

Will We Spend Eternity in Heaven?

REVELATIONS 21 VERSES 1-3

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. 2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

INFORMATION

The short answer to today's question is NO. We will not spend eternity in heaven. Many believers think that when we die we go to heaven and that is where we stay forever. We will, indeed, go to heaven when we die, but we will not remain there for all of eternity. The Bible explains this. The end of time will involve the destruction of the heaven and the earth; God will destroy them because they are both tainted by the presence of sin. Then God will make a new heaven and a new earth, and God will establish a city that is His, and it will be called the New Jerusalem. We will reside on that new earth with the ransomed saints, and sin will not exist in this new heaven and earth. Also, there will not be any death, pain, sorrow, or suffering.

WHAT IT MEANS TO OUR FAMILY

The thought of heaven is overwhelming. The descriptions we have of heaven paint a picture of amazing beauty and untold wonders. Nevertheless, heaven is not our eternal home. As Christians, we will spend eternity with God himself and at the very least, it will involve a new earth. We will see Jesus face-to-face and will experience a full life that we cannot truly fathom. We should strive to have a complete understanding of the Bible and not just surface knowledge, so that we can obtain an understanding of what God has planned for us.

Additional Thoughts

Revelation 21 settles the question for us by declaring that God will dwell with his people in a city that comes down out of heaven onto the new earth. However, we must not forget that heaven is a real place, the place where God dwells. It is a created place like the earth and it too will be destroyed and a new one made. Sin has entered into heaven (through Satan) so it too will be purged and made new. We can think of heaven as a proxy for our eternal home without losing sight of the promised future God's word foretells.

Relevant Passages on Heaven

Matthew 6:19-21

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: 20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: 21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

1 Peter 1:3-5

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Philippians 3:20-21

For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: 21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.