**Heaven**

**It is a place regarded in various religions as the abode of God (or the gods) and the angels, and of the good after death, often traditionally depicted as being above the sky. For the Christian it is place where God abode but also Jesus Christ and the heavenly host. Our belief is that those individuals who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord Savior that upon death they are now in the presence of God in Heaven. Contrary to popular belief, heaven is not a place on earth. Let’s see what the Bible says about heaven. The following information was put together by Randy Alcorn in his book called Heaven:**

**1. Heaven is the dwelling place of God (**[**Deut. 26:15**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Deut.%2026.15)**;** [**Matt. 6:9**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Matt.%206.9)**).**

**2. Heaven is the dwelling place of God’s angels (**[**Luke 2:15**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Luke%202.15)**;** [**Matt. 28:2**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Matt.%2028.2)**;** [**Heb. 12:22**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Heb.%2012.22)**).**

**3. Heaven is the dwelling place of God’s saints from earth who have died and now live there in his presence (**[**Rev. 4-5**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rev.%204-5)**;** [**Luke 16:22**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Luke%2016.22)**,** [**25**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Luke%2016.25)**;** [**Heb. 12:23**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Heb.%2012.23)**).**

**4. At death, the human spirit leaves the body (**[**Ec. 12:7**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Eccles.%2012.7)**) and goes either to heaven or hell (**[**Luke 16:22ff**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Luke%2016.22ff)**).**

**5. There is immediate conscious existence after death, both in heaven and hell (**[**Luke 16:22ff**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Luke%2016.22ff)**.;** [**Luke 23:43**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Luke%2023.43)**;** [**2 Cor. 5:8**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/2%20Cor.%205.8)**;** [**Rev. 6:9-11**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rev.%206.9-11)**;** [**Phil. 1:23**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Phil.%201.23)**). There is no “soul sleep” or period of unawareness preceding heaven. (“Fallen asleep” in** [**1 Thes. 4:13**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/1%20Thess.%204.13) **is a euphemism for death, describing the spirit’s departure from the body, ending our conscious existence *on earth*.)**

**6. Heaven is an actual place, to and from which Christ (**[**John 1:32**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/John%201.32)**;** [**6:33**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/John%206.33)**;** [**Acts 1:2**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Acts%201.2)**), angels (**[**Matt. 28:2**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Matt.%2028.2)**;** [**Rev. 10:1**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rev.%2010.1)**) and in rare circumstances people, even prior to their deaths, have traveled (**[**2 Kings 2:11**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/2%20Kings%202.11)**;** [**2 Cor. 12:2**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/2%20Cor.%2012.2)**;** [**Rev. 11:12**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rev.%2011.12)**).**

**7. Heaven is consistently referred to as “up” in location (**[**Mark 6:41**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Mark%206.41)**;** [**Luke 9:51**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Luke%209.51)**). We do not know whether it is a place “in the heavens” (the universe beyond the earth) or entirely outside the space/time continuum. We do know heaven is someplace, and presently that place isn’t earth.**

**8. Heaven is where Christ came from (**[**John 6:42**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/John%206.42)**), where he returned after his resurrection (**[**Acts 1:11**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Acts%201.11)**), where he now is and from which he will physically return to earth again (**[**Acts 1:11**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Acts%201.11)**;** [**Rev. 19:1-16**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rev.%2019.1-16)**).**

**9. Heaven is described as a city (**[**Heb. 11:16**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Heb.%2011.16)**;** [**12:22**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Heb%2012.22)**;** [**13:14**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Heb%2013.14)**;** [**Rev. 21:12**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rev.%2021.12)**). The normal understanding of a “city” is a place of many residences in near proximity, the inhabitants of which are subject to a common government. “City” may also connote varied and bustling activity.**

**10. Heaven contains for believers a permanent inheritance, an unperishing estate specifically reserved for us. (**[**1 Pet. 1:4**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/1%20Pet.%201.4)**).**

**11. Heaven is the Christian’s country of citizenship (**[**Heb. 11:16**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Heb.%2011.16)**;** [**Phil. 3:20**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Phil.%203.20)**). Christ is our King. We are his ambassadors, representing his agenda on earth (**[**2 Cor. 5:20**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/2%20Cor.%205.20)**). While on our brief stay here, we are aliens, strangers and pilgrims (**[**Heb. 11:3**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Heb.%2011.3)**). Ambassadors, aliens and pilgrims identify themselves and plan their lives with a focus on their home country. Should they become too engrossed in the alien country where they temporarily reside, they can easily compromise their allegiances to their true King and true country.**

