

# Heaven

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## Our Eternal Home

Heaven is a real and wonderful place! For those that accept God's invitation by believing in Jesus, Heaven is a paradise and a future home where we will be able to live in God's presence forever. The truth about how to get to heaven is so wonderful that we should share it with others.

## A Real, Eternal Home in Heaven

### Luke 23:43 (NIV)

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

How does Jesus describe heaven?  
Why can we look forward to heaven?

### Matthew 6:20-21 (NIV)

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

### John 14:2 (NIV)

My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?

### 2 Corinthians 5:1-2 (NIV)

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling,

### Colossians 3:1-2 (NIV)

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

### 1 Peter 1:4 (NIV)

and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you,

### Revelation 21:1-5 (NIV)

Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.'" He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

## God's Invitation, Our Choice

Although God wants everyone to go to heaven, we cannot go to heaven unless our relationship with God is right.

### 2 Peter 3:9, Matthew 5:20

#### 2 Peter 3:9 (NIV)

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

#### Matthew 5:20 (NIV)

For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

## Mark 9:47-48, Matthew 13:40-43

### Mark 9:47-48 (NIV)

And if your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, where “the worms that eat them do not die, and the fire is not quenched.”

### Matthew 13:40-43 (NIV)

“As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.

What kind of place will we go to if we don't go to heaven?

### Matthew 7:13-14 (NIV)

“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

In what way is it our choice whether we will go to heaven or hell?

What does it mean to “follow the narrow path”?

### John 14:6 (NIV)

Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

## Telling Others

### Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 4:20

#### Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

#### Acts 4:20 (NIV)

As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.”

Why would it be wrong for us not to tell others about heaven and how to get there?

### Luke 16:19-31 (NIV)

“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day.

At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

“The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried.

In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side.

So he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’

“But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony.

And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.’

“He answered, ‘Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’

“Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.’

“‘No, father Abraham,’ he said, ‘but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’

“He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

Does this story motivate you to tell others about Jesus? Why?

### Matthew 5:11-12 (NIV)

“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

What can we look forward to as a result of following Jesus and telling others about His Good News?

## Ask a Friend

How can you be sure that you will go to heaven?

Do you have any other questions about what happens when we die?

## Application

What can we do to help other people get to heaven?

## **Prayer Model**

Heavenly Father, I thank You that there is a real, eternal home for me in heaven. I ask for opportunities to help other people to enter heaven. And I look forward to spending eternity praising You!

## **Key Verse**

**2 Corinthians 5:1-2 (NIV)**

“Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling.”

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