

SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

A ministry division of Christian Fellowship Church

“Equipping saints to do the work of their ministry”



Course:

Heaven

School of Ministry Online

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HEAVEN

Lesson 1

Does the Bible tell us much about Heaven? Many people will say “no” to that question, but let us look at the data. This is what we find in a study of the New Testament alone.

- 1) “Heaven” occurs 244 times in the New Testament.
- 2) “Heavenly” occurs 23 times in the New Testament.
- 3) “Heaven” occurs 71 times in the Book of Matthew and 52 times in the Book of Revelation.
- 4) In Matthew, most of the references to “Heaven” are those given by Jesus. I trust Him to know, don’t you?
- 5) “Heaven” is mentioned in Mark nine (9) times; in the Book of Luke 31 times; in John 16 times; and in Acts 25 times.
- 6) Other New Testament references to Heaven are found in 2 Corinthians (3 times); Ephesians (3 times); Colossians (5 times); Hebrews (9 times); 1st Peter (3 times); and 2nd Peter (4 times).

Can we know much about Heaven? We can if we study what the Bible tells us about it. My conclusion is that it is an unwarranted assumption to assume that not much can be known about the hereafter.

HEAVEN
Lesson 2

OUTLINE OF END TIMES

- 1) First Resurrection
- 2) Rapture
- 3) Great Tribulation
- 4) Judgment Seat of Christ
- 5) Return of Christ
- 6) Millennium
- 7) White Throne Judgment
- 8) New Heaven and New Earth

SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

- I. PROMINENCE IN SCRIPTURES (Matthew 24-25; Mark 13; Luke 21; 1st Corinthians 15; 1st and 2nd Thessalonians; Revelation)

- II. THE HOPE OF THE CHURCH (Titus 2:13; 1st Peter 1:3; 1st John 3:2-3)

- III. INCENTIVE TO BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY
 - a. To purity (1st John 3:3)

 - b. To watchfulness (Matthew 24:44)

 - c. To challenge the backslider to return to God (Romans 13:11-12)

 - d. As a warning to the ungodly (2nd Thessalonians 1:7-10)

 - e. It has a marked effect on service (1st Corinthians 3:11-15)

HEAVEN
Lesson 3

The Purpose of the Rapture	The Purpose of the Return
1. To receive His own to Himself (John 14:1-3)	1. To reveal Himself (Rev. 1:7)
2. To resurrect the Dead in Christ (I Thess. 4:16-18)	2. To judge the beast and his followers (2 Thess. 2:8-12; Rev. 20:10)
3. To judge and reward the believer (I Cor. 3:11-15)	3. To bind Satan (Rev. 20:1-3)
4. To remove the restrainer (2 Thess. 2:6-8)	4. To save Israel (Romans 11:5, 25-27)
	5. To set up His earthly kingdom (Rev. 11:15, Daniel 7:13-14 [Jesus was prophesied by Daniel])

I John 3:1-3

Titus 2:11-14

Read the following passages and write your impressions and thoughts at the bottom of the page.
Matthew 24-25; Mark 13; Luke 21; 1st Corinthians 15; 1st & 2nd Thessalonians.

HEAVEN

Lesson 4

WHY LEARN ABOUT THE HEREAFTER?

- I. IT GIVES US REASON TO REJOICE (Philippians 4:4; 1st Thessalonians 4:13)**
 - i. To the saved: This life is as bad as it will ever get.
 - ii. To the lost: This life is as good as it will ever get.
 - iii. To the saved: The best is yet to be.
 - iv. To the lost: The worst is yet to be.
 - v. To both: Heaven and Hell are for eternity. Therefore, saved ones should REJOICE!

