

# WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT HEAVEN

## Heaven is above us.

The language of the Bible indicates this.  
(Genesis 17:22; John 3:13; Acts 1:9-10)

## In the Bible, "heaven" appears in the plural form.

*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.* Genesis 1:1

## There is mention of a 3rd heaven.

*I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven ...*  
2 Corinthians 12:2

### 3rd | Heaven, the Dwelling Place of God

Paradise - the heaven of heavens, New Jerusalem  
2 Corinthians 12:2; 1 Kings 8:27-30; Deut 10:14

### 2nd | The Sidereal Heaven

Outer space - the home of sun, moon and stars  
Genesis 22:17; Psalm 19:1; Ephesians 2:1-2

### 1st | The Aerial Heaven

The sky - where birds and planes fly  
Jeremiah 4:25; Daniel 4:12; Matthew 6:26; 8:20

**Heaven is a real place, the dwelling place of God. The heavenly city, the New Jerusalem is a city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. (Hebrews 11:10)**

## HEAVEN | NEW JERUSALEM | CITY OF GOD

### THE CITY SHAPE AND SIZE

Its shape is that of a cube or a pyramid; its area is 15 times the surface of the earth ie. room enough for all who have ever lived on earth.

### THE CITY STRUCTURE

#### Its Foundation

The City rests on 12 layers of foundation, each is inlaid with a different precious gem.  
Watch <https://youtu.be/oP04IDsf8Xk>

#### Its Walls and Gates

The City has walls and there are 12 gates into it; each composed of a beautiful solid white pearl.

#### Its Main Street

The Central boulevard of the New Jerusalem is made of pure and transparent gold.

### WITHIN THE CITY

#### The Throne

The throne room of God is in heaven.

#### The River of Life

*Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city ...* Revelation 22: 1-2

#### The Tree of Life

*... on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.* Revelation 22: 2

*God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away.* Revelation 21:4

## FREQUENTLY-ASKED QUESTIONS

### 1. What happens after we die?

1 Thess 4: 13-18

### 2. Will we have physical bodies in heaven?

1 Cor 15:35-58; Lk 24:39-43; Jn 20:27; Job 19:25-27

**3. Is cremation something a Christian can consider?** Gen 23:19; 35:19; 2 Chron 16:14; Mt 27: 60-66

### 4. In preparing for death, should Christians consider these legal provisions?

Last will and testament, AMD and LPA

### 5. Will we recognise one another in heaven?

2 Sam 12:23; Lk 16:19-31; Mt 17: 3-4

# GOD'S WORD OFFERS A HOPE IN DEATH

If in Christ we have hope in this life only,  
we are of all people most to be pitied.

1 Corinthians 15:19



Death is an appointment which every person will have to keep.

Any philosophy, any belief that navigates around the subject of death is unrealistic.

How about the Christian faith? Does it have a good answer to the harsh reality of death?

## WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT DEATH

### THE DIAGNOSIS

#### Death came through sin.

When the 1st man, Adam sinned against God, that rebellion plunged the human race into sin. The wages of sin is death. Because all have sinned, death comes to all of us. Romans 3:23; 6:23

*Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—*  
Romans 5:12

### THE PROGNOSIS

The Bible indicates 3 successive stages in the course of death:

#### 1. SPIRITUAL DEATH

When Adam sinned, he was cut off from a life with God. In that moment, Adam died spiritually, resulting in a separation between God and the human race. This spiritual death is referred to in Ephesians 2: 1-5.

God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."  
Genesis 2 :16

#### 2. PHYSICAL DEATH

This is what we actually call "death"; it refers to the separation of the soul from the body.

#### 3. THE SECOND DEATH

This is a final and irrevocable banishment from the presence of God. *This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.* Revelation 20:14-15

### THE CURE

#### The remedy is Jesus Christ.

He took our sin upon Himself (Isaiah 53:5-6) and destroyed death when He rose from the grave.

#### Those who accept this offer of forgiveness will be pardoned.

They can be reconciled with God; they will not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).

#### Those who die in the Lord will be raised from death.

"first fruits" - Jesus' resurrection is the pledge of our resurrection.

*But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.*  
1 Corinthians 15:20-22