isaiah 11:6-9
- I believe there will be animals in heaven, as part of the new earth, and if that’s the case why not dinosaurs?
- But what about our pets?
- There is no evidence of specific pets being there. So we can’t say.

13. Do babies and small children go to heaven? And what about mentally handicapped people who can't grasp the gospel?

- Is there any evidence of a baby in heaven?
 - 2 Samuel 12:21-23
 - David believed he would see his child.
 - Matthew 18:3-4
 - Matthew 19:13-14
 - These verses seem to suggest they go to heaven but it is not clear.

*The question that arises is doesn't a baby inherit a sin nature from Adam? Aren't they condemned by Adam's sin? Haven't "all sinned and fallen short of God's glory"? Aren't they part of "there is none righteous, no not one"?

*These are very difficult questions that led to the act of infant baptism by many.

*So is there an age of accountability?

- We already looked at David expecting to see his child and Jesus connecting the children to the kingdom of God.
- Numbers 14:29-31
- They entered because they did not know right from wrong.
- Deuteronomy 1:39
- Isaiah 7:16
- Even though man sinned with Adam and is condemned, scripture teaches man is judged by his own sins.
- Ezekiel 18:20
- Revelation 20:11-13
- It seems that there is a point in a person's life where they begin to know good from evil and are then accountable for their sin.
- "Children who die in infancy do possess the guilt of original sin, but they are regarded as innocent by God through the atoning work of Christ".
Wayne Grudem
- "The accomplished work of Christ has removed the stain of original sin from those who die in infancy. Knowing neither good nor evil, these young children are incapable of committing sins in the body – are not yet moral agents – and die secure in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ". *Albert Mohler and Daniel Akin*
- One last question to ponder: Why were Adam and Eve kicked out of the garden?
- You say they sinned by disobeying God.
- True, but what was the commandment?
- Genesis 2:16-17
- I'm not positive it is connected but as long as they had no knowledge of good and evil they were in God's presence.
- Either way, I believe that the sacrifice of Jesus is applied to those with no knowledge of good and evil (whether small children or handicapped) so they are saved by the blood of Jesus.

14. What will we do in heaven?

A. Worship (Revelation 4:10; 5:14; 7:11; 15:4; 14:6-7)

- Rejoice (Revelation 12:12; 18:20; 19:7)
- Sing (Revelation 5:8-9; 14:1-3; 15:1-3)

B. Reign

- In the millennium (Revelation 11:17; 5:10; 20:6)
- In the eternal state (Revelation 11:15; 22:5)

C. Judge

- 1 Corinthians 6:2-3

D. Rest

- Revelation 14:13

E. Serve

- Revelation 22:3

F. Work

- Genesis 2:15
- I believe we will exercise dominion over the earth the way God intended it.

G. Fellowship

- 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17
- Revelation 21:3
- Revelation 22:4

15. If heaven is so great why do people seem to do everything possible to stay here? Why do we fear death?

- Philippians 1:21-24
- Death is the last enemy destroyed. (Revelation 20:14)
- Even for us as believers death is not “swallowed up in victory” until we get our new bodies.
- 1 Corinthians 15:50-54
- One writer said, “Intuitively we draw back from death, a frightful enemy that is the last to be destroyed”.
- God made this life good too! Perhaps it is a flesh and spirit battle.
- Perhaps it is because now we see it “in the mirror dimly”.

*The most important question about Heaven:

16. Do you know for certain that if you died today you would go there?