- II. IT GIVES IMPORTANCE TO WHAT WE DO.**
 - i. Everyone you meet has an eternal soul.
 - ii. The commission that Jesus gave the church is clear. (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8)

- III. IT GIVES URGENCY TO WHAT WE DO.**
 - i. Life is short and uncertain. (James 4:14; Psalm 90:4-6; Psalm 103:15-16)
 - ii. No one knows the date of Christ's return. (Matthew 24:36)

- IV. IT GIVES US HOPE IN THIS LIFE. NO MATTER WHAT, THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT!**
 - i. A new Heaven / a new Earth / Paradise restored
 - ii. A new body (no more temptations / no more physical infirmities, defects, or sicknesses)
 - iii. A new home for the saints: New Jerusalem
 - iv. New conditions of life: Uninterrupted communion with God (Revelation 21:4 and 22:3-4)

RESURRECTION

I. THE ESSENTIAL NATURE OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION

- a. Essential to our salvation (Romans 10:9-10)
- b. Otherwise, we would still be in our sins. (I Corinthians 15:17-19)

II. THE DIVINE ORDER OF THE RESURRECTION (I Corinthians 15:20-26)

- a. Christ's resurrection – the first fruits
- b. They who belong to Christ at His return (I Thess. 4:16-18)
- c. The rest of the dead raise a thousand years later (Rev. 20:5)

III. THE NATURE OF THE RESURRECTED BODY

- a. A real physical body – not just a spirit. Heaven is a real place.
"A non-physical resurrection is like a sunless sunrise. Resurrection means we will have bodies. If we didn't have bodies, we wouldn't be resurrected."
- b. R. A. Torrey says, "We will not be disembodied spirits [demons], but redeemed spirits in redeemed bodies in a redeemed universe."
- c. Resurrected bodies call for a new Earth on which to live, work and glorify God.
- d. The whole creation awaits the resurrection. Romans 8:18-23)

IV. CHRIST'S RESURRECTED LIFE IS A MODEL FOR OURS (Phil. 3:20-21, I John 3:2, I Corinthians 15:49)

- a. Jesus walked and talked with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus
- b. He looked like a man. Mary assumed He was the gardener and called Him, "Sir." -- John 20:15
- c. He invited His disciples to breakfast. John 21:12
- d. He talked with His disciples. Acts 1:4-8

CONCLUSION: A new body living on a new Earth is what we see in the Scriptures. God never scrapped His original plan. Instead of destroying all creation because of sin, He redeemed all of creation.

HEAVEN

Lesson 5

IN HEAVEN, GOD COMPLETES OUR TRANSFORMATION.

In Heaven, God makes all things new. There are two Greek words for “new”:

“Neos” meaning the chronological or temporal newness (example: new clothes).

“Kainos” meaning qualitative newness; something previously unknown, unprecedented, marvelous.

Technology has shown us “kainos” newness. Compare the IBM punch card computer with today’s personal laptop.

I. WE WILL RECEIVE A RESURRECTED BODY.

Theologian Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274 AD) thought our resurrected bodies would be like that of a 30-year-old. That may or may not encourage us!

1st Corinthians 15:35-44:

1. Compared to a seed and the stalk
2. Compared to different kinds of fleshly bodies
3. As the terrestrial compares with celestial bodies
4. As the natural is compared to the spiritual
5. The spiritual is subject to the power of the Holy Spirit. In its resurrected state, it is no longer subject to temptations, sicknesses, infirmities, etc.

II. WE WILL CONTINUE AS UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS AND BE ABLE TO RECOGNIZE ONE ANOTHER IN HEAVEN.

- a. On the Mount of Transfiguration, Peter, James and John recognized Moses and Elijah.
- b. Jesus spoke of people recognizing others in Heaven. Matthew 8:11 reads, “And I tell you this, that many Gentiles will come from all over the world and sit down with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob at the feast in the Kingdom of Heaven.” NLT.
- c. We will surely know more there than we do here.
- d. We won’t be “spirits” just floating on clouds.

- e. We won't turn into angels.
- f. We will be ourselves in a resurrected body.

