



## BAC 90: WHAT WILL HEAVEN BE LIKE?

*November 3, 2024*



### WHY DOES THIS QUESTION MATTER?

- 2 Corinthians 11:24-27: “Five times I received the forty lashes minus one from the Jews. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I received a stoning. Three times I was shipwrecked. I have spent a night and a day in the open sea. On frequent journeys, I faced dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my own people, dangers from Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers at sea and dangers among false brothers; toil and hardship, many sleepless nights, hunger and thirst, often without food, cold, and without clothing.”
- 2 Corinthians 4:16-18: “Therefore we do not give up. Even though our outer person is being destroyed, our inner person is being renewed day by day. For our momentary light affliction is producing for us an absolutely incomparable eternal weight of glory. So we do not focus on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”
- **Main Principle:** \_\_\_\_\_ thinking fuels \_\_\_\_\_ living.
  - Hebrews: 11:13-16 (abridged): “These all died in faith... and confessed that they were foreigners and temporary residents on the earth... But they now desire a better place—a heavenly one.”
  - C.S. Lewis: “If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did the most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this.”
- **Problem:** Many Christians think Heaven will be \_\_\_\_\_.
  - We imagine an eternal worship service or floating on the clouds playing harps.
  - An inaccurate view of eternity leads to chasing short-term \_\_\_\_\_, not eternal \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Why do so many people have an inaccurate view of eternity? \_\_\_\_\_
    - Revelation 13:6: “It opened its mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who dwell in heaven.”



## FOUR MYTHS ABOUT ETERNITY

- **Myth #1:** Heaven, as it currently exists, is our eternal \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Heaven: God’s central \_\_\_\_\_ place, the location of His \_\_\_\_\_.
  - When we die, our \_\_\_\_\_ enter God’s presence in Heaven.
    - 2 Corinthians 5:8: “...we would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.”
    - Philippians 1:23: “I long to depart and be with Christ—which is far better—but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for your sake.”
  - Heaven, as it currently exists, is an \_\_\_\_\_ state.
    - Hebrews 12:22-23: “Instead, you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God (the heavenly Jerusalem), to myriads of angels, a festive gathering, to the assembly of the firstborn whose names have been written in heaven...”
    - Revelation 21:1-2: “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away... I also saw the holy city, the New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God...”
    - Revelation 21:3: “Then I heard a loud voice from the throne: ‘Look, God’s dwelling is with humanity, and he will live with them.’”
- ✓ **Truth #1:** When we die, our souls enter God’s presence in Heaven. After Christ returns, Heaven and Earth will be united, and our forever home will be on the \_\_\_\_\_.

- **Myth #2:** We will dwell in the \_\_\_\_\_ realm forever.
  - We will NOT become \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Our bodies will be \_\_\_\_\_ and made immortal.
    - 1 Corinthians 15:51-53: “Listen, I am telling you a mystery: We will not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at

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the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible... For this corruptible body must be clothed with incorruptibility, and this mortal body must be clothed with immortality.”

- The empty tomb and Jesus’ \_\_\_\_\_ are proof that Christ’s resurrected body was the \_\_\_\_\_ body that died on the cross.
- There will be \_\_\_\_\_ between your present body and your resurrected body. You will always be \_\_\_\_\_!
- There will be \_\_\_\_\_ between our present Earth and the New Earth.
  - Romans 8:19, 21: “For the creation eagerly waits with anticipation... the creation itself will also be set free from the bondage of decay into the glorious freedom of God’s children.”
  - “New Heavens and New Earth”—the Greek word for “new” is *kainos*, which means “renewed”—it carries a sense of continuity.
    - 2 Corinthians 5:17: “If anyone is in Christ, he is a *new* creation; the old has passed away, and see, the *new* has come!”
  - John Piper: “When Revelation 21:2 and 2 Peter 3:10 say that the present earth and heavens will ‘pass away,’ it does not mean that they go out of existence, but may mean that there will be such a change in them that their present condition passes away. We might say, ‘The caterpillar passes away, and the butterfly emerges.’ There is a real passing away, and there is a real continuity, a real connection.”
- We were \_\_\_\_\_ for this Earth.
  - Genesis 2:7: “Then the LORD God formed the man out of the dust from the ground...”
  - Randy Alcorn: “That God would come down to the New Earth to live with us fits perfectly with his original plan. God could have taken Adam and Eve up to Heaven to visit with him in his world. Instead, he came down to walk with them in their world... Understand that in order to get a picture of Heaven—which will one day be centered on the New Earth—you don’t need to look up at the clouds; you simply need to look around you and imagine what all this would be like without sin and death and suffering and corruption.”

