

## Is Heaven A Real Place? John 14:1-6

### Introduction:

1. Is heaven real? This is a question that many have asked. It is a fair and honest question. After all, none of us have **seen** heaven.
  - Therefore, there is a bit of mystery. Statistics show that about 20% of Americans don't believe in heaven or an afterlife of any kind.
2. A person can say, "I don't believe in heaven or hell." But we need to understand that our choice to **not** believe in something doesn't make it so.
  - **Illustration:** If a person has been convicted of a crime and the judge sentences them to ten years in prison, the person can say, "Judge, I don't **believe** in prison. I don't believe it even exists." Guess what? He's going to prison.
3. But this issue (of heaven and hell) goes even deeper and is central to the issue people have regarding Jesus Christ. Christ's very character and integrity are at stake here. Why is this?
4. Christ clearly taught that there **was** a literal place called heaven. He spoke of it as literally as we would talk about Orlando or Miami.
  - Do you remember the days before the Internet? If I spoke to you of a place where you had never been and you could not go, you would most likely believe in that place based on your opinion of me, my honesty, and integrity.
5. When it comes to the issue of heaven, there are many, many witnesses who attested to its reality in writing, but Jesus Christ Himself spoke of it over and over again.
6. If you do not believe in the reality of heaven, then you of necessity, must believe that Jesus Christ was a habitual liar and a religious lunatic.
  - You cannot deny the existence of heaven and believe that Jesus Christ was even a good man. Those two views are not compatible.
  - Either heaven is real, or Jesus intentionally misled people, fabricating, very specifically, details about a place called heaven.
  - He said He came from there! John 6:38

7. Jesus did not teach heaven as a vague concept, a general feeling, or emotional state. In fact, Jesus taught people that heaven is a literal place.
  - Read John 14:1-6.
  - According to Jesus, heaven is not fiction, fairy-tale, or make-believe; He taught that it is a real place.

### **Heaven is said to be God's house. vs. 1-2**

1. Most people believe in the existence of God. Heaven is said to be God's house – His abiding place. You say, "I thought God was everywhere?"
2. He is, in the sense that God sees and knows all. There is nothing hidden from the eyes and mind of God.
3. Heaven doesn't contain God (1 Kings 8:27), but it is uniquely His home – His command post and center of operations.
4. Heaven is said to be the throne room of God. It is the place where His throne resides. Matthew 5:16, 34, 45, 48; 23:9
5. It is where the most perfect worship and praise of Him occurs. In this sense, heaven is God's dwelling place – His house. Psalm 33:13-14

### **Heaven is prepared by Jesus Christ. vs. 3**

1. In our text, Jesus told His disciples that He would be going away and that they could not follow Him, at least not immediately. John 13:36
2. After informing them of this, Christ sought to comfort their troubled hearts.
  - Where was He going? He would be going back to where He came from, where the Father was – heaven.
  - But He tells them that in heaven are many mansions (this word is defined as abodes – John 14:23). Jesus is saying, "There's lots of room there guys!"
  - And Jesus assures them that He is going to prepare a place for them. "If there wasn't any room for you there I would have told you."
  - Sure enough, after His resurrection, He left them and ascended up to heaven. Mark 16:19
3. But He assured them that He was not forsaking them even though He was going away, as though there were only room for Himself in His

- Father's house. There was room for them all. And He would see to it that the way was prepared for them.
4. The way He would prepare this place for them would be by yielding His life to die on a cross, making a complete payment for their sin. After His death, He took that sacrifice to heaven to show the Father that the work of redemption had been fully accomplished.  
Hebrews 9:11-12; 10:19-20
  5. Heaven is a place that has been prepared by Jesus Christ. Not just that He went up there after His resurrection and created everything in it. No, He prepared it by making a sacrifice for us on the cross and then entering into the holy place of heaven, obtaining eternal redemption for us.
  6. The blood of Christ on the mercy seat of heaven attests to the fact that the way has been prepared for fallen man to be able to be forgiven and able to reside there in the presence of God. This brings us to the next point.

### **Heaven is a place where people on earth can go. vs. 4-6**

1. Jesus makes it clear that His disciples would be able to join Him in heaven. In fact, He would not send others for them; but as those He dearly valued, He would come for them Himself, receiving them unto Himself that where He was, they would be able to be also.
  - Jesus taught that heaven is a real place that people can enter.  
Matthew 5:20; 7:21
  - Heaven has the names of real people (residents, citizens) written down. Luke 10:20
2. In Revelation 5:9, the apostle John was given a glimpse into heaven, and he saw people singing and praising Jesus from every language and nation.
3. But not every person will automatically gain entrance into heaven. Jesus said that some will seek to enter in, but Jesus will say, "Depart from me, I never knew you." Matthew 7:23
4. People don't get to heaven through multiple roads. You hear this, "There are many roads to heaven. We all have to find our own way."
5. But this simply is not true. There is only one way to heaven. vs. 4-6
6. Nobody enters heaven by chance, luck, or their own self-designed way. Jesus said, "I am going to the Father in heaven and anybody else who wants to go there will have to get there through me."

7. Nobody will enter heaven on their own terms. The only way in is to know Jesus Christ. You have to trust in Him and accept Him as your Lord and Savior. 1 John 5:11-13

**In Conclusion:**

1. Heaven is mentioned over 140 times (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) just during the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ.
2. Jesus taught that it was a wonderful place of rejoicing, worship, reward, and treasure. God's will is always done in heaven.  
Matthew 6:10
3. According to Jesus Christ, Heaven is said to be as real as planet earth.  
Matthew 16:19; 28:18
4. So, if you died today, are you 100% sure that heaven would be your home?
  - Have you trusted Jesus Christ as your only hope of heaven?
  - He is the way!
  - If your faith is resting in Him, you will be there with Him one day.