III. OUR RESURRECTED BODIES WILL BE GLORIOUS BODIES, LIKE THAT OF JESUS' (1st John 3:1-3)

- a. There are no ordinary people.
- b. C.S. Lewis made a statement that is so thought provoking.
- c. Jesus walked and talked with two disciples on the road to Emmaus.
- d. Jesus looked like a man after resurrection. Mary assumed he was the gardener and called him, "Sir." (John 20:15)
- e. Jesus could eat in his resurrected body. He invited his disciples to breakfast. (John 21:12)
- f. Jesus could talk in his resurrected body. (Acts 1:4-8)
- g. Jesus defied the laws of gravity in his resurrected body and ascended back to Heaven. (Acts 1:9-11)

IV. OUR RESURRECTED BODIES WILL BE IMMORTAL.

- a. Not subject to death (1st Corinthians 15:51-53)
- b. Indestructible / no aging / no degeneration / no decay.

Joni Erickson Tada, paralyzed as a teenager said, “Oh . . . I am paralyzed. It’s terrible. I don’t like it. But can God still use me paralyzed? Can I, paralyzed, still worship and love Him? He has taught me that I can. Maybe God’s gift to me is my dependence on Him. I will never reach the place where I am self-sufficient, where God is crowded out of my life.

I’m aware of His grace every moment. My need for help is obvious every day when I wake up, flat on my back, waiting for someone to come and dress me. I can’t even comb my hair or blow my nose alone! But I have friends who care. I have the beauty of the scenery. With my art sales, I can even support myself financially – the dream of a handicapped person. The peace that counts is an internal peace and God has lavished me with that peace.

And there’s one more thing. I have hope for the future. The Bible speaks of our bodies being ‘glorified’ in Heaven. In high school that was always a hazy, foreign concept. But now I realize that I will be healed. I haven’t been cheated out of being a complete person – I’m just going through a 40-year delay, and God is with me even through that. Being ‘glorified’ – I know the meaning of that now. It’s the time, after my death here, I’ll be on my feet dancing.”

HEAVEN
Lesson 6

I. WHEN WE DIE WE ARE KNOWN IN HEAVEN. WE KNOW ONE ANOTHER.

II. INTERMEDIATE HEAVEN

- a. We will have a resurrected body. It's not a state of mind.

III. WHEN THE CHURCH IS RAPTURED, THIS WORLD WILL BE A TERRIBLE PLACE: Great Tribulation

- a. Judgment Seat of Christ / Christians to be given rewards

IV. AT LAST JESUS WILL BE KING AND PRIEST, RULING FOREVER.

- a. Jesus gives Earth many, many chances!
- b. We need a redeemer! Jesus is our Redeemer!
- c. Revelation 21 and 22
- d. John 14:1-6

V. ONE WAY

VI. SAVED BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH THAT JESUS GIVES US! NOT OF WORKS! IT ALL DEPENDS ON THE BLOOD OF JESUS.

HOMEWORK: Read Colossians 3:1-4 regarding setting our affections on things above. Write down your thoughts and impressions on the back of this sheet of paper.

School of Ministry
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HEAVEN
Lesson 7

Instructions: Please follow along with the corresponding video and write down your notes below.

LIFE IS THE DRESSING ROOM FOR ETERNITY!

HEAVEN

Lesson 8

- I. LEGALISM: Keeping the Law in order to be saved. This is wrong.**

- II. ANTINOMIALISM: Against the Law. Also an error.**

- III. GALATIANISM: Part Law / Part Grace. Third error.**

- IV. LICENSURE: Grace provides for us to live anyway we please. Another error.**

- V. CORRECT THEOLOGY: SAVED BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST**
 - a. It is wrong to ignore the commandments.**

- VI. THE WAY OF THE TRANSGRESSOR IS HARD, NOT THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.**

- VII. WORKS DO MATTER, BUT THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GRACE & WORKS.**

HOMEWORK: Study Hebrews 11. Make a list of faith heroes. Write down how they lived and what they accomplished by faith. Attach your notes to this assignment sheet.

HEAVEN

Session 9: Where are the dead?

Definitions:

1. DEATH means “separation”, not annihilation or ceasing to exist, but separation of spirit and soul from the body.
2. HADES is a Greek word for place of departed spirits which can also be separated into Hell and Paradise, sections of Hades.
3. SHEOL is a Hebrew word for Hades, see above.
4. TARTARUS is a place of silos or chains, it is the prison house of the spirits, of demon spirits and fallen spirits.
5. GEHENNA is the Hell of fire talked about by Jesus eleven (11) times in the NT.
6. MORTAL means subject to death.
7. IMMORTAL means not subject to death.
8. PARADISE is the saved part of Hades or Sheol.
9. THE LAKE OF FIRE is the final burning hell for the lost.
10. THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST is where there will be judgment for the works of the saved.
11. THE WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT is the judgment of the lost.
12. RESURRECTION is when the corrupted body becomes incorruptible.
13. RAPTURE is when the mortal body becomes immortal.

Job asked, “A man dyeth and where is he?” Job also asked, “If a man die shall he live again?”

The BIBLE tells us clearly of man’s ORIGIN, his NATURE, and his DESTINY.

The Bible tells us man has a material or PHYSICAL nature. (Job 32:8; Zechariah 12:1; Job 14:22; I Cor. 2:11; Matthew 10:28 distinguish between the physical and the spiritual.)

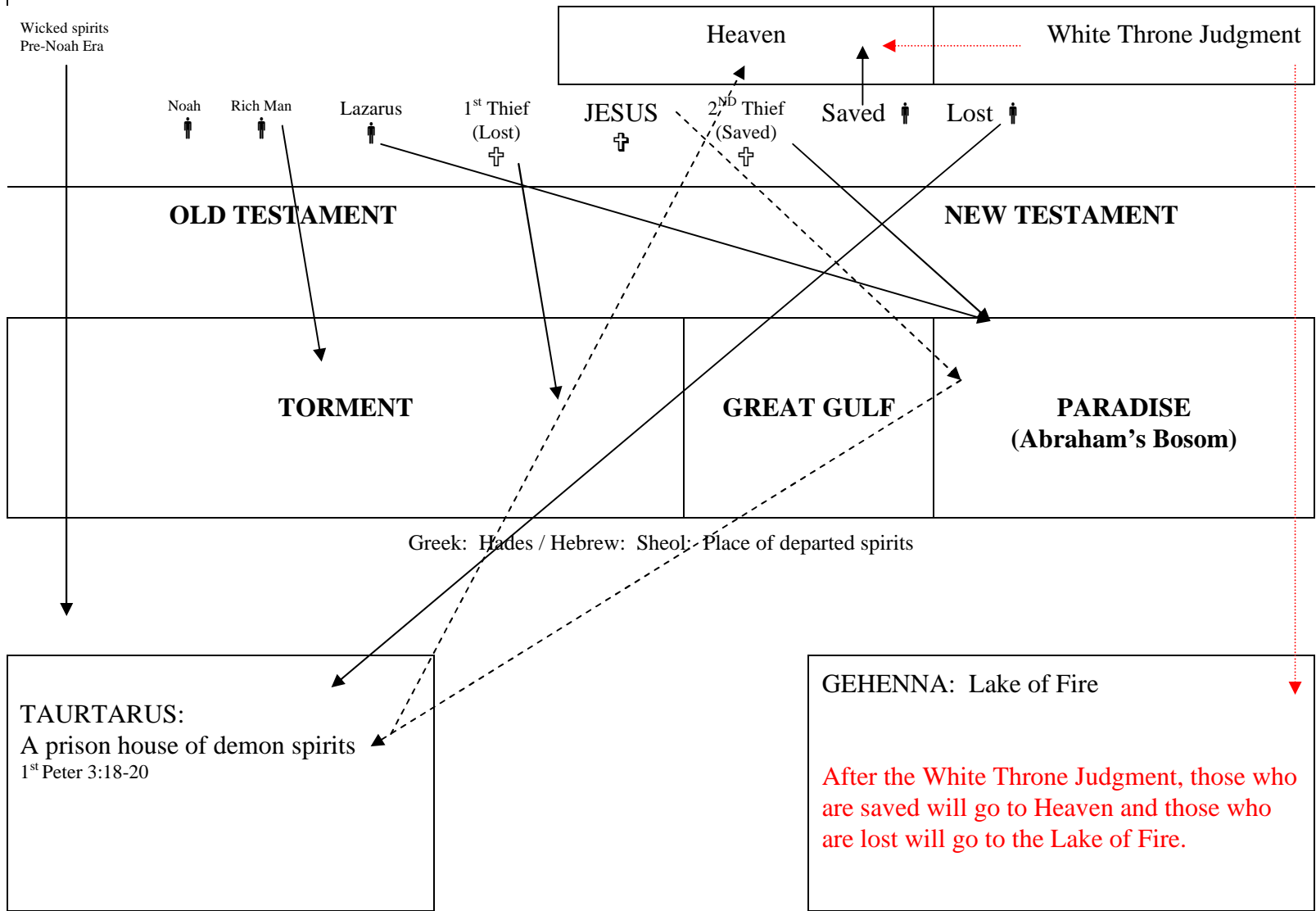
READ THESE SCRIPTURES: I Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 4:12

