

The Bible teaches that anyone who believes in Jesus Christ will be saved and go to heaven to spend eternity with God. But what is heaven like? Many Christians think of heaven as a place where you will sit on a cloud and strum a harp forever. Is this what the Bible teaches about heaven? What does heaven look like? What will we do in heaven? Will we recognize each other once we get to heaven? These are questions many of us have about heaven, and unfortunately, the Bible doesn't ever just come out and say exactly what heaven will be like. However, many times in the Bible, people of God have been given a brief look into heaven, and have recorded what they saw. Today, we will be looking at a couple of passages of Scripture in which the Apostle John saw glimpses of heaven.

Revelation 7:9-12

After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen."

What does this passage tell us about heaven?

What questions does this description bring up?

Later, John has a vision of the end of the world, and finally, he sees God's restoration, a creation of a new heaven and new earth where God's people will spend eternity with Him. Here's how he describes it:

Revelation 21:1-7

Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.

Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.

And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."

And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.

He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be my son.

Describe what John saw and heard in paragraph one and two, specifically about heaven and a new earth.

How does God describe himself in the third paragraph? What do you think is the significance of these descriptions?

What questions does this passage bring to your mind?

Below is a painting of the last judgment. The Bible teaches that there is a heaven and it also describes a place of punishment. The painting below was one man's conception of the last judgment.

Describe what is happening in the painting?

What emotion do you feel by looking at this painting?



Stephan Lochner. The Last Judgment, c. 1435-40. Oil and gold on oak panel, 49 x 68 cm. Wallraf-Richartz Museum. Cologne, Germany