**12. God’s people should long for heaven. This pleases our Lord, who has prepared a place there for us (**[**Heb. 11:13-16**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Heb.%2011.13-16)**;** [**2 Cor. 5:2**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/2%20Cor.%205.2)**). We should be ever-motivated by the anticipation of heaven (**[**Phil. 3:14**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Phil.%203.14)**;** [**2 Tim. 4:8**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/2%20Tim.%204.8)**).**

**13. Heaven and all that it represents should be a central object of our attention in this life. Our hearts or minds are to be continuously set on these “things above” where Christ is in heaven, not on “earthly things” (**[**Col. 3:1-4**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Col.%203.1-4)**).**

***Note: The popular notion of Christians being “so heavenly minded they’re of no earthly good” is a myth. On the contrary, most of us are so earthly minded we are of no heavenly or earthly good. C. S. Lewis said, “It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this one.” God commands us to be heavenly minded, and doing so will give us the perspective and motivation to live on earth as he has commanded us (***[***Heb. 11:26-27***](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Heb.%2011.26-27)***).***

**14. There is a sense in which believers are currently in heaven with Christ (**[**Eph. 2:6**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Eph.%202.6)**;** [**Col. 3:3**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Col.%203.3)**). Our intimate link with Christ in his redemptive work somehow makes us inseparable from him. As we walk with him and commune with him in this world, this reality makes it sometimes possible to experience a faint foretaste of heaven’s delights and wonders.**

**15. Heaven will provide us delivery from the present conditions of material decay and corruption (**[**Matt. 6:20**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Matt.%206.20)**).**

**16. Heaven will provide us delivery from the current sinful human condition (**[**Rom. 7:24**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rom.%207.24)**).**

**17. The redeemed in heaven are described as “shining” and wearing “white robes,” indicating their moral purity and righteousness (**[**Dan. 12:3**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Dan.%2012.3)**;** [**Matt. 13:43**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Matt.%2013.43)**;** [**Rev. 3:4**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rev.%203.4)**;** [**6:11**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rev%206.11)**).**

**18. Heaven is a place of great joy and pleasures for the redeemed (**[**Psalm 16:11**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Ps%2016.11)**).**

**19. The names of Christ’s redeemed are written in heaven (**[**Luke 10:20**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Luke%2010.20)**;** [**Heb. 12:23**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Heb.%2012.23)**;** [**Rev. 20:15**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rev.%2020.15)**).**

**20. When in his presence, Christ will give new names to the righteous, known only between him and them (**[**Rev. 2:17**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rev.%202.17)**). This implies some level of privacy.**

**21. The wicked, those whose sins remain uncleansed by the blood of Christ, will be excluded from heaven (**[**Gal. 5:21**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Gal.%205.21)**;** [**Eph. 5:5**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Eph.%205.5)**;** [**Rev. 22:15**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rev.%2022.15)**).**

**22. Heaven’s central draw is our anticipation of being with Christ (**[**Phil. 1:23**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Phil.%201.23)**).**

**23. Another draw of heaven is our anticipation of continued and unhindered life, and ultimate reunion with Christian loved ones who’ve gone before us and will come after us (**[**1 Thes. 4:14-18**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/1%20Thess.%204.14-18)**).**

**24. Heaven has not remained the same since its creation, but has undergone several phases, and will experience future change as well. At least five distinct phases of heaven seem identifiable. There was the pre-sin heaven, before Satan fell (**[**Is. 14:12-15**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Isa.%2014.12-15)**), apparently taking a third of the angels with him (**[**Rev. 12:4**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rev.%2012.4)**). There was the Old Testament heaven of Paradise or “Abraham’s bosom” (** [**Luke 16:22**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Luke%2016.22)**), which was then one of two compartments of Hades, “the place of the dead,” the other compartment being Hell. Then came the current post-resurrection-of-Christ heaven, where Paradise seems to have been relocated from Hades, and where believers now come directly into his presence at death (**[**Eph. 4:8-10**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Eph.%204.8-10)**;** [**2 Cor. 5:8**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/2%20Cor.%205.8)**). The millennial kingdom, where Christ rules over the earth with his redeemed seems to be a phase of Heaven (**[**Rev. 20:14**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rev.%2020.14)**). Then there is the Heaven still to come after the final judgment, the New Jerusalem in the new heavens and new earth (**[**Rev. 21-22**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rev.%2021-22)**).**