A STUDY OF HEAVEN

PART 4

What will Heaven really be like?

- 1. Will we be ourselves?
- 2. What will our bodies be like?
- 3. Will we eat and drink?
- 4. Thinking of Heaven and asking questions can be healthy for us.

Understanding Jesus' resurrection is the foundation to understanding what our lives will be like in Heaven.

• There are at least 10 distinct appearances of the resurrected Christ in Scripture.

Luke 24:36-43

"As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, 'Peace to you!' But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. And he said to them, 'Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them,

'Have you anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate before them."

Will we be unique and maintain our identity?

- Yes, individual identity is an essential aspect of personhood, and we will not lose that in Heaven.
- · Heaven rejoices over each unique person who comes to God.

Luke 15:3-7

"So he told them this parable: 'What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance."

• Moses and Elijah were uniquely themselves as they appeared from Heaven at the Transfiguration.

Matthew 17:1-5

"And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good

that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah."

C.S. Lewis "The Problem of Pain"

"Your soul has a curious shape because it is a hollow made to fit a particular swelling in the infinite contours of the divine substance, or a key to unlock one of the doors in the house with many mansions. For it is not humanity in the abstract that is to be saved, but you—you, the individual reader, John Stubbs or Janet Smith...Your place in Heaven will seem to be made for you and you alone, because you were made for it—made for it stitch by stitch as a glove is made for a hand."

Will we have emotions and desires?

- 1. Emotions will exist for God's glory and our good.
- 2. We will have pure and holy desires that please God.
- 3. Desire is essential to humanity and will be redeemed as our sin is taken away.

Psalm 37:4

"Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart."

Augustine

"Love God and do as you please"

What will our bodies be like?

- 1. Even the strongest body on this present earth is weakened by sin.
- 2. If we've always wanted what God wants, then YES, we will finally have the bodies we've always wanted!

3. God will decide what our perfect bodies look like by His standard.

4. Different heights, weights, and races will be a reality in Heaven and each will be glorious.

Revelation 5:9

"And they sang a new song, saying, Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation."

John Piper

"Heaven will be all the sweeter because the ethnic diversity that God designed for the good of his creation and the glory of his grace will last forever in perfect harmony and joy."

C.S. Lewis

"No one in that company struck me as being of any particular age. One gets glimpses, even in our country, of that which is ageless—heavy thought in the face of an infant, and frolic childhood in that of a very old man."

The Great Divorce

5. We will enjoy great conversation, laughter, and storytelling as we eat and drink on the new earth

Revelation 19:9

"And the angel said to me, 'Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.' And he said to me, 'These are the true words of God."

John 21:9-14

"When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, 'Bring

some of the fish that you have just caught.' So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' Now none of the disciples dared ask him, 'Who are you?' They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish.

Revelation 19:9

"And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.' And he said to me, 'These are the true words of God.""

6. We will experience hunger and thirst, but it will never be left unsatisfied.

Will we be capable of sinning?

Romans 6:23

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Revelation 21:4

"He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

2 Corinthians 5:21

"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

What will we know and learn?

1. God alone is omniscient, and it was He who created us learners.

Jonathan Edwards

"The Saints will be progressive in knowledge to all eternity."

2. Heaven will present us with an eternal opportunity to learn God's truth.

Matthew 24:35

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."

Will we have books in Heaven?

1. We know at least two books will be in Heaven.

Revelation 20:12

"And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done."

Revelation 3:5

"He who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels."

What will our daily lives be like?

1. We will work, rest, and likely sleep in Heaven.

Genesis 2:15

"The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it."

John 4:34

"Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work..."

Genesis 2:2

"And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done."

2. We will have separate dwelling places that we open to guests and friends.

John 14:2

"In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?"

D.A. Carson:

"Since Heaven is here pictured as the Father's house, it is more natural to think of 'dwelling-places' within a house as rooms or suites...the simplest explanation is best: my Father's house refers to Heaven, and in Heaven are many rooms, many dwelling-places. The point is not the lavishness of each apartment, but the fact that such ample provision has been made that there is more than enough space for every one of Jesus' disciples to join Him in His Father's home."

Luke 16:9

"And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings."