

MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY



IS THERE REALLY A HEAVEN?

There is an on-going debate in America surrounding the question “Is there really a Heaven?” This is a question you may be asked as you reach out to people with the love of Christ. On one side was the controversial scientist Stephen Hawking who said “Heaven is just a fairy tale for folks who are afraid of the dark.” On the other side was Colton Burko, the little boy who had a near death experience and says he went to heaven. His dad, Todd, then wrote a book on his behalf entitled “Heaven Is For Real.”

So let’s explore this issue tonight. “Is Heaven real?”

F.Y.I. - There are many scriptures relating to Heaven and hell. For example, “heaven” is referred to 235 times in the New Testament, 186 times in the Old Testament, for a total of 421 references to Heaven. Hell is mentioned 54 times in the Bible. “Sheol” is mentioned 65 times. “Hades” is mentioned nine times, and “lake of fire” five times, for a total of 133 references to hell and its derivatives. Because there are so many references on the subject, we will only use scriptures from the Gospel of Matthew for tonight’s study on Heaven.

QUESTIONS:

1. Select and read some of the scriptures below from Matthew, then discuss the follow up questions, as well as any others that may arise during your study.

SCRIPTURES ON HEAVEN FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

3:2,16-17	4:17
5:3,10,12,16,18-20,34,45	6:1,9-10,20
7:11,21	8:11
10:7,32-33	11:11-12,25
12:50	13:24,31,33,44-45,47,52
14:19	16:1,19
18:1-4,10-19,23	19:12,14,21,23
20:1,25	22:2,30
24:35-36	25:1
26:64	28:2,18-20

2. Is Heaven real? Who created Heaven?
3. When Jesus began preaching, what was His message? Is that significant, and why or why not?
4. Is Heaven just a spiritual place, is it a physical place, is it both or neither? Justify your position.
5. According to Jesus, what is Heaven like? Who will go to Heaven? Who is His disciple?
6. If there is a Heaven, is there also a hell? Why is that important?
7. Who is in heaven now? Who will spend eternity in Heaven?
8. How can a person be sure they are going to go to Heaven?
9. Are you personally going to Heaven? How do you know? How can you know for sure?
(See Romans 10:9-13 and 1 John 5:12-13).

Pray with anyone in your group who is not sure they are going to Heaven; allow them to pray and ask Jesus into their hearts if that is their need. Pray that God will give you a Divine opportunity to tell someone else how to go to Heaven this week.

P.S. Statistics show that nearly 75% of all Americans do believe there is a Heaven, and 60% believe there is a hell. Do you believe?