

What About Creation #14

Why live forever?

Many people wonder what happens after they die. Some think that they are reincarnated. Why would anyone want to keep living in an imperfect world over and over again? Others think that they take the form of a spirit. This seems really mystical and ethereal with no real point. I remember watching cartoons and seeing the characters getting wings so that they could sit on clouds and play harps forever and ever. That sounds incredibly boring. Others think that when you die, that's it; you just rot in your grave. How depressing and pointless life becomes, then. On the other hand, why would anyone want to live forever if it means that it would be as messed up as this one? If living forever means something super-spiritual, that we lose ourself and things get all mystical, that seems kinda fake. So what does a real God want from real people in a real afterlife?

Heaven is a real place?

What did Jesus promise? (John 14:1-3) Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

What also is prepared for us? (Revelation 21:1) Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.

Where does the heavenly city end up in eternity?(Revelation 21:2)Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. These promises mean that heaven is a real place.

What are we like in Heaven?

Where does Jesus say we will come from? (John 5:28-29) Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

What happens at the resurrection? Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this

mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." So, as we can see, Heaven is going to be filled with real people with real bodies.

What will we do in Heaven?

What is Heaven like? (Isaiah 65:17-25)"For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; For behold, I create Jerusalem as a rejoicing, And her people a joy. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, And joy in My people; The voice of weeping shall no longer be heard in her, Nor the voice of crying. "No more shall an infant from there live but a few days, Nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days; For the child shall die one hundred years old, But the sinner being one hundred years old shall be accursed. They shall build houses and inhabit them; They shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; They shall not plant and another eat; For as the days of a tree, so shall be the days of My people, And My elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labor in vain, Nor bring forth children for trouble; For they shall be the descendants of the blessed of the Lord, And their offspring with them. "It shall come to pass that before they call, I will answer; And while they are still speaking, I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, The lion shall eat straw like the ox, And dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain," Says the Lord. This means that heaven is a real place with real activities.

Who does Jesus say will be there? (Matthew 8:11)And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.

Can you Imagine talking with the people of the book of Genesis? People like Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Or just think about all the prophets like Elijah, Samuel, Isaiah, Ezekiel and Daniel. Talking to King David and Solomon would be incredible. We will be able to talk to Peter, John and the other disciples. We will be able to chat with Paul and Timothy. We will be able to commune with all the faithful followers of God that have ever lived. Guess what?! They will want to talk with us too! This means that heaven is a place for real fellowship with real people.

What will God do for us in Heaven? (Revelation 21:4)And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death,neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. Think about that: all the problems of this present world will be swept away. Heaven will be a very perfect place. A place where true love will be the theme and selflessness will be the rule.Heaven is a real place with real peace.

What else takes place in Heaven? (Isaiah 66:23) And it shall come to pass That from one New Moon to another, And from one Sabbath to another, All flesh shall come to worship before Me," says the Lord. Heaven is a real place for real worship.

Where will God be? (Revelation 21:3) And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.

Who shall we serve in Heaven and Whose face shall we see? (Revelation 22:3-4) And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads.

The best part of Heaven is that we will have communion with the Creator God. Heaven would not be heavenly without a personal Deity. Heaven is a place where we have real fellowship with a real God.

Eden at the Beginning. The Garden of Eden:

1. was a perfect place
2. had perfect light
3. had perfect plant life
4. had a perfect animal kingdom
5. had the perfect weather
6. had a perfect people
7. had the tree of life
8. had the river of life
9. had the perfect diet
10. had the perfect worship
11. had perfect relationships with other people
12. had the perfect relationship between God and man

These point can all be found with a study of Genesis chapters 1 and 2

Eden Restored! Heaven:

1. is a perfect place
2. has perfect light
3. has perfect plant life
4. has a perfect animal kingdom
5. has perfect weather
6. has a perfect people
7. has the tree of life
8. has the river of life
9. has the perfect diet
10. has the perfect worship
11. has perfect relationships with other people
12. has a perfect relationship between God and man

These points can all be found in Revelation chapter 21 and 22 plus the text all previously quoted in this study.

Heaven for Real! I remember hearing about the biblically real heaven for the first time. I remember thinking, "How could God love me enough to let me go to such a place? It was not just floating around on a cloud all day, playing a harp. It is a real place with real people and real things to do. Then I read this text. 1 Corinthians 2:9: "But as it is written: 'Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.'" It is a perfect place; perfection is something that I can't even imagine. Why would anyone not want to go there? Why would we chose the wages of sin over the salvation of life? I decided since I lived 20 years of my life for the devil, I wanted to live the rest of it for God. That whatever God wanted me to do in this life, I would most gladly give him. By his grace, the life I have lived since my baptism has been better than all 20 years before it. That, not only does Jesus promise a better place in the future, He teaches us how to live there today. Even though trials and tribulations still come, I am fully convinced that we will be able to say "Heaven is cheap enough." I am eager to go to heaven. The question is: Are you?