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## What You Need to Know About Heaven

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# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT HEAVEN

A popular but totally perverted concept of heaven would describe that future life in the skies in terms of some disembodied spirits piously perched on fleecy clouds and strumming their golden harps. This may be heaven according to Walt Disney, but not according to the New Testament. The Scriptures would indicate:

- A. Heaven will be a place of singing (Psa. 100:2; Rev. 5:9; 14:3; 15:3, 4).
- B. Heaven will be a place of fellowship (Rev. 7:17).
- C. Heaven will be a place of serving (Rev. 7:15; 22:3).
- D. Heaven will be a place of learning (1 Cor. 13:9-10)

## What will we learn about in Heaven?

- We will learn concerning the *person* of God—Let us suppose in heaven we are able to double our learning each year concerning the person and attributes of God. This is not at all an unreasonable assumption, for the Christian will possess a sinless and glorified body, along with a holy and tireless desire to know more about Jesus! So here is a believer who begins eternity with  $x$  amount of knowledge about God. At the beginning of his second year he has doubled this, the third year four times as much, the fourth year he knows eight times as much, etc. By the end of his eleventh year he will increase his knowledge concerning God a thousand fold. At the conclusion of his twenty-first year the figure jumps to one million. At the end of the thirty-first year the number leaps to one billion. Following the forty-first year it reaches one trillion. As he finishes his first century in eternity his knowledge of God (doubling each year) would reach  $10^{30}$  (one followed by 30 zeroes) times what it originally was.

This figure is thousands of times more than the combined total of all the grains of sand on all the seashores of the earth. But this number marks his first 100 years. How much knowledge doubling will he have experienced at the end of his first one million years? This staggering figure cannot even be comprehended by the mortal mind, but whatever it is, and however many zeroes it represents, it will double itself the very next year. The point of all the above is simply this. Throughout the untold and unnumbered trillions and trillions of years in timeless eternity, each child of God can double his or her learning about the Creator each year and yet never even remotely exhaust the awesome height, depth, or length of the Person of God. Our testimony will continuously be: "*O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!*" (Rom. 11:33).

- We will learn concerning the *precepts* of God, the Bible itself—Dedicated and brilliant godly scholars have throughout history given their lives in the study of

but a handful of verses, testifying they only dipped their feet in the mighty ocean of the truths involved. Surely one could spend billions of years pondering each of the 31,173 scriptural verses without fully probing their awesome depths.

- We will learn concerning the *plan* of God—One of the most painful questions asked here on earth by Christians is why a loving and wise God allows certain terrible tragedies to occur. As an example, here is a young, spirit-filled pastor. He has spent a number of years diligently preparing for the ministry. His wife has sacrificed to help put him through school. Now all this is paying off. His church is experiencing amazing growth. Souls are saved weekly. New converts are baptized each Sunday. Additional Sunday school busses are purchased and a new building is planned. A skeptical community slowly finds itself being profoundly influenced by this vibrant and exciting pastor and his people. Suddenly, without any warning, the minister is killed in a freak accident. Shortly after the funeral the still-confused and stunned congregation extends a call to another man. But the new minister shows little compassion and less leadership ability. Soon the flock is scattered and the once-thrilling testimony of a growing and glowing work is all but stilled.

How many times since Abel's martyrdom at the dawn of human history have similar tragedies like this taken place? But the searing and searching question remains: Why does God permit such terrible things? We may rest assured that in heaven God will take each of us aside and explain fully the reason for all our suffering and trials. We then will say the words once stated by a Galilean crowd in Jesus' day: "*He hath done all things well*" (Mark 7:37).

- We will learn concerning the *power* of God—"*In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth*" (Gen. 1:1). Just how vast is our universe? It is so huge that it takes a beam of light (which travels some 700 million miles per hour) over 10 billion years to cross the known universe. Within this universe are untold trillions of stars, planets, and other heavenly bodies. God made them all to instruct man concerning his power and glory: "*The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork*" (Psa. 19:1). "*He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names*" (Psa. 147:4). "*Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth*" (Isa. 40:26). We shall someday therefore visit each star and explore every corner of our Father's universe.