

## Heaven

There is little that is specific about it, but many Scriptures refer to its reality. Several Scriptures tell it is the dwelling place of God. See Acts 7:49; Hebrews 8:11; Revelation 4. It is a place of happiness (Mt 5:12; 13:43; 1 Cor 2:9; 13:12; 1 Pt 1:4; Rev 7:16, 17; 14:13; 21:4; 22:3). Best of all, we will be with Him. See John 14:1-3.

The Scriptures clearly teach there is a place for all who know and love our Lord Jesus Christ. Heaven is a place. The word is used in the Bible in three different ways:

1. The region of the clouds is called heaven (Gen 1:8).
2. The area where the stars are located is known as heaven (Gen 1:17).
3. The word is used to describe God's dwelling place. Paul calls this the "third heaven" and "Paradise" (2 Cor 12:2-4).

Heaven is always mentioned as being "up." Satan said in Isaiah 14:13, 14, "I will ascend into heaven."

We know our Lord is in heaven today. After He was raised from the dead, He ascended in a body of flesh and bones. He carried glorified humanity into heaven. Read Luke 24:38, 39, 51; 1 Peter 3:22; Hebrews 1:3.

There is a great host of believers in heaven, for when the true Christian dies, he is "absent from the body—present with the Lord" (2 Cor 5:8). These believers are enjoying the presence of Christ "which is far better" (Phil 1:23).

What is heaven like? The writers of the Scriptures could not find language that would describe it. In Revelation 21:10-27, John describes the foundations, wall, gates, and street of the heavenly city. Our hearts are attracted by its beauty. We know there will be no sickness, sorrow, tears, pain or death in that fair place (Rev 21:4). But best of all, the Lord Jesus Christ will be there, and He will be the supreme delight of every believer's heart.