



## Reaching, Growing, Sharing Christ

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### Heaven is Real: It's a Place You Should Want to Be!

Despite what scholars, scientists, and non-believers say about the universe and creation and how it was created, whether it was created with a big bang, or by cosmic explosion, God created the world, and not only did God create a beautiful world that adorns God's majesty, **God also lives and abides in a place called Heaven.** Heaven is a topic that has become neglected because many of us have become comfortable here on earth.



The Bible declares the heavens declare God's glory, and Heaven is the only place to contain a glorious, infinite, powerful, and loving being as God. It is not a myth or some type of theological genre that theologians created to display good from evil, supreme from lowly. Heaven indeed exist, and the Holy Bible is not the only source that highlights this place we know as Heaven. Many of your deceased love one can testify to the place call heaven and there are other witness as well.

*Heaven is the abode of God, and of those closely associated with him. The Israelite is to pray, 'Look down from thy holy habitation, from heaven' (Dt. 26:15). God is 'the God of heaven' (Jon. 1:9), or 'the Lord, the God of heaven' (Ezr. 1:2), or the 'Father who is in heaven' (Mt. 5:45; 7:21, etc.). God is not alone there, for we read of 'the host of heaven' which worships him (Ne. 9:6), and of 'the angels in heaven' (Mk. 13:32). Believers also may look forward to 'an inheritance kept in heaven' for them (1 Pet. 1:4). Heaven is thus the present abode of God and his angels, and the ultimate destination of his saints on earth.*

As those who live here with our present physical universe, we must understand that it is not eternal, but will vanish away and be replaced by 'new heaven and a new earth' (Is. 65:17; 66:22; 2 Pet. 3:10–13; Rev. 21:1) for this is fully the **will of God.**

Over the next four weeks we will be talking about this place called **Heaven.** We will be using a number of scholarly and historical sources, but one resource that stands out is Todd Burpo's book called *Heaven is for Real. The Story of a little boys (Colton) trip to heaven and back.* *Jesus often tells us if we are truly going to experience the richest of the kingdom of heaven, we must first become like little children (Mathew 18:3), so I invite you to take part in this journey as the Holy Spirit teaches us about the Kingdom of Heaven.*

**Heaven wants you to know, that to receive and experience Heavenly things you must first BELIEVE.**



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How can you believe that Heaven is real? The Pharisees tested Jesus by asking for a sign from heaven (Mark 8:11). And Jesus answered (Belief is key). Do you believe?

Jesus Christ came down from Heaven (John 6:38) and Jesus ascended back into heaven after the mission was complete (John 3:13, Acts 1:11, Heb. 7:26, 9:24, 4:14, and 1 Peter).

There are activities that take place in Heaven. Joy is released in heaven over one sinner who repents (Luke 15:7). The saints in heaven pray for you daily as we strive to live in the world that opposes God's true design and nature for it.

Heaven has an army. Those who will stand for God and willing to battle for righteousness. This army is clothed in white linen (Rev. 19:14).

Heaven has a gate, an opening and heaven is for those who desire to be present with God. All are welcome; however the choice is made by you (Gen 28:17), (Rev.4:1, Rev. 19:11), but we know everyone does not want to go to heaven, only those who receive Christ as Savior (John 3:16).

There is no other way to heaven, but through Jesus Christ.

Religion, good works, sincerity cannot save us, *"No man cometh unto the Father but by me"*

**Believe it, Receive it, heaven is for real. Heaven is the place that reconciles all things. God say's Heaven is my throne and the earth my footstool (Isa. 66:1)**

Wood, D. R. W., & Marshall, I. H. (1996). *New Bible dictionary* (3rd ed.) (457). Leicester, England; Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press