

# Heaven and Hell

Part 2- Understanding the Intermediate Heaven



# God doesn't want it to be a complete mystery

- 1 Thessalonians 4:13 *“Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope.”*



# What is “Intermediate Heaven?”

- It isn’t “limbo”
- It isn’t purgatory
- It isn’t “Halfway Heaven”
- It isn’t the place for people who “aren’t quite there yet”



# What is “Intermediate” or “Present” Heaven?

- It is where we go when we die, but before the final resurrection
- Paradise in anticipation of the New Earth
- Present with the Lord
- Intermediate, because we have not yet received our eternal resurrection bodies
- Present, because it is existent and populated now
- Temporary, though we will be present with God forever



# Defining Heaven Properly

- It is wherever God chooses to dwell, wherever His throne is
- It is “far better” than here on earth now-  
Phillipians 1:28
- The eternal state has God dwelling and ruling from the New Jerusalem on Earth
  - Heaven will be on Earth in the eternal state



# Questions about Heaven

- Will we live there forever?
- Will we be with the Lord forever?
- Will we always be with Him where He is right now?





Intermediate Heaven as DFW?



# The anti-incarnational view of Heaven

- This view assumes that the New Earth should not be called “Heaven”
- Rooted in the view that only the spiritual is truly good, and the physical is less so, or bad



# Scriptures teaching Heaven on Earth

- Revelation 21:1-3 *“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. **2** And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. **3** And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.”*
- John 14:23 (Jesus speaking of anyone who would be his disciple) *“My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him”*



# Questions about the Intermediate State

- Will we remain conscious after death?
  - Lazarus and the rich man- Luke 16:22-31
  - Absent from the body, present with the Lord- 2 Corinthians 5:8
  - Martyrs in Heaven, crying out to God- Revelation 6:9-11



# Questions about the Intermediate State

- Is Heaven a physical place?
  - Stephen's vision of Heaven Acts- 7:55-56
  - Gehazi seeing the angelic warriors- 2 Kings 6:17
  - The temple in Heaven filled with smoke- Revelation 15:8
  - Physical elements in Heaven- throughout Revelation
    - scrolls, people with faces and clothes, carrying palm branches, etc.
  - Earthly temple as a "copy and shadow" of what is in Heaven- Hebrews 8:5



# Questions about the Intermediate State

- Do people have bodies of some sort in the Intermediate Heaven?
  - Revelation 6:9-11 and the Greek word for “souls” (does not normally mean disembodied spirit)
  - 2 Corinthians 12:3- It is a mystery even to Paul
  - Jesus- Acts 1:11
  - Enoch- Hebrews 11:5
  - Elijah- 2:11-12



# Questions about the Intermediate State

- KEY: The future bodily resurrection, and our eternal resurrection bodies at the eternal state is ESSENTIAL, and the ultimate fulfillment of God's promises
- This is far above and beyond anything the we might experience in the intermediate state



# Questions about the Intermediate State

- Do we remember our life on earth?
  - We are comforted for our suffering-Luke 16:25
  - We will give an account- 2 Corinthians 5:10
  - The martyrs calling out for justice- Revelation 6:9-11



# Questions about the Intermediate State

- Do people in Heaven see or are they sad about what is happening on the earth?
  - Again, the martyrs in Heaven- Revelation 6:9-11
  - Samuel and the witch of Endor- 1 Samuel 28:16-19
  - The Transfiguration conversation- Luke 9:31
  - Those who rejoice over the repentant- Luke 15:7-10
  - Sadness doesn't completely end until Revelation 21
    - Before then, they see with greater and better perspective