

Heaven

By Bob Young

Introduction

Especially focus today in Rev 21-22. Bible begins with story of paradise—ends with story of paradise. Lost/regained. This is the intention of God, this is the plan of God, to be in fellowship with his creation. God is creating a new order.

There is a heaven.

There are many theories, how many—3 or 7, where are they?

Not going to speculate on the unknown. But of the existence of heaven there is no doubt, John 14.

There is something after this life, because we are obviously more than animals.

Whether there is or is not a heaven is a question of faith. It is in the realm of that which cannot be demonstrated in the physical world. That there is no heaven is a faith matter, equally that heaven exists.

Heaven appeals to our higher nature, goodness, kindness, shows us the potential of humankind, what we can be, what is our best nature.

One argument for the existence of God in summary is that God exists because we can think of him, because we can conceive him. There is more detail, but it is logically consistent.

The same argument exists with regard to the existence of heaven. Because we can conceive of utopia, because it is part of the thinking and hope and dream of human beings. Paradise lost, paradise regained.

Heaven is...

Reading: Rev 21:1-5; 22:1-7

1 A place without suffering. (21:4; cf. 22:2-3)

In comparison, earth is a place of suffering, separation, death, mourning, crying, pain.

2 A place where God is, Jesus is. (21: 3; 22:4) Full fellowship, how desirable! Face to face. Communication, existence, relationships dear and never broken. As David said in the death of his son, we can go to those who have gone before us.

3 Eternal, forever. Heaven is a forever place for forever people.

Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people.

Attitudes

*People who delight in the word of God, people who feed on the word of God, Ps. 1. Give examples.

**People who love the things of God, love one another, value one another, authentic, accountable, serving and being served, connecting. Enjoy worship, praying, full fellowship with God, church, fellowship, sharing. Give examples.

Manner of life

*People of peace, Heb. 12, also Matt 5:8, there was a great multitude—not a bunch of grupitos. Genuine love. Shooting rampage in Colorado church/mission training center, why? The man responsible took his own life, feeling rejected by those who promised to love him.

**People of holiness, Heb. 12. (Cf. Rev. 21:8)

Specific preparations

*People of obedience, 2 Thess. 1:8-10.

**Imitators/followers of Jesus, Rom. 6:1-6

Conclusion

Prepared or unprepared?