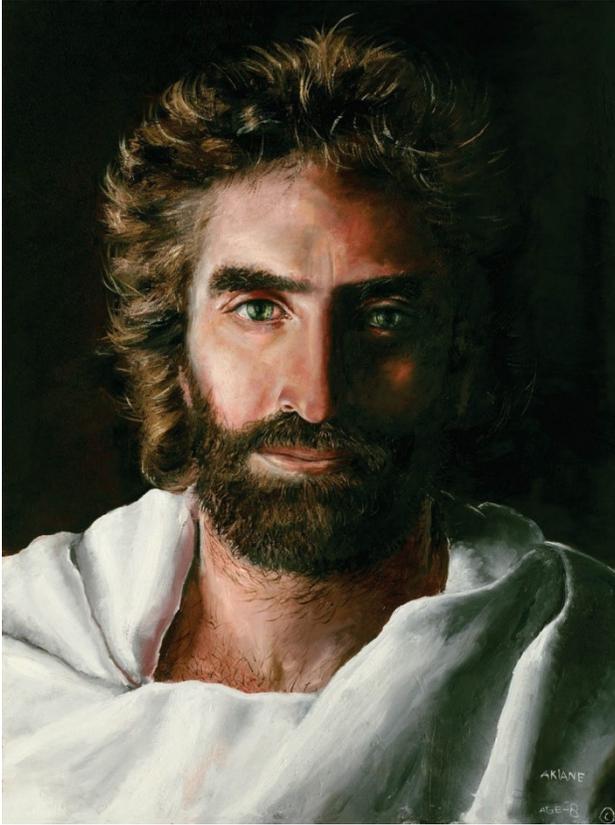


Heaven: The Eternal Home of Jesus ... and Me!

"Jesus Seeks an Intimate & Eternal Relationship with Me"

Question: What will be the single best thing about Heaven?



Key Thoughts:

- 1) God loves us with His heart, desires an intimate relationship with us, and hopes we seek Him with our hearts! God chooses to have a personal relationship with us and it brings Him pleasure!**
Acts 17:24-27
Eph 1:3-5
Rev 3:20
Psalms 8:4-5
Is 29:13; 62: 4, 12
- 2) God loves us and wants a relationship with us even though we are sinners, ungodly, and fall far short of His glory.**
Romans 5:6-8; 3:23

- 3) **Jesus loves us and desires a relationship with us so much that He humbled Himself - endured the cross and it's shame, suffered and died and paid our sin debt to potentially have an eternal, intimate relationship with you and me! (Heb 12:1-3; Phil 2:5-11).**

The basic gospel is summarized in I Cor 15:1-8. Some key scriptures include:

- a) Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"
- b) Romans 6:23 "For the wages (consequences) of sin is death, BUT the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord"
- c) I Peter 3:18 "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God".
- d) John 3:16 "For God so loves the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life".
- e) II Corinthians 5:21 "God made Him (Jesus) who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God"
- f) John 1:12 "... to all who received Him (Jesus), to those that believe in His name, He gave the right to become children of God"
- g) Romans 10:9, 13 "... if you confess with your mouth 'Jesus is Lord' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved ... Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved"

- 4) **If we have a personal relationship with Jesus, He lives in us, and so does God the Father and the Holy Spirit (John 14:16-17, 20-23; Romans 8:9-11; 2 Corinthians 13:5). Someday we will see Jesus face-to-face and spend eternity with Him! (John 14:1-3; Revelation chapters 21 & 22).**

- 5) **Having a personal relationship with Jesus has its benefits now too. Here are some key thoughts from John chapter 10, verses 3 - 30:**

Verse 3: Jesus knows us by name (individually)

Verses 4-5: Jesus leads us

Verses 7-9: Jesus is "the Gate" – the only way of salvation. Jesus takes care of us.

Verse 10: Jesus wants to give us a full life (spiritually meaningful and relationally rich)

Verses 11-15: Jesus is the "Good Shepherd"; He knows and cares for us and willingly gave His life for us.

Verses 24-25: Jesus is the Messiah/Christ/Savior. His miracles alone prove this fact.

Verses 28-30: Jesus gives us eternal life; we shall never perish and no one can snatch us out of the hands of Him or His Father

6) God knows us individually; He wants a “sacred romance”, a “marriage” type relationship with us!

- God knows us individually (Psalm 139; John 10:3, 14; 2 Tim 2:19; Is 43:1, 45:3, 49:1)

The Bible speaks of a “marriage” type relationship between God/Jesus and the Church/Christians

Is 54:5-7; Jer 2:2, 3:14, 20, 31:32; Hosea 2:2-5, 3:1, 9:1

Song of Solomon?

Matthew 9:14-15

Eph 5:31-32

Rev 19:6-9 (Is 25:6; Mat 22:2-12)

7) Jesus “courts” us (seeks an intimate relationship with us) in a variety of ways:

- By His creation (Rom 1:18-20; Ps 19:1-6)
- By His word (Jn 14:21, 23)
- By the Holy Spirit (Jn 14:15-18)
- By the “good gifts” He gives us (Mt 7:11; Jm 1:17)
- By the church and other Christians (Acts 2:42-47)
- By past demonstrations of His love (e.g. the Cross) (Rom 5:8)
- By worship/praise/thanksgiving (Jn 14:23-24; Eph 5:19-20; Col 3:16-17)
- By speaking to our hearts (I Ki 19:10-13; Rev 3:20)
- By telling us of His future plans for us (Jn 14:1-3)

8) Jesus is excitedly looking forward to us being in Heaven with Him!

- He wants to show us His glory! (John 17:24; Ex 33:11,18-20)
- He wants us to reveal our glory (which comes through Him) (Rom 8:14-25)

There are “new” things He wants to give us for our enjoyment with Him!!

- New *name* (a private name known only by us and Him) Rev 2:17; Is 62:2, 65:15
- New *home* (special dwelling place just for us) John 14:1-3
- New *body* (similar to His) I Cor 15:35-58
- New *clothes* (white robes) Rev 3:4-5
- A new *life* (eternal life full of incomprehensible joys, adventures and relationships) I Cor 2:9; Rev 21 & 22, etc