



# THE PHYSICALITY OF HEAVEN

# HEAVEN

## HEAD IN THE CLOUDS

The common misconception is that Heaven is a city in the sky, situated amongst the clouds.

There's a lot of decent logic behind this:

- God's transcendence
- Jesus' ascension
- Various miracles

However, when we think about it, we know that Heaven isn't a physical place, so that won't work.

## HEAVEN IS SPIRITUAL

"Heaven is spiritual."

That's not incorrect; it's incomplete.

Heaven is, right now, a spiritual reality.

Heaven's Population: God, billions of souls, one Man

Jesus is still a physical (though glorified) human being.

## HUMANS ARE PHYSICAL

God made the first man out of dirt and then breathed "life" into him.

Ever since then, humanity has been a hybrid—physical and spiritual.

The Fall tipped the balance toward the physical, but that doesn't make physicality inherently evil.

Both our physical nature and spiritual nature were cursed in the fall, but not just us, all of creation was cursed as well.

## THE FIRST RESURRECTION

Jesus rose from the dead, physically.

His physical body was redeemed, made perfect.

He ascended to Heaven in this same state, a true human being, physical and spiritual at the same time.

Paul starts with this fact in 1 Corinthians 15 and then uses it to launch into his discussion of our glorification.

## 1 CORINTHIANS 15:20-23

20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. 22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. 23 But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him....

## 1 CORINTHIANS 15:53-56

53 For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.

54 When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."

55 "Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?"

56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

## OUR RESURRECTION...

In this long, beautiful chapter, Paul uses Christ's resurrection to point to and explain our own resurrection.

When Jesus walked the earth, He lived as we were meant to live, perfectly, in harmony with God.

Now, Jesus is in Heaven, living the life we've been promised: as a glorified, perfected human, in God's presence forever.

## CREATION'S RESTORATION

Jesus is still a true human, physical and spiritual.

Our destiny is to be like Jesus, resurrected as glorified humans.

If this is the case, then a spiritual Heaven doesn't make sense.

But Earth is cursed and broken—where will we go after the resurrection?

Paul addresses this in Romans 8:

## ROMANS 8:18–21

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

## NEW CREATION

So the goal for creation is resurrection.

For something to be resurrected, it must die. This world will face “destruction” (2 Peter 3), but it won't be a total, final destruction. It will end with a resurrection.

So what? What's the point of a “resurrected” creation?

It's the setting for eternity.

## REVELATION 21:1–5

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

## REVELATION 21:1-5

3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.' 5 He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!"

## HEAVEN-ON-EARTH

God wants to go back to the Garden, in a sense.

His plan has never changed: He wants to live with us in this world He created.

We're going to be resurrected and redeemed as we are to live with God forever; Culture comes with us.

Thus, Heaven is a grand, physical paradise wherein we'll spend eternity learning, growing, creating, worshipping, knowing, and loving our God.

## NOW & NOT YET

**Now:** Heaven is a spiritual reality where the souls of our dearly departed are awaiting their resurrection. We, also, are waiting for our spiritual resurrection to be manifestly physical.

**Not Yet:** Heaven will come to earth, physically forever. We will live with God as has been His desire from the beginning.

Heaven is coming to earth; as those who have a taste (spiritual) of the coming resurrection, we are to be God's advance team, working toward the restoration of humanity and creation.