

Heaven

“He who testifies to these things says ‘Yes, I am coming soon’.”
Revelation 22:20

Play the song ‘The Great Adventure’ by Steven Curtis Chapman as people enter the class

Will we laugh in heaven?

Martin Luther said that if there’s no laughter in heaven, he didn’t want to go there.

Luke 6:21 says we will laugh and it’s okay to do it, providing it’s appropriate. There’s nothing like the laughter of dear friends and family. **Proverbs 17:22** says laughter is good medicine.

Jesus says one of the terrible things about Hell is the absence of laughter. **Luke 6:23,25**

Some jokes will make the transition, but many won’t.

Will we design and build better things, travel in space or time, etc.?

As we’ve mentioned before, God gave us gifts and skills. **Exodus 31:1-6; 35:35**

Think of how we’ll use them when they’re enhanced...

Technology is a God-given gift that enables us to fulfill His command to exercise dominion over the created order. Ever wonder why the universe is so big? Maybe we’ll spend eternity exploring it? Maybe in spaceships or something equivalent? Maybe we’ll land on and develop new worlds, and discover new physical principles about matter, space or time? Maybe we’ll discover why the stars display God’s glory? **Psalm 19:1**

Maybe there will be aliens on other worlds (don’t take this too far since all of creation fell and will be redeemed). Science fiction is often riddled with ungodly philosophies but some of it may be true because imagination and our sense of adventure is a God-given ability. Will we time travel? Maybe God will allow us to see the past from His perspective?

Maybe we’ll see God’s responses to our past prayers, especially when we think He didn’t directly answer us? Will God show us what almost happened to us when we made certain decisions? Will we see how missing an exit on the freeway saved us from a crash? Wouldn’t this fill us with gratitude to God for protecting us? What about when we made the wrong decisions and God still stayed with us? Perhaps we’ll see the ripple effects of what we considered small things or things we did and didn’t even remember – like George Bailey in the movie “It’s a Wonderful Life”.

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Will we design and build better things, travel in space or time, etc.? (continued)

Maybe we'll see events in history as proof of God's power to make all things work for the best (***Romans 8:28***) like the death of a baby or some other historical event. We'll no longer have to cling by 'faith' because we'll be able to 'see' it. Remember God created 'time' when He created the universe. God can exist in time but He can exist outside of it because He is not bounded by it. If it glorifies God, couldn't it happen? Maybe ***Ephesians 2:6,7*** is a little bit fuller in meaning now: "that in the coming ages He might show the incomparable riches of His grace." If all of this seems otherworldly, it is! If it seems more than you can imagine, remember ***Ephesians 3:20*** about God being able to do beyond what we can ask or imagine...

Show PowerPoint pictures of flying cars.

The best is yet to come....

Our peak doesn't come in this life, it comes in heaven and will continue for eternity. I don't look forward to getting older and dying, I LOOK BEYOND IT. Everything done in dependence on God in this life will bear fruit for eternity.

Thinking about the Great Adventure...

Randy Alcorn says this: "I've never been to heaven but I miss it. Eden's in my blood. We live between Eden and the new Earth, pulled toward what we once were and what we yet will be. Desire is a signpost pointing toward heaven. What God tells us about our future lives enables us to interpret our past and serve Him in our present. Meditating on heaven is a great pain reliever. It reminds us that suffering and death are temporary conditions.

LESSON 7

Heaven

“He who testifies to these things says ‘Yes, I am coming soon’.”
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Death will forever be defeated:

1st Corinthians 15:25,26 **Isaiah 25:7,8** **1st Corinthians 15:54,55**

C.T. Studd said: “Only one life, ‘twill soon be past; only what’s done for Christ will last.”

Galatians 6:7-9 says we’ll reap in eternity what we’ve planted in this life.

Knowing that this life will end and be resurrected into a new life should profoundly affect how we live our daily lives now. **2nd Peter 3:11-14** was never more meaningful than now.

Recognizing our future life on a resurrected Earth can help empower each of us to work on our marriage now, or to help an ailing parent, or to stay the right course with a troubled child, or to stay in a demanding job. Moses stayed faithful to God because “he was looking ahead to his reward.” **Hebrews 11:24-26**

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob did this also. **Hebrews 11:8-10**

Many others did also. **Hebrews 11:32-12:3**

Randy Alcorn says that following Jesus is not a call to abstain from gratification but to redefine it and delay it. The most ordinary moment on the new Earth will be greater than the most extraordinary moment in this life. Life on the new Earth will be like sitting in front of a fire with family and friends, basking in the warmth, laughing uproariously, dreaming of the adventures to come and then going out and living those adventures together. **Revelation 22:12-14, 17, 20, 21**

Reference book: Heaven by Randy Alcorn

Website: www.theopedia.com an encyclopedia for evangelical Christianity

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