

What is Heaven?

We're all familiar with the concept of heaven as a place people go after they die. Many Christian hymns and songs talk about heaven. Faithful believers talk about longing to go to heaven. Movies, books, cartoons, and other art forms attempt to visualize heaven. But what is heaven according to the Bible? Where is it? What does it look like? Let's explore scripture to discover what the Bible does, and does not, teach us about heaven.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- How would you describe heaven?
- What do you wish you knew about heaven?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [What is Heaven?](#)

READ [Ephesians 1:3-10](#), [1 Peter 1:3-4](#), [Revelation 21](#), [Isaiah 11:6-9](#), [Isaiah 25:6-8, 22-27](#), [Isaiah 65:17-22](#), [Colossians 1:15-20](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- In segment 1, hosts Darrell Delaney and Scott Hoezee examined scripture and identified three biblical teachings about what heaven is: 1) the Bible uses the word *heaven* in one sense to describe the sky, where the changes in weather come from; 2) it also uses heaven in another sense to identify the place where God dwells; and 3) it also teaches that heaven exists now, it is not merely a future hope. How does this compare with your understanding of heaven? What in particular resonated with you as they studied the Bible's teachings about heaven?
- What does it look like to live in ways that bring the reality of heaven—the realm of God, where Jesus is Lord of Lords and King of Kings—to bear on our lives now on earth? Where have you seen glimpses of heaven already on earth?
- In segment 2, Scott and Darrell looked at Bible passages that helped us understand what heaven will be like and discussed two prominent themes: 1) in heaven, there will be *shalom* or flourishing, everyone will have exactly what God intended for them to have, and 2) heaven is about being in God's presence and loving being in God's presence. How do these teachings about heaven give you hope both now *and* for the future?
- In studying the passages in Isaiah, Scott and Darrell reminded us that *shalom*, God's peace, is not simply the absence of war, but the presence of harmony, abundance, and God. Does it surprise you that, as Darrell said, "the *shalom* concept and the kingdom of heaven concept are not the *absence* of something, but are the *presence* of God and light"? Why or why not?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Genesis 1:1-5](#), [Psalm 19:1-6](#), [Romans 1:18](#), [Matthew 13:1-52](#), [Matthew 6:10](#), [Isaiah 60:1-3](#)

CONCLUSION

The Bible may not give us the specifics we desire, but it does tell us a lot about what heaven is and what it will be like. Ultimately, heaven is the presence of God. Heaven, too, will be a new creation, and all things will have a future in God's new creation, so as Darrell said, things will be strangely familiar, but now redeemed. Which biblical teachings about heaven give you the most comfort right now, in this life?

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/what-is-heaven>

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