Man is a tri-partite (3-fold) being:

- Spirit is GOD conscious
- Soul is SELF conscious
- Body is WORLD conscious

WHERE ARE THE DEAD?

References: 2nd Corinthians 5:8; 1st Peter 3:18-20; Luke 16:19-31; Revelation 20:11-15



School of Ministry
Dr. J. T. Parrish, Instructor

TAURTARUS:
A prison house of demon spirits
1st Peter 3:18-20

GEHENNA: Lake of Fire

After the White Throne Judgment, those who are saved will go to Heaven and those who are lost will go to the Lake of Fire.

Lesson 9 continued

REVELATION 19:1-21

- Vs. 1-6 Salvation / The Lord Reigns
Vs. 7-9 Marriage of the Lamb
 Give honor to the bridegroom
 The bride makes herself ready
 “righteous deeds”
Vs. 10 “don’t bow to me”
 In Heaven, we have service to God.
 WORKS JUDGE

The Second Coming of Christ: Rev. 19:11-16
The Battle of Armageddon: Rev. 19:17

REVELATION 20: 1-15

- Vs. 1-3 Satan bound = adversary
 Devil = slanderer
 Serpent = snake
Vs. 4 The Word answers the devil.
Vs. 5 The first resurrection
Vs. 6 Reign 1000 years
Vs. 7 Satan loosed
Vs. 10 The doom of Satan
Vs. 11-15 Doom of the unbelieving dead

REVELATION 21: THE OLD ORDER AND THE NEW ORDER

HEAVEN

Session 10: Paradise Lost / Redeemed

Genesis 3:1-24 Paradise lost, brings redemption

Rev. 22:1-21 Paradise restored
God's purpose is shown in these scriptures. The rest of the Bible is
in between!

Three trees:
Tree of life
Tree of the cross
Tree of life

Curse of the fall: Genesis 3

Curse of the law: Deut. 28:15; Galatians 3:10-14

Near the second coming, we're going to see the earth in turmoil.

Three joys of Heaven: Rev. 22:3-5

1. We will serve Jesus.
2. We'll see His face and His name will be on their foreheads.
3. We will reign forever and ever on a new Earth and in a new city.

Instructions:

- Read and keep the sayings of the prophecy of this book: vs. 6-7
- Worship God: vs. 9.
- We will be serving the Lord!

HOW BEAUTIFUL HEAVEN MUST BE

We read of a place that's called Heaven
It's made for the pure and the free
These truths in God's Word He has given
How beautiful Heaven must be.

In Heaven, no drooping or pining
No wishing for elsewhere to be,
God's light is forever there shining
How beautiful Heaven must be.

Pure waters of life there are flowing
And all who drink may be free,
Rare jewels of splendor are glowing
How beautiful Heaven must be.

The angels so sweetly are singing
Up there by the beautiful sea,
The song of redemption is ringing,
How beautiful Heaven must be.

Chorus

How beautiful Heaven must be
Sweet home of the happy and free,
Fair haven of rest for the weary,
How beautiful Heaven must be.