

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE DIE?



Part 2 – What Will Heaven Be Like? Selected Scriptures

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I. OUR ETERNAL LIFE WILL COME IN **TWO STAGES**.

- A. Stage One: The **temporary**. The Bible clearly teaches that the moment our body dies our **spirit** goes to be with God in heaven. That initial position will be temporary.

Philippians 1:21-24 "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body."

Luke 23:43 "Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

Ecclesiastes 12:7 (NIV) "...and the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the **spirit returns** to God who gave it."

- B. Stage Two: The **forever**. The Bible also says that at the Second Coming of Christ there is a resurrection in which our old bodies are resurrected and changed into spiritual bodies. Our spirit will be reunited with our resurrected bodies. It says God will create a new heaven and a new earth. Heaven comes to join with a new earth and it will be on this **earth** remade, that we will live throughout eternity.
- C. In both the temporary and the forever stages, a central theme is **Light** – the Shikinnah Glory of God.

II. WE WILL **KNOW** EACH OTHER IN HEAVEN.

Luke 9:28-30 "About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. 29 As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. 30 Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem."

Genesis 25:8 (KJV) "Then Abraham gave up the ghost, and died in a good old age, an old man, and full of years; and was gathered to his people."

Numbers 27:12, 13 (KJV) "And the Lord said unto Moses, Get thee up into this mount Abarim, and see the land which I have given unto the children of Israel. 13 And when thou hast seen it, thou also shall be gathered unto thy people, as Aaron thy brother was gathered."

Matthew 8:11 "And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven".

III. WHEN WE ARE IN HEAVEN, WE WILL BE **FULLY US**, ONLY PERFECTED.

2 Corinthians 12:2-4 (NIV) "I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know--God knows. 3 And I know that this man--whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows-- 4 was caught up to paradise. He heard inexpressible things, things that man is not permitted to tell."

A. When we get to heaven we will be **fully us** with some kind of substance for a body. We will be able to see, hear, touch, taste & speak. We will have memory and anticipation.

B. In heaven, the **mysteries** of the universe will then be understood.

1 Corinthians 13:12 "Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known."

C. In heaven, we will finally reach **perfection**.

1 John 3:2 "Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when He appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is."
