

Heaven Open

Acts 7:55-56 55 But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 56 "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

1. Let's calculate the coordinates of heaven

▼ Heaven is away and apart from us

Proverbs 30:4 Who has gone up to heaven and come down?

▼ Heaven is above us, up from us

2 Kings 2:1 the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind,

Matthew 14:19 Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves.

Acts 1:9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

2 Corinthians 12:2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know—God knows.

▼ Heaven is ahead of us

Acts 7:55 Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 56 "Look," he said, "I see heaven open

Revelation 4:1 After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here,

2. Let's investigate the inhabitants of heaven

▼ God the Father is there on his throne

Revelation 4:2 At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it.

Psalms 102:19 The LORD looked down from his sanctuary on high, from heaven he viewed the earth,

Matthew 6:9 "This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

▼ The Holy Spirit is there, but also extending out into all the earth

Revelation 4:5 Before the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God.

Revelation 5:6 the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

▼ Jesus is there in his resurrected and glorified body, but marked with evidence of his crucifixion

John 14:2 In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.

Acts 1:9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

Hebrews 1:3 After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

Colossians 3:1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

1 Peter 3:21 Jesus Christ, 22 who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

Revelation 5:6 Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders.

Romans 8:34 Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

▼ Multitudes of angelic creatures are there in heaven worshipping God and the Lamb

Revelation 4:8 Day and night they never stop saying: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come."

Revelation 5:11 Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne

Revelation 5:12 In a loud voice they sang: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"

▼ The spirits of believers who have died through the centuries and millennia are there in a new body

2 Corinthians 5:1 Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.

2 Corinthians 5:8 We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

Ephesians 3:14 For this reason I kneel before the Father, 15 from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name.

Acts 7:55 Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 56 "Look," he said, "I see heaven open

Philippians 1:23 I desire to depart and be with Christ,

2 Peter 1:14 I know that I will soon put the tent of this body aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. 15 And I will make every effort to see that after my departure

John 14:2 In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.

3. Let's analyze the atmosphere and activities in heaven

▼ Heaven is a place where believers are better by far

Philippians 1:23 I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far;

▼ Heaven is a place where believers are free from the cares of this life

Revelation 7:16 Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. — 17 — *The Lamb* will lead them to springs of living water — God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

▼ Heaven is a place where believers receive the crown of righteousness

2 Timothy 4:8 Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me,

▼ Heaven is a place where believers give an account of their lives and receive rewards

Romans 14:10 For we will all stand before God's judgment seat.

2 Corinthians 5:10 we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

▼ Heaven is a place free from the devil's influence and power

Luke 10:18 Jesus replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.

▼ Heaven is a place where believers see clearly and know fully

1 Corinthians 13:12 Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

▼ Heaven is a place where believers enjoy eternal life

John 3:16 God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

▼ Heaven is a place where believers worship God and the Lamb

Revelation 5:13 "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!"

4. Let's focus on the future of heaven

▼ At the end of time, God will create a new heaven and a new earth

Revelation 21:1 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.

▼ The Holy City, New Jerusalem, will come down out of heaven from God to the new earth

Revelation 21:2 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 21:11 It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.

Revelation 21:22 I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

Revelation 21:23 The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.

▼ God's redeemed people will be there

Revelation 21:7 Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

▼ God's redeemed people will be forever free and whole

Revelation 21:4 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.

▼ There will be no more curse and no more night

Revelation 22:3 No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. 4 They will see his face,

Revelation 22:5 There will be no more night.

5. Let's rejoice in the reality of heaven

▼ The believer who dies now will forever be with the Lord

John 14:3 I am going there to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

1 Thessalonians 4:17 And so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage each other with these words.

▼ The invitation to heaven is ringing out now

John 3:16 God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Revelation 22:17 The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift

John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.