

Questions for GOD



What is heaven like



65% of Americans  
believe in an afterlife.

250000 a day go...somewhere.  
That is 3 a second.  
100% mortality rate!

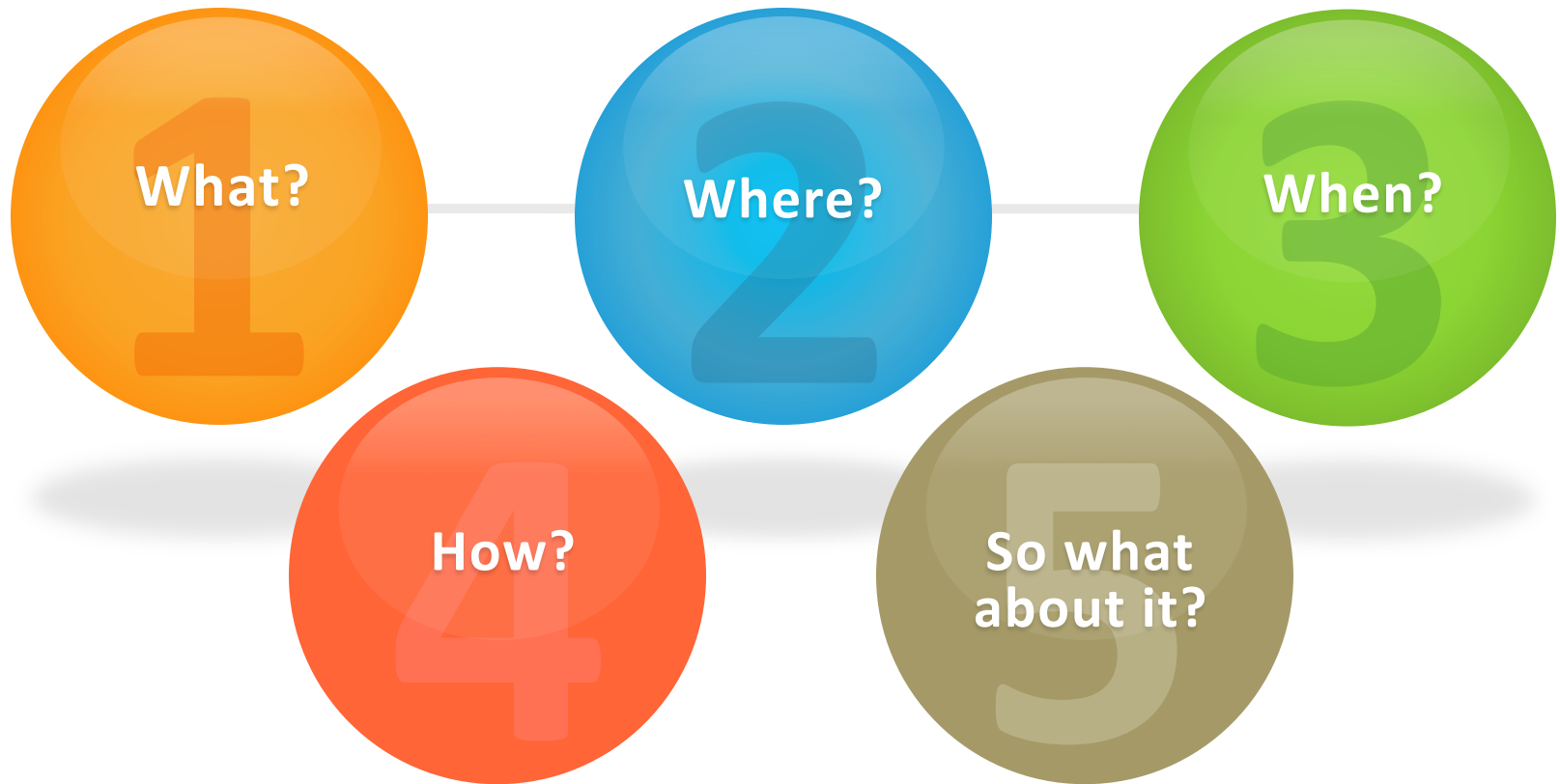
The doctrine of the Kingdom of Heaven, which was the main teaching of Jesus, is certainly one of the most revolutionary doctrines that ever stirred and changed human thought.

~H.G. Wells

**What is the afterlife really going to be like?**



# What about **Heaven**?



What does the Bible teach us? 





# What is heaven?

Is heaven a place? Or a state of being? Literal? Figurative?



The "kingdom of Heaven" is a condition of the heart --not something that comes "upon the earth" or "after death."

Friedrich Nietzsche 1844-1900. German-Swiss philosopher and writer

# What is heaven?

- ◆ Sky/Atmosphere
- ◆ Stellar Heavens

## Genesis 2:1

Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.

## Psalm 19:1-5

The heavens declare the glory of God;  
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

**2** Day after day they pour forth speech;  
night after night they reveal knowledge.

**3** They have no speech, they use no words;  
no sound is heard from them.

**4** Yet their voice[**b**] goes out into all the earth,  
their words to the ends of the world.

In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.

