

Do You Believe in Heaven?

Do You Believe?

Central Idea

- Heaven is the secure inheritance, of priceless value, awaiting the redeemed.

Objectives

- Believers inherit the kingdom of heaven
- Nature of the heavenly inheritance
- Heavenly rewards
- Resurrection body a heavenly inheritance

Believers inherit kingdom of heaven

Their inheritance is secure

- Matthew 25:34 (NIV) — 34 “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.’”

Believers inherit kingdom of heaven

The value of their inheritance is beyond human calculation

- 1 Corinthians 2:9–10 (NIV) — 9 However, as it is written: “What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived”— the things God has prepared for those who love him— 10 these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.

Believers inherit kingdom of heaven

As those adopted into God's family they are heirs of God and Christ

- Romans 8:17 (NIV) — 17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Nature of the heavenly inheritance

It is inviolable

- 1 Peter 1:4–5 (NIV) — 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

Nature of the heavenly inheritance

It is a response to faith and love

- James 2:5 (NIV) — 5 Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?

Nature of the heavenly inheritance

It is for overcomers

- Revelation 21:7 (NIV) — 7 Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

Nature of the heavenly inheritance

The heavenly treasure is to be sought

- Matthew 6:20–21 (NIV) — 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Heavenly rewards

Service will be rewarded in heaven

- 1 Corinthians 3:14 (NIV) — 14 If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward.

Heavenly rewards

The prospect of heavenly rewards should be a spur to present service

- Philippians 3:14 (NIV) — 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Heavenly rewards

Rewards will vary

- Matthew 16:27 (NIV) — 27 For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.

Heavenly rewards

Endurance for Jesus Christ's sake will be specially rewarded

- Matthew 5:10–12 (NIV) — 10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Heavenly rewards

Rewards for service include crowns signifying position and authority

- 1 Peter 5:4 (NIV) — 4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

Heavenly rewards

The redeemed will share Jesus Christ's position in glory

- Ephesians 2:6 (NIV) — 6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,

Resurrection body a heavenly

- Philippians 3:21 (NIV) — 21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

Conclusion

- Believers inherit the kingdom of heaven
- Nature of the heavenly inheritance
- Heavenly rewards
- Resurrection body a heavenly inheritance

Plan of Salvation — Hear

- Romans 10:17 (ESV)
- 17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Plan of Salvation — Believe

- Hebrews 11:6 (NIV)
- 6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must **believe** that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Plan of Salvation — Confess

- 1 Timothy 6:12 (NIV)
- 12 Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good **confession** in the presence of many witnesses.

Plan of Salvation — Repent

- Luke 13:3 (ESV)
- 3 No, I tell you; but unless you **repent**, you will all likewise perish.

Plan of Salvation — be Baptized

- Acts 2:38 (NIV)
- 38 Peter replied, “Repent and be **baptized**, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Plan of Salvation — Steadfast

- Revelation 2:10 (NIV)
- 10 Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be **faithful**, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown.

Plan of Salvation

Hear

Believe

Confess

Repent

Be Baptized

Remain Steadfast

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