

# Small Group Study Guide

# Heaven

---

For use with the sermon series “Heaven” by Pastor Allen Nolan  
7 Episodes




## Episode 1

God, through His word, reveals the nature of heaven to those who love Him (1 Cor. 2:10). Pastor Nolan emphasizes studying and understanding heaven to avoid misconceptions and instigate excitement and awe. There are four reasons for Christians to learn more about Heaven. Learning about heaven helps in debunking myths, assists believers to align their priorities with God's will, and motivates them to live for God while generating an eternal perspective. Learning about heaven can greatly diminish the fear of death, thereby enlightening that it's a step closer to being with Christ.

---

## Discussion Questions

1. What are some common misconceptions about heaven and why do you think they exist? (People often think of heaven as an ethereal place filled with disembodied spirits playing harps on clouds or as an everlasting church service).
2. Why is it important for believers to set their sights on the realities of heaven according to Colossians 3:1-2? (Focusing on heaven gives us an eternal perspective and helps us keep our priorities aligned with God's will).
3. How does having a focus on heaven and the heavenly prize help motivate believers to live for Christ? (The apostle Paul focused on the end of the race and receiving the heavenly prize, which inspired him to persevere in his faith).
4. In what ways does understanding heaven help take away the fear of death? (In 2 Corinthians 5:6-8 and Philippians 1:21-23, Paul expresses his eagerness to go to heaven and how dying means being with Christ, which is better).

- 
5. What steps can be taken to deepen your own understanding of heaven, and how can you share this knowledge with others? (The sermon highlights the importance of learning about heaven through biblical references, personal stories, and relatable examples).
- 

## Fill in the Blank Questions

1. The sermon emphasizes that God has revealed the realities of heaven to us through His \_\_\_\_\_. Answer: Spirit
2. According to the sermon, many people have misconceptions about heaven, believing it to be \_\_\_\_\_, which means lacking material substance. Answer: ethereal
3. In Colossians chapter 3, Christians are commanded to set their sights on the \_\_\_\_\_ of heaven. Answer: realities
4. The sermon mentions that focusing on heaven gives us an \_\_\_\_\_ perspective, helping us to see our present troubles as temporary. Answer: eternal
5. According to the sermon, Paul wrote in Philippians that for him, living means living for Christ, and dying is even \_\_\_\_\_. Answer: better
- 

### Scriptures:

1 Corinthians 2:9 | Colossians 3:1-2 | 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; 5:6, 8 | 2 Peter 3:13-14 | Matthew 6:19-20 | Philippians 1:21-23; 3:13-14 | Revelation 14:13



## Episode 2

There are four reasons to focus on heavenly things (Col. 3:1-2): to dispel inaccuracies; to comply with God's commandment; to inspire a life lived for God; and to alleviate fears of death through knowledge of the afterlife. In tackling the nature of heaven, Pastor Allen distinguishes between temporary, intermediate heaven and our final destination in the new Jerusalem on the new earth. He further presents a timeline of eschatological events, from the rapture and tribulation, through to the millennium, the great white throne judgment, and finally, the new heaven and new earth.

---

## Discussion Questions

1. Why is it important to learn about heaven and avoid misconceptions? (Pastor Allen discussed four reasons for learning about heaven, including avoiding misconceptions).
2. What does Colossians 3:1-2 tell us about our focus on heavenly things? (Pastor Allen explained that God commands us to focus on the realities of heaven and heavenly things rather than earthly things).
3. What are the different aspects of heaven that Pastor Allen mentioned? (Pastor Allen mentioned the temporary and intermediate heaven, ruling and reigning with Jesus during the millennium, and the new Jerusalem on the new earth).
4. Why is understanding the timeline of the end times events important in dispelling misconceptions about heaven? (Pastor Allen provided a timeline of end times events, emphasizing that understanding this timeline can help avoid misconceptions about heaven).
5. What is the significance of recognizing our true home is with the Lord and how does it relate to accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior? (In the conclusion of his sermon, Pastor Allen emphasized

that our true home is with the Lord and the importance of accepting Jesus as our Lord and Savior).

---

## Fill in the Blank Questions

1. According to the sermon, the first reason it's important to learn about heaven is to avoid any \_\_\_\_\_ about it.
  2. In Colossians chapter three, verses one and two, Christians are commanded to focus on the \_\_\_\_\_ of heaven.
  3. The third reason for learning about heaven, as mentioned in the sermon, is that it will inspire us to \_\_\_\_\_ for God.
  4. The sermon explains that the place where we go when we die is not our final destination, but rather a \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ heaven.
  5. According to the sermon, the main purpose of the tribulation is to bring Israel as a nation to \_\_\_\_\_ for rejecting Jesus Christ as the Messiah.
- 