**5** It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,  
like a champion rejoicing to run his course.

# What is heaven?

- ◆ Sky/Atmosphere
- ◆ Stellar Heavens
- ◆ God's Reign/Dominion
  - ◆ God (they wouldn't say his name)

## Matthew 13:45

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls,

## Matthew 6:9-10

“This, then, is how you should pray:

“Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
**10** your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

But our **citizenship is in heaven**. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,

# What is heaven?

- ◆ Sky/Atmosphere
- ◆ Stellar Heavens
- ◆ God's Reign/Dominion
  - ◆ God (they wouldn't say his name)
- ◆ A Place Where the Presence of God is Experienced in the fullest way possible

## Matthew 18:10

“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.

## 2 Corinthians 12:1-4

I must go on boasting. Although there is nothing to be gained, I will go on to visions and revelations from the Lord. **2** I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was **caught up to the third heaven**. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know—God knows. **3** And I know that this man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows— **4** was caught up to paradise and heard inexpressible things, things that no one is permitted to tell.

## Isaiah 25:6-9

On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare  
a feast of rich food for all peoples,  
a banquet of aged wine—

the best of meats and the finest of wines.

**7** On this mountain he will destroy  
the shroud that enfolds all peoples,  
the sheet that covers all nations;

**8** he will swallow up death forever.

The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears  
from all faces;

he will remove his people's disgrace  
from all the earth.

The LORD has spoken.

## Revelation 21:22-27

I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. **23** The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. **24** The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. **25** On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. **26** The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. **27 Nothing impure will ever enter it,** nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

What wont survive in heaven?

Greed War Injustice

Rape Violence Pride

Division Exploitation

Disgrace Shame

Sickness Hate Lies



What will thrive in heaven?

Redemptive Art Music

Honorable Law Sustainable

Living Education Making a

home Healthy relationships

Exploration and Discovery

Cultivation etc





Where is heaven

Where is heaven?



# Location location location

◆ Here...in part

Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

## Ecclesiastes 3:11

He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

"The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"

# Location location location

- ◆ Here...in part
- ◆ Somewhere else for now

## 1 Kings 8:27

“But will God really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built!

## John 6:38-40

For I have **come down from heaven** not to do my will but to do the will of **him who sent me. 39** And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. **40** For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day."

(John 1:14; 6:33-42; 51, 58; 8:42; 16:27-30)

# Location location location

- ◆ Here...in part
- ◆ Somewhere else for now
- ◆ The presence of God

# Location location location

- ◆ Here...in part
- ◆ Somewhere else for now
- ◆ The presence of God
- ◆ On Earth eventually

## 2 Peter 3:10-13

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

**11** Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives **12** as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. **13 But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.**

“Heaven is my throne,  
and the earth is my footstool.  
What kind of house will you build for  
me?

says the Lord.

Or where will my resting place be?

## Isaiah 51:6

Lift up your eyes to the heavens,  
look at the earth beneath;  
**the heavens will vanish like smoke,**  
**the earth will wear out like a garment**  
and its inhabitants die like flies.  
But my salvation will last forever,  
my righteousness will never fail.

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## 2 Peter 3:13

But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a **new heaven and a new earth**, where righteousness dwells.

## Isaiah 65:17

“See, I will create  
new heavens and a new earth.  
The former things will not be  
remembered,  
nor will they come to mind.

## Isaiah 65:22

“As the new heavens and the new earth that I make will endure before me,” declares the LORD, “so will your name and descendants endure.

# New Jerusalem

- 1500x1500x1500 miles
- The distance from Canada to Mexico and Atlantic Ocean to Rockies
- The Ground floor would be 15,000 x size of London
- It would have 600,000 Stories reaching a 1/4 way to the the moon.
- Someone calculated that it would allow for 20 billion residents to each have their own 75 acre cube.

“Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.



# When is heaven?

So when do I go where? And when does heaven go where?



# When is heaven?

◆ Now

Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

# When is heaven?

- ◆ Now
- ◆ After Death

Jesus answered him,  
“Truly I tell you, today  
you will be with me in  
paradise.”

## Philippians 1:21-23

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. **22** If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! **23** I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far;

## 2 Corinthians 5:8

We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

Acts 7:59

While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”

## Rev 6:9-10

When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar **the souls** of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. **10** They called out in a loud voice, “How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?”

# When is heaven?

- ◆ Now
- ◆ After Death
- ◆ After Resurrection

## Job 19:25-27

I know that my redeemer lives,  
and that in the end he will stand on the  
earth.

**26** And after my skin has been destroyed,  
yet in my flesh I will see God;

**27** I myself will see him  
with my own eyes—I, and not another.  
How my heart yearns within me!

But God will redeem me from the  
realm of the dead;  
he will surely take me to himself.

## Isaiah 26:19

But your dead will live, LORD;  
their bodies will rise—  
let those who dwell in the dust  
wake up and shout for joy—  
your dew is like the dew of the  
morning;  
the earth will give birth to her  
dead.

# 1 Corinthians 15:50-55

Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— **52** in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. **53** For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. **54** When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.”

# 1 Corinthians 15:40-49

There are also heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies; but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is one kind, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is another. **41** The sun has one kind of splendor, the moon another and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendor.

**42 So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; 43 it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; 44 it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.**

If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. **45** So it is written: “The first man Adam became a living being” [f]; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. **46** The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. **47** The first man was of the dust of the earth; the second man is of heaven. **48** As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the heavenly man, so also are those who are of heaven. **49** And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we [g] bear the image of the heavenly man.

## Thessalonians 4:13-18

Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. **14** For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. **15** According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. **16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. 18** Therefore encourage one another with these words.

# When is heaven?

- ◆ Now
- ◆ After Death
- ◆ After Resurrection
- ◆ Forever

## Revelation 22:1-5

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb **2** down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. **3** No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. **4** They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. **5** There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will **reign for ever and ever.**



How do we do heaven?

So what are we going to do there?

# What will we be doing in heaven?

- ◆ Praise and Worship God
- ◆ Serve God
- ◆ Learning
- ◆ Enjoying his creation
- ◆ Being in relationship with him and others
- ◆ Reigning
  - ◆ Verb means to be King, reign , control completely, govern

## Genesis 1:26-28

Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, **so that they may rule** over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

**27** So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

**28** God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; **fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.**”

## Revelation 22:4-5

**4** They will **see his face**, and his name will be on their foreheads. **5** There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

## Isaiah 11:6-9

The wolf will live with the lamb,  
the leopard will lie down with the goat,  
the calf and the lion and the yearling  
and a little child will lead them.

**7** The cow will feed with the bear,  
their young will lie down together,  
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

**8** The infant will play near the cobra's den,  
and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.

**9** They will neither harm nor destroy  
on all my holy mountain,  
for the earth will be filled with the **knowledge of the LORD**  
**as the waters cover the sea.**

## 1 Peter 1:12

It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. **Even angels long to look into these things.**

## Revelation 22:5

There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. **And they will reign for ever and ever.**

Do you not know that **we will judge angels?** How much more the things of this life!

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**29** Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. **30** And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.

**31** **God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.** And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

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## Genesis 2:15

The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.



So what about it?

Why should heaven matter now?



# Why should heaven matter now?

- ◆ A Future to Cling to
  - ◆ Offers Hope
  - ◆ Offers Peace
  - ◆ Offers Courage
  - ◆ Offers Motivation

Those are dead even for this life who hope  
for no other.

~Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe

1749-1832. German poet, novelist and dramatist, author of "Faust".



the faith and love that spring from **the hope stored up for you in heaven** and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel

## Hebrews 11:13-16

All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. **14** People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. **15** If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. **16 Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.**

"Our knowledge of our future in heaven should not be an end in itself. Rather, it should influence the way we live and how we use our time in the present"

~Ron Rhodes

# Why should heaven matter now?

- ◆ A Future to Cling to
  - ◆ Offers Hope
  - ◆ Offers Peace
  - ◆ Offers Courage
  - ◆ Offers Motivation
- ◆ A Judgment Come Due
  - ◆ We are stewards and all we do now has ramifications for then

## Matthew 6:19-21

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. **20** But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. **21** For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

## Luke 19:11-27

While they were listening to this, he went on to tell them a parable, because he was near Jerusalem and the people thought that the kingdom of God was going to appear at once. **12** He said: “A man of noble birth went to a distant country to have himself appointed king and then to return. **13** So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas.[a] ‘Put this money to work,’ he said, ‘until I come back.’

**14** “But his subjects hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, ‘We don’t want this man to be our king.’

**5** “He was made king, however, and returned home. Then he sent for the servants to whom he had given the money, in order to find out what they had gained with it.

**16** “The first one came and said, ‘Sir, your mina has earned ten more.’

## Luke 19:11-27

“Well done, my good servant!” his master replied. ‘Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.’

**18** “The second came and said, ‘Sir, your mina has earned five more.’

**19** “His master answered, ‘You take charge of five cities.’

**20** “Then another servant came and said, ‘Sir, here is your mina; I have kept it laid away in a piece of cloth. **21** I was afraid of you, because you are a hard man. You take out what you did not put in and reap what you did not sow.’

**22** “His master replied, ‘I will judge you by your own words, you wicked servant! You knew, did you, that I am a hard man, taking out what I did not put in, and reaping what I did not sow?’

**23** Why then didn’t you put my money on deposit, so that when I came back, I could have collected it with interest?’

## Luke 19:11-27

**24** “Then he said to those standing by, ‘Take his mina away from him and give it to the one who has ten minas.’

**25** “‘Sir,’ they said, ‘he already has ten!’

**26** “He replied, ‘I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but as for the one who has nothing, even what they have will be taken away. **27** But those enemies of mine who did not want me to be king over them—bring them here and kill them in front of me.’”

If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this.

~C.S. Lewis

"Resolved, to endeavor to my utmost to act as I can think I should do, if I had already seen the happiness of heaven..."

- Jonathan Edwards

# How about you?

What is God saying to YOU this morning?

Pray your response to God.

What does he want you to do in response?

