

**Acts 7:55-56** <sup>55</sup> 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. <sup>56</sup> "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. <sup>56</sup> "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, <sup>22</sup> 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 worshiping 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, <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>56</sup> "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. <sup>15</sup> 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. — <sup>17</sup> — *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. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>1</sup> Thessalonians 4:17 And so we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup> 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.