

# "HEAVEN"

- The Bible uses the word "heaven" 603 times.
- The English Bible translations for "heaven" (as in the Genesis creation story) can mean "space" (like the universe) and often refers to "an extension of the sky".
- The Old Testament Hebrew word for heaven is "shamayim" and is often used to describe the sky or the visible universe.
- The New Testament Greek word for heaven (or heavens) is "ouranos."
- These words are also used to describe the place where God has His throne.
- Therefore, the meaning of the words used for "heaven" are often defined according to how they are being used in the context of the Bible.

## Questions to consider:

- 1) Is heaven real? How do you know?
- 2) Do you think heaven is a real physical place like the present earth? What makes you think so?
- 3) Was heaven created or was it always there?
- 4) What is the difference between "the heavens" and "heaven"?
- 5) What does Paul mean in 2 Corinthians 12:2 that he was caught up in the "third heaven?"
- 6) What is going to happen to the present heaven in days to come? How do you know?
- 7) ★ How can knowing Heaven is real change your attitude, stress about your circumstances, and the choices you are making now?

## Some key concepts of Heaven based on Scripture:

- 1) God created heaven. Only God is eternal. - (Genesis 1:1; Psalm 121:2)
- 2) God dwells there (though He fills the universe and is "omnipresent" - meaning not bound by space or time) - (1 Kings 8:30; Psalm 103:19; Matthew 6:9)
- 3) The resurrected Jesus is there at the Father's right hand. - (Acts 7:56; Ephesians 1:18-20)
- 4) After Jesus' death and resurrection, He entered the true sanctuary in Heaven. - (Hebrews 9:24)
- 5) God (Father, Son, and Spirit) comes down from Heaven to us. - (Proverbs 30:4; Matthew 3:16-17; John 6:38)
- 6) There is rejoicing in Heaven in the presence of God's angels. - (Luke 15:7-10)
- 7) There is no marriage in heaven as we will all be God's children; brothers and sisters to one another. - (Luke 20:35-36)
- 8) Heaven is "paradise." - (2 Corinthians 12:2-4; Luke 23:40-43)
- 9) It is important to live for Christ, but dying is to be with Christ. - (Philippians 1:21-23)
- 10) There will be war in Heaven and Satan with his angels will be cast down upon the earth. - (Revelations 12:7-9)
- 11) Heaven (and Earth) are going to be replaced with a new Heaven and Earth. - (2 Peter 3:5-14; Revelation 21:1)
- 12) In the new Heaven and Earth (Revelation 21: 1-27; Revelation 22:1-6):
  - 1) God will dwell with us.
  - 2) He will wipe away every tear.
  - 3) There will be no more death, mourning, crying or pain.
  - 4) There will be no temple, for God and the Lamb are its Temple.
  - 5) Nothing evil or impure will ever enter it but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.
  - 6) There will be no more curse.
  - 7) God will live with us and we will see His face.
  - 8) There will be no more night or need for the sun for God will give us His light.
- 13) Jesus' resurrected body is a real physical body and not just a spirit, and we will be like Him. - (John 29:26-29; Luke 24:36-43; 1 Corinthians 15:49; 1 John 3:2). Don't forget that God took Enoch (Genesis 5:24) and Elijah (2 Kings 2:11) up to heaven before they died.
- 14) The new Heaven and new Earth will include a new Jerusalem coming out of Heaven where there will be nations and kings who will walk by its light; and very possibly different nationalities and languages. - (Revelation 5:9; Revelation 21:24)

## A final thought: This present Earth is not our home.

(John 17:15-16; Hebrews 10:34; Hebrews 11:13-16; 1 Peter 2:11; 1 John 4:2-6)

This life is the most heaven, an unbeliever will ever know,  
and  
The most hell, a follower of Jesus Christ will ever know?