

# Why I Believe In Heaven

**Introduction.** Do you believe in heaven? I do. Why? I believe in heaven because I want to believe in heaven. Heaven is the hope and goal of my faith. Realistically, though, it takes more than just wanting to believe in something to make it true. Heaven is not a fairy tale, a relic of ancient religious folklore. It is real. I believe in heaven for the following reasons:

## I. ***Because I Believe In God***

- A. The physical world, through cosmology, physics, astronomy, biochemistry, biological information, and consciousness, shows design and purpose thereby attesting to the existence of God (Psalm 19:1-6).
- B. Once I can accept the existence of God, then accepting that He created everything, including heaven (Acts 4:24), is a logical conclusion. Heaven is the abode of God (Psalm 11:4; 103:19; Isaiah 66:1). His Son Jesus affirmed this to be true (Matthew 5:34; 6:9).

## II. ***Because I Believe In Jesus***

- A. The books Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John were written to tell us about Jesus. These four gospels are imminently reliable and faithfully preserved. Furthermore, their reliability is attested by evidence outside of the witnesses themselves; namely, Greco-Roman historians and archeology.
- B. The gospel writer John records that Jesus came to bear witness of the truth (John 18:37). Thus, everything Jesus told us is the truth.
  1. Before His betrayal and death, Jesus assured His disciples that heaven was real and was waiting for them (John 14:1-3).
  2. Jesus spoke of the reward of the righteous in heaven (Matthew 25:31-34, 46; Luke 10:20).
  3. Finally, when Jesus left this world, He ascended into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God (Mark 16:19; Hebrews 1:3; 12:2).
- C. If I believe in Jesus, I must believe in heaven. He spoke the truth when He spoke about heaven, and He is there now.

## III. ***Because I Believe In The Bible***

- A. The word "inspiration" in 2 Timothy 3:16 means "God breathed." This means the entirety of scripture is the product of the mind of God, not the mind of man (1 Corinthians 2:10-13; 2 Peter 1:20-21).
  1. The proofs of inspiration include the Bible's unity and historicity, the foundation of science, fulfilled prophecy, impartiality, and the laws of logic.
  2. Because of these proofs, I can believe that the sum of every word in the Bible, from cover to cover, is true (Psalm 119:160).

- B. Heaven is a doctrine expressed by the writers of the Bible, so I believe in heaven. Enoch and Elijah were the first human inhabitants of heaven (Genesis 5:24; 2 Kings 2:11). They will be followed by all the faithful saints (2 Corinthians 5:1-2; 2 Timothy 4:6-8; 1 Peter 1:4; Revelation 2:10).
- C. A great passage about heaven is Revelation 21:1-22:5 because it portrays heaven with three beautiful images.
  - 1. The tabernacle (21:1-8) -- portrays heavenly life as perfect fellowship.
  - 2. The city (21:9-27) -- portrays heavenly life as perfect protection.
  - 3. The garden (22:1-5) -- portrays heavenly life as perfect provision.

#### IV. ***Because I Believe In Hell***

- A. Jesus spoke of hell more than anyone else in the Bible.
  - 1. He described hell as a place of outer darkness with weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matthew 8:12), a place where the worm does not die and the fire is not quenched (Mark 9:44), and as a place of everlasting punishment and fire prepared for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41, 46).
  - 2. Hell exists because God's righteousness demands that evil and sin be punished (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9). If evil has a punishment, then we can understand that righteousness has a reward. Heaven is the exact opposite of hell. Instead of eternal life, it is the second death (Revelation 20:6, 14; 21:8). Heaven is the realization of man's existence the way God intended it to be from the beginning.
- B. I believe in heaven because I believe in hell. The same God, Savior, and Bible proclaim the existence of both.

**Conclusion.** Do you believe in heaven? Do you want to go there? You can! Jesus is the way to heaven (John 14:6). He is the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him (Hebrews 5:9). Why not obey the gospel today and "press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14)?