

Heaven

Jim Hoffman

Lesson #2

Future Timeline



Heaven

- **Two things that are good for us to know:**
 - 1) **Heaven is a real place with real citizens, but is not yet our experience.**
 - 2) **The fact that we are not there yet, does not mean that we cannot live by heaven's rules and try to bring it's culture to earth.**
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Heaven

- **Matt 6:20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. NIV**
 - **A real place, capable of receiving investments – how we view this reveals something about our faith.**
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Heaven

- Matt 19:21 Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and *you will have treasure in heaven*. Then come, follow me." NIV
 - A place of potential rewards.
 - God's economy is the only economy where giving your wealth away is a strategy.
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Heaven

- Phil 3:20 *But our citizenship is in heaven.* And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, NIV
 - We belong to heaven. Even though we have never been there, it's where our roots are.
 - It is there that we have rights, privileges, and responsibilities.
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Heaven

- Rev 21:1 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. NIV
 - Rev 21:5 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." NIV
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Heaven

- “The writers of scripture present Heaven in many ways, including as a garden, a city, and a kingdom. Because gardens, cities, and kingdoms are familiar to us, they afford us a bridge to understanding Heaven. However, many people make the mistake of assuming that these are merely analogies with no actual correspondence to the reality of Heaven.” (which would make them poor analogies) Randy Alcorn
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From Randy Alcorn's Preface to 'Heaven'

- In his preface to the book, he admits there are errors in the book He just doesn't know what they are.
- Acts 17:11 Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. NIV

From Randy Alcorn's Preface to 'Heaven'

- There is an old saying of “you can become so heavenly minded you become of no earthly good”.
- It seems that throughout history man has mostly assumed that death is not the end and that something awaits us beyond the grave.
- However, few spend much time looking for clues to their eternal home.

Looking Ahead to Heaven

- **“It becomes us to spend this life only as a journey towards heaven To which we should subordinate all other concerns of life.”
Jonathon Edwards**
 - **This is an odd way of thinking to most of us who generally stumble through life day after day happy to endure the struggle.**
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Looking Ahead to Heaven

- **Phil 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. 22 If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! 23 I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; NIV**
 - **If we would correctly weigh the evidence we would conclude that Christians are in a win – win situation.**
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Looking Ahead to Heaven

- **“It comes at last – the only unpoisoned gift life ever had for them – they vanquish from a world where they were of no consequence; where they achieved nothing; where they were a mistake, and a failure, and a foolishness” Mark Twain**
 - **“To come to thee is to come home from exile, to come to land out of a raging storm, to come to rest after long labor, to come to the goal of my desires, and the summit of my wishes” Charles Spurgeon**
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Looking Ahead to Heaven

- Eccl 3:11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end. NIV
 - God has placed a desire in our heart for the very things he wants to give us; a home in a world where peace reigns and love is the only law necessary.
 - Having never been to heaven, it has the appeal of 'home'.
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Questions / Comments