

Some Questions About Heaven Heaven 2

Introduction.

- I. Lesson 1 was devoted to "The Reality Of Heaven."
 - A. Heaven is a real place.
 - B. It is a real place prepared for the righteous.
- II. Lesson 2 will attempt to answer "Some Questions About Heaven."
 - A. The Bible plainly answers some questions about heaven.
 - B. Some questions are answered by implication.
 - C. Some questions are not answered., and we cannot know the answers to these questions in this life.

I. Will All Men Be Saved?

- A. Universalism says "yes."
 - 1. Universalism says all men, even the worse of men, will be saved.
 - 2. It says "a loving God could not condemn a person to hell."
 - 3. This argument overlooks the fact that God is a just God, and justice demands that sin be punished.
 - 4. It overlooks the many warnings in regard to judgment and hell.
- B. The Bible says "no."
 - 1. Matt. 7:21; Heb. 5:9
 - 2. Jn. 3:16; 3:36
 - 3. The Bible clearly teaches it is only those who obey God and His Son will be saved.

II. Will There Be Only A Few People In Heaven?

- A. This question is prompted by Jesus's statement found in Matthew 7:13,14.
 - 1. Jesus teaches only a "few" will enter heaven.

2. Some interpret a "few" to mean a handful.
3. This is an incorrect assumption.
4. A "few" is a relative term.
5. It could be used of 5,10,15,20 percent or more.
6. The world has about 6.5 billion people.
 - a. One percent of this number would be 5 million.
 - b. Two percent of this number would be 124 million.
7. Furthermore, there have been those saved in every generation.
8. We do not know how many Christians there are in the world today, and we do not know how many generations preceded us and how many will follow us.

B. The Bible teaches there will be a multitude in heaven "which no man can number." (Rev. 7:9).

C. Jesus taught that "many" Gentiles would be saved. (Matt. 8:10-12).

1. This prophecy began its fulfilment in Acts 10. when Cornelius and his family were converted.
2. It is still being fulfilled today, and will keep being fulfilled until Jesus comes again.

III. Will We Know One Another In Heaven?

A.. The Bible does not directly answer this question, but it does answer it by implication.

B. Here are some statements or accounts that imply we will know one another in heaven.

1. David said of his deceased child. (2 Sam. 12:23).

2SA 12:23 "But now he has died; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me."

2. The account of the transfiguration of Christ implies we will have our same identity in eternity. (Matt. 17:1-8).
3. The account of the rich man and Lazarus manifests we have our identities in heaven. (Lk. 16:19-31).
4. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob retain their identities. (Matt. 8:11).

C. We do not have to look like we do now to retain our identities.

D. We change in this world, but we are still the same person.

E. We will have new spiritual bodies, and we do not have a clue what we will look like in heaven.

IV. Do Men Go Directly To Heaven?

- A. Some contend they do, but this is without biblical support.
- B. The Bible teaches men do not go directly to heaven. (Jn. 3:13; Acts 2:29, 34).
- C. The righteous will reside in "Abraham's bosom" or paradise until the judgment. (Lk.16:19-31; 23:43-46).
 - 1. The scene of Luke 16 takes place while men are on the earth and before the judgment and resurrection.
 - 2. The thief did not go to heaven on Friday . (Jn. 20:17).
 - a. He was with Jesus on Friday in Paradise.
 - b. On Sunday Jesus had not yet ascended into heaven.
 - c. This means the thief did not go directly to heaven.
- D. Those who advocate this doctrine overlook that the resurrection and judgment.
 - 1. It will be a universal resurrection of both the good and evil. (Jn. 5:28, 29; Acts 24:15; 2 Cor. 5:10).
 - 2. The righteous will be raised in the last day. (Jn. 6:39-45).
 - 3. The resurrection of the righteous will be at Christ's coming. (1 Cor. 15:51-58; 1 Thess. 4:13-18).
 - 4. Those who teach the righteous go directly to heaven are saying that these people will enjoy heaven and then they must return to the grave at the end of time and be raised and changed and then return to heaven.

V. Will There Be Temptation In Heaven?

- A. The Bible does not address this question directly.
 - 1. This question is raised by those who are worried about sinning in heaven.
 - 2. They fear they will mess up, and be cast out of heaven.
 - 3. This is a natural fear of mortal Christians who cannot live above sin. (1 Jn. 1:8, 10).
- B. It is implied in the scriptures that temptation will not exist.
 - 1. Satan is the tempter. (Matt. 4:3; 1 Thess 3:5).
 - 2. He will not be in heaven. (Matt. 25:41; Rev. 20:10).

MAT 25:41 "Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels;

REV 20:10 And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

3. He and his angels and the lost will be in hell for all eternity.
 4. They will pose no threat or temptations to the righteous.
 5. The absence of the tempter would imply there will be no temptation.
 6. The Bible teaches there will be no tears, mourning, or pain in heaven. (Rev. 21:4).
 - a. The absence of these things implies the absence of temptation and sin.
 - b. Temptation and sin leave an ugly trail, and there is nothing ugly in heaven.
 7. The fact the Bible teaches heaven is "eternal, forever" excludes the fall of man in the hereafter. (Matt. 25:46; Rev. 22:5).
 - a. We should not worry about falling in heaven, but should set our hearts and minds on getting there.
 - b. We should have full confidence in the promise of God. (Rom. 6:23; 1 Jn. 2:25).
- C. For those who are still worried about being cast out of heaven it should be remembered that the Savior is there. His blood does not suddenly lose its power to cleanse sin.

VI. Will We Have The Same Relationship With One Another In Heaven?

- A. The answer is "no."
- B. Jesus implied this by His statement in Matthew 22:30.
 1. There will be no marriages in heaven.
 - a. We will be married to Christ. (2 Cor. 11:2).
 - b. He is the bridegroom and we (the church) are the bride.
 2. This does not address if we will have any kind of relationship with our mate.
- C. David's statement implies there will be some relationship or recognition in heaven. (2 Sam. 12:23).
 1. David knew He would go to be with his son in heaven.
 2. This did not mean the baby would always be a baby or a baby at all in heaven.
 3. It does not mean they would have the same relationship with one another, but it does not exclude the possibility of some relationship or recognition.

4. This will be discussed more fully in a later lesson.

VII. How Big Is Heaven?

A. Is it large enough to hold all the saved?

B. Some have interpreted the size of heaven literally.

1. The Bible speaks of heaven as 1500 miles square. (Rev. 21:16).

a. This makes heaven 2,250,000 square miles.

b. It is thought this would not hold all the saved.

2. The Bible does not say heaven is merely 1500 miles square, but states it is 1500 miles high.

a. This makes heaven 3,375,000,000 cubic miles.

b. This increases the size of heaven by 1500 times.

C All of this, of course, is being too literal.

1. This is a figurative description of heaven, and the intent of it is to show that heaven is a very large, beautiful city.

2. Furthermore, how big is a soul?

a. How much space will a person require in heaven?

b. Size is a physical problem, not a spiritual problem.

3. It is foolish to worry about the size of heaven.

4. We should be more concerned about getting there.

5. It is big enough for all who obey Jesus.

D. The omnipotent God, who has created an infinite universe, will never have a space problem.

1. One who created a universe that is large beyond our imagination or comprehension can certainly provide a space in heaven large enough for all the redeemed.

2. It is imperative that we set our minds on things above having full assurance that there will never be a "No Vacancy" sign in heaven.

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