Scriptures: Colossians 3:1-2 | Philippians 3:13-14 | Revelation 19:11-14; 20:6; 21:1-5 | Matthew 23:37-39 | Hosea 5:15 | Zechariah 12:10 | 2 Cor. 5:8 | 1 Thess. 4:16-17 | Psalm 110:1 | Jude 1:14 | Zech. 14:5



## Episode 3

Pastor Allen outlines the tribulation, battle of Armageddon, and subsequent millennium period where Jesus returns to Earth, followed by the resurrection of believers and non-believers. He then elaborates on the new Heaven and Earth created after the great white throne judgment, where the New Jerusalem is a tangible city on a physical Earth with embodied believers. When a person dies, the body decomposes, while the spirit returns to God, depending on the individual's bond with Jesus Christ. Believers ascend to heaven whereas non-believers are sent to a place called Hell.

---

## Discussion Questions

1. There is continuity between our earthly life and our life in heaven, including our memories. How does this perspective affect your view of relationships and actions on earth?
2. The sermon outlines a timeline of events from the present heaven to the future heaven. How does this understanding of heaven as a temporary and intermediate state challenge or affirm your previous beliefs about the afterlife?
3. According to the sermon, believers will reign with Christ during the millennium. What implications does this have for how we live our lives now, knowing that we will have roles in Christ's future kingdom?
4. The Bible implies that those in heaven can see what is happening on earth. How does this idea influence your understanding of the connection between heaven and earth, and how might it impact your daily life and decisions?

5. How does this message resonate with you personally, and how might it shape your approach to sharing your faith with others?

---

## Fill in the Blank Questions

1. The sermon explains that when we die, we go to a temporary and intermediate heaven, not our final destination, which is the \_\_\_\_\_ on the new earth.

2. According to the sermon, as the bride of Christ, we go wherever He is, which means that during the \_\_\_\_\_, we will reign and rule with Him on earth.

3. The sermon highlights that there are two resurrections: the first resurrection of believers at the \_\_\_\_\_, and the second resurrection of unbelievers before the great white throne judgment.

4. In the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, the rich man was fully conscious of his surroundings and his past life, indicating that our \_\_\_\_\_ will be intact in the afterlife.

5. The sermon suggests that there is continuity between our life on earth and our life in heaven, meaning that our \_\_\_\_\_ will be remembered and have a bearing on our eternal life.

---

Scriptures: Revelation 20:6 | Ecclesiastes 12:7 | Luke 16:19-31 | Hebrews 12:1 | Luke 9:28-32, 15:7 | 1 Peter 1:12 | 2 Cor. 12:2-4



## Episode 4

In this episode, Pastor Allen Nolan corrects misconceptions about heaven, including the timeline of events after death for believers and unbelievers, the physical nature of heaven and the resurrection bodies believers will have, the distinction between the rapture and the second coming of Jesus, and the importance of receiving Jesus as Lord and Savior for eternal destiny. Unbelievers go to hell temporarily and believers to an intermediate heaven before returning to earth with Jesus during the Millennium.

---

## Discussion Questions

1. What are the key differences between the present heaven and the future heaven as described in the sermon? How does this understanding affect your view of life after death?
2. How does the concept of the rapture differ from the second coming of Jesus Christ, and why is it important to distinguish between the two events?
3. In what ways does the Jewish wedding tradition help us understand the relationship between Christ and the Church? How does this analogy deepen your understanding of the rapture?
4. How does the sermon address common misconceptions about heaven and the afterlife? What new insights did you gain, and how might they influence your spiritual journey?
5. What are the implications of having a resurrected body like Jesus' after the rapture? How does this shape your expectations of eternal life?





## Fill in the Blank Questions

1. The sermon explains that the present heaven is a \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ place, not the final destination for believers.
2. According to the sermon, the rapture is when Jesus comes back for His \_\_\_\_\_, and it is not the same as the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ.
3. In the Jewish wedding tradition, the groom would say, "I go to prepare a place for you, but I will come again and \_\_\_\_\_ you unto myself."
4. The sermon states that our resurrected bodies will be like Jesus' body, consisting of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The rapture is described as an event that will happen in a \_\_\_\_\_, and believers will be \_\_\_\_\_ up to meet the Lord in the air.

---

Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 1:2, 20; 11:25; 15:52-53 | John 14:2-3, 20:19, 26 | 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 | Matthew 24:37-42 | Philippians 3:20-21 | Luke 24:31, 36 | Rev. 19:7-9



## Episode 5

In this sermon, Pastor Allen tackles misconceptions about heaven and the afterlife, distinguishing between temporary holding places for souls of believers and unbelievers. Heaven is a physical place where believers will have physical bodies. It is important to understand the true nature of heaven and the significance of God's plan for believers.