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✓ **Truth #2:** We will have \_\_\_\_\_, resurrected bodies and dwell on the \_\_\_\_\_ Earth.

• **Myth #3:** Eternity will be \_\_\_\_\_.

• We will be in God's direct \_\_\_\_\_.

• Revelation 21:16: "He measured the city with the rod at 12,000 stadia. Its length, width, and height are equal... and the city was pure gold."

• 1 Kings 6:20: "The inner sanctuary was twenty cubits long, twenty wide and twenty high. He overlaid the inside with pure gold."

• Revelation 22:4: "They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads."

• Erik Thoennes: "The adventure of knowing God provides never-ending vistas of glory."

• We will experience a renewed creation set free from the \_\_\_\_\_.

• Revelation 22:3: "...and there will no longer be any curse."

• We've never experienced creation apart from the effects of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

• We will experience \_\_\_\_\_ apart from the effects of sin.

• Revelation 21:24-25: "The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never close..."

• Jerusalem will be like the \_\_\_\_\_ city, but there will likely be other cities.

• God created His image-bearers to glorify Him through \_\_\_\_\_ achievements.

• Imagine new books, movies, music, art, architecture, technology, food, and sports—all apart from the effects of sin!

• Anthony Hoekema: "The possibilities that now rise before us boggle the mind. Will there be 'better Beethovens' on the new earth? Shall we read better

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poetry, better drama, and better prose? Will scientists continue to advance in technological achievement? Will geologists continue to dig out the treasures of the earth, and will architects continue to build imposing and attractive structures? Will there be exciting new space travel? Our culture will glorify God in ways that surpass our most fantastic dreams.”

- Imagine being able to \_\_\_\_\_ without worrying about time, money, or safety.
- We will experience \_\_\_\_\_ apart from the effects of sin.
  - Genesis 2:15: “The LORD God took the man and placed him in the garden of Eden to work it and watch over it.”
  - Imagine discovering exactly what God created to do and having the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to pursue it.
  - What could you accomplish with unlimited time—and a body and mind that never grow old?
- We will experience \_\_\_\_\_ apart from the effects of sin.
  - Imagine spending time with loved ones and the saints of the past, with no more \_\_\_\_\_ relationships or \_\_\_\_\_.

✓ **Truth #3:** We will experience creation, culture, work, and relationships as they were always \_\_\_\_\_ to be, while dwelling in God’s direct presence.

• **Myth #4:** We will all be \_\_\_\_\_ in eternity.

- Sinless doesn’t equal \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Revelation 7:9: “After this I looked, and there was a vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, which no one could number, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.”
  - There will forever only be \_\_\_\_\_ all-powerful, all-knowing Being!
  - We will still have \_\_\_\_\_ passions and abilities.
  - We will continue to \_\_\_\_\_.

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- Randy Alcorn: “It’s illogical to assume everyone in Heaven will be able to compose a concerto with equal skill or be able to throw a ball as far as everyone else. In a perfect world, Adam was bigger and stronger than Eve, and Eve had beauty, sensitives, and abilities Adam did not have. In other words, diversity—not conformity—characterizes a perfect world.”
  - We will receive different \_\_\_\_\_ based on what we do in this life.
    - Revelation 22:12: “Look, I am coming soon, and my reward is with me to repay each person according to his work.”
    - Luke 19:17: “‘Well done, good servant!’ he told him. ‘Because you have been faithful in a very small matter, have authority over ten towns.’”

✓ **Truth #4:** We will have unique \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

- **Summary:** We will have resurrected bodies on a resurrected Earth, enjoying resurrected friendships in a resurrected culture with a resurrected Jesus!



## WRAPPING UP

- Takeaway: \_\_\_\_\_ in eternal treasures, not short-term pleasures.
  - 1 Timothy 6:18-19: “In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.”
- Jim Elliot: “He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.”
- Practical Steps (Choose One):
  1. Get a Bible reading plan.
  2. Read Revelation 21-22 every day for a week.
  3. Read *Heaven* by Randy Alcorn.