

H E A V E N

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
(Genesis 1:1)

God Is the Creator of Heaven

The very first verse in the Scriptures reveals to us the existence of heaven, and its Creator—God. Other writers in the Scriptures testify to this truth as well.

By the word of the Lord the heavens were made,
And by the breath of His mouth all their host.
(Psalm 33:6)

Thus declares the Lord who stretches out the heavens,
lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man
within him.
(Zechariah 12:1)

And when they heard this, they lifted their voices to God
with one accord and said, “O Lord, it is Thou who didst
make the heaven and the earth and the sea, and all that is in
them.”
(Acts 4:24)

For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that
by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the
earth was formed out of water and by water,
through which the world at that time was destroyed,
being flooded with water.
(2 Peter 3:5, 6)

Throughout the Scriptures we see the word “heaven” in either singular or plural form. God Himself dwells in the height of heaven (Job 22:12). The apostle Paul writes about a man in Christ (most probably himself) who was caught up to the third heaven (2 Corinthians 12:2).

Heaven Is God’s Dwelling Place

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the
sons of Israel, ‘You yourselves have seen that I have
spoken to you from heaven.’ ”
(Exodus 20:22)

The Lord is in His holy temple; the Lord’s throne is in
heaven;

His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men.

(Psalm 11:4)

For God is in heaven and you are on the earth; therefore let your words be few.

(Ecclesiastes 5:2)

After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven . . .

And behold, a throne was standing in heaven, and One sitting on the throne.

(Revelation 4:1, 2)

Jesus Came from Heaven

And no one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven, even the Son of Man.

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up;

that whoever believes may in Him have eternal life.

(John 3:13–15)

Jesus is called the Word who became flesh, and dwelt among us (John 1:14). He was in the beginning with God and was God. All things came into being by Him (John 1:1–3). Jesus came from heaven, and after He accomplished His earthly mission, He returned to heaven to sit down at the right hand of God, the Father.

Believer's Eternal Home Is in Heaven

Jesus said,

“Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.

“In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.

“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”

(John 14:1–3)

For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

(2 Corinthians 5:1)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

(1 Peter 1:3–5)

We Christians are citizens of heaven (Philippians 3:20), and our names are recorded in heaven (Luke 10:20). Glory to God!

If nothing else here on earth gives us reason to rejoice, this truth alone should be a motivation for our joy. Beloved, think about eternity in the presence of the Lord.

Jesus said,

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.

“But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal;

for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

(Matthew 6:19–21)

. . . while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

(2 Corinthians 4:18)

New Heaven and Earth

For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth;
And the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.

(Isaiah 65:17)

Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

(Mark 13:31)

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements

will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

(2 Peter 3:10)

But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

(2 Peter 3:13)

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea.

(Revelation 21:1)

God appointed a day, "The Day of the Lord" (2 Peter 3:10), also called "The Day of God" (2 Peter 3:12), and He will put an end to heaven and earth, as we know it now. We are looking for a new heaven and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

The heavens are telling of the glory of God;
And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.

(Psalm 19:1)

Whom have I in heaven but Thee?
And besides Thee, I desire nothing on earth.

(Psalm 73:25)

Jesus said,

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven."

(Matthew 7:21)

And I say to you, that many shall come from east and west, and recline at the table with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.

(Matthew 8:11)

John answered and said, "A man can receive nothing, unless it has been given him from heaven."

(John 3:27)

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels,

to the general assembly and church of the first-born who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of righteous men made perfect,

and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel.

(Hebrews 12:22–24)

Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation, or shifting shadow.

(James 1:17)