---

## Discussion Questions

1. What are the key differences between the present heaven and the future heaven as described in the sermon? How does this understanding affect your view of life after death?
2. The sermon mentions that the millennium will be a time when the earth reverts to conditions similar to before the fall. What aspects of this future time are most intriguing or comforting to you, and why?
3. The sermon suggests that Satan's release at the end of the millennium is necessary to demonstrate the power of sin. How does this perspective influence your understanding of free will and the nature of sin?
4. Discuss the significance of the different dispensations mentioned in the sermon. How do these periods reflect God's relationship with humanity throughout history?
5. How does the concept of the millennium challenge or reinforce your understanding of justice and righteousness in God's plan?



## Fill in the Blank Questions

1. According to the sermon, the present heaven is a \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ heaven.
  2. The millennium is a period of \_\_\_\_\_ years during which Christ will \_\_\_\_\_ on the earth.
  3. In the millennium, the curse placed upon the earth will be \_\_\_\_\_, leading to peace, prosperity, and abundant \_\_\_\_\_.
  4. During the millennium, all animals will revert to being \_\_\_\_\_, as they were originally created to be.
  5. The final dispensation on this earth is referred to as the dispensation of the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 

Scriptures: Revelation 20:2-7 | Ephesians 1:10 | Genesis 1:30 | Isaiah 11:6-9, 14:3-7, 29:18, 33:24, 35:4-6, 65:20-25 | Zephaniah 3:9 | Ezekiel 48:18 | Job 19:25-27

---

## Episode 6

This episode focuses on the New Jerusalem's features and significance. It is a physical city, not just a spiritual realm. This sermon delves into the city's dimensions, materials, and the glory of God illuminating it.


---

### Discussion Questions

1. How does the description of the New Jerusalem in Revelation 21 challenge or confirm your previous perceptions of heaven?
  2. What is the significance of the New Jerusalem being described as a city with eternal foundations, and how does this shape our understanding of heaven?
  3. How does the concept of teleportation, as mentioned in the sermon, enhance our understanding of the capabilities of our resurrected bodies during the millennium?
  4. In what ways does the presence of the names of the twelve tribes of Israel and the twelve apostles on the gates and foundations of the New Jerusalem emphasize the unity of the Old and New Testament believers?
  5. What role does the glory of God play in the description of the New Jerusalem, and how does this reflect the overall purpose of the city?
- 

### Fill in the Blank Questions

1. According to Revelation 21, the New Jerusalem is described as descending out of heaven from God, and it is referred to as a city with the glory of God, having a light like a stone most precious, even like a \_\_\_\_\_ stone, clear as crystal.



2. In John 14:1-3, Jesus tells His disciples that in His Father's house are many \_\_\_\_\_, and He goes to prepare a place for them.

3. The walls of the New Jerusalem are made of \_\_\_\_\_ and are described as being 144 cubits high or thick, according to Revelation 21:17.

4. The city of the New Jerusalem is a perfect cube, measuring approximately \_\_\_\_\_ miles in length, width, and height, as described in Revelation 21:16.

5. In Revelation 21:22-23, it is stated that there is no temple in the city because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its \_\_\_\_\_, and the city has no need of the sun or moon to shine on it.

---

Scriptures: Revelation 20:1-3, 7-9, 11-15, 21:2-3, 10-23 | Hebrews 11:10, 16 | John 14:1-3 | Acts 8:38-40 | 2 Corinthians 12:2-4

## Episode 7

The final sermon in the Heaven series delves into the heavenly city described in Hebrews and John, emphasizing its grandeur and importance. Our earthly actions impact our heavenly rewards and positions, which is why we should prioritize heavenly matters and commit to evangelism and service.


---

### Discussion Questions

1. What is the significance of the city described in Hebrews 11:16 and John 14:1-3, and how does it shape our understanding of heaven?
  2. How does the sermon explain the relationship between the immortals and mortals in the new heaven and earth?
  3. What role does the Tree of Life play in the new heaven and earth, and how does it differ from its role in the Garden of Eden?
  4. How does the sermon address the concept of rewards and responsibilities in heaven based on our earthly lives?
  5. What is the importance of inviting others to church, especially during significant events like Easter, according to the sermon?
- 

### Fill in the Blank Questions

1. Heaven is described as a city in Hebrews chapter eleven, verse number \_\_\_\_\_.

- 
2. In John 14:1-3, Jesus refers to His Father's home as having many \_\_\_\_.
  3. The Greek word 'oikos' is translated as \_\_\_\_, indicating a permanent place of residence.
  4. The city described in Revelation is \_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_ miles high, wide, and deep.
  5. According to Revelation 22, the leaves of the Tree of Life are for the \_\_\_\_ of the nations.
- 

Scriptures: Hebrews 11:16 | John 14:1-3 | Revelation 2:7, 20:7-9, 21:23-27, 22:1-5 | Genesis 2:9; 3:22-23 | Exodus 33:20 | 1 Corinthians 15:50-53