



## ZION - HEAVEN

*Planted Christians Study #26*

*“But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to and innumerable company of angels,”*

*Hebrews 12:22*

### *Lesson Overview*

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  - B. It Will Continue Forever
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We are finally here. We have arrived at our last lesson in the Planted Christian series. We have studied twenty-five different doctrines or Bible truths in which every Christian should be deeply and firmly planted.

The last letter of our series is of course the letter “Z.” We will allow the letter “Z” to stand for Zion.

The word “Zion” is found 153 times in the Old Testament. The New Testament word for “Zion” is spelled with an “S” rather than a “Z.” The Word “Sion” is found 9 times in the New Testament.

Regardless of its Old Testament or New Testament spelling it is the same word.

The word “Zion” in Scripture refers to the city of Jerusalem.

*II Samuel 5:6,7 And the king and his men went to Jerusalem unto the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land: which spake unto David, saying, Except thou take away the blind and the lame, thou shalt not come in hither: thinking, David cannot come in hither. Nevertheless David took the strong hold of Zion: the same is the city of David.*

In the Bible, the city of Jerusalem is referred to as the literal, current city that is in existence in the nation of Israel; however, the Bible also refers to a “New Jerusalem” or a “New Zion.”

This New Jerusalem or New Zion spoken of in the Bible is another name for heaven. In simple terms the coming Zion, also known as the New Jerusalem is Heaven.

*Hebrews 12:22 “But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to and innumerable company of angels,”*

In this last lesson we will be studying the New Zion known as Heaven. What a wonderful topic and truth to be planted in, the truth of Heaven.

It is important to note that there are three different uses of the word heaven in the Bible.

We see the first Heaven in Daniel 1:9

*Daniel 4:12 “...the fowls of the heaven dwelt in the boughs thereof, and all flesh was fed of it.”*

From this verses we see the term Heaven used to describe our atmosphere. This is the heaven that we can see with our eyes.

We see the second heaven in Genesis 22:17

*Genesis 22:17 That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;*

From this verses we see heaven is used to describe the stellar heavens or outer space.

This is the heaven that we can see with telescopes. But even with the most advance telescopes we can only see a tiny fraction of the stellar heavens.

We see the third heaven in Matthew 6:9

*Matthew 6:9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.*

*II Kings 8:39 “Then hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and forgive,...”*

From these verses we see the term heaven used to describe the Abode of God.

The word heaven is used in the Bible to describe three completely different places; the atmosphere, the stellar heavens or outer space, and the abode of God.

When you see the word heaven in the Bible, you need to look at the context to tell which one is being referred to.

In this study we are referring to the third heaven or the abode of God.

However, because Heaven is only one of the two eternal destinations of a soul, we are compelled to also study the atrocious place called Hell.

Therefore the letter “Z” will represent the New Zion and Hell or Heaven and Hell.

We will examine this last study into two parts; part one will be the study of Heaven while part two will be the study of Hell.

Without further ado, let’s jump into part one – Heaven.

In studying heaven, we will use five simple words upon which we will file all of the truth that we learn.

- Origin
- Occupants
- Observations
- Occurrences
- Option

These five words will answer five basic questions about heaven.

- Origin Where did Heaven come from?
- Occupants Who lives in Heaven?
- Observations What is Heaven like?
- Occurrences What happens in Heaven?
- Option How can a person go to Heaven?

We will begin by learning what the Bible says about the origin of Heaven.

## **I. The Origin of Heaven – *Where did heaven come from?***

### **A. It Was Created By God For His Glory.**

*Colossians 1:16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:*

Notice the phrase, “*all things were created by him and for him;*”

Simply put god created everything, even heaven. All things were created to glorify God.

### **B. It Will Continue Forever**

Heaven will have no end! While it is true that according to Revelation 21:1 our earth will not endure forever, the third Heaven or the abode of god will have no end.

*II Corinthians 5:1 For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.*

Heaven is continually being prepared. The buildings in Heaven are a work in progress!

### **C. It Is Continually Being Prepared**

*John 14:1-3 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*

Imagine that God created this earth in six literal days, but he has been working on our eternal home for 2,000 years! How glorious it must be!

Now that we know the origin of Heaven, let’s look at our second word “occupants” to see who lives in Heaven.

## **II. The Occupants of Heaven – *Who lives in heaven?***

The most obvious occupant of Heaven is God the Father.

### **A. God The Father**

*I Kings 8:30 And hearken thou to the supplication of thy servant, and of thy people Israel, when they shall pray toward this place: and hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place: and when thou hearest, forgive.*

The second occupant of Heaven is God the Son or Jesus Christ.

### **B. God The Son**

While God the Son did once leave Heaven and come to earth to die for the sins of man, He now abides in Heaven.

*Hebrews 9:24 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:*

After Christ finished work on earth, He ascended back to Heaven where He is now seated at the right hand of God and intercedes for His children.

*Romans 8:34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.*

The next occupant of Heaven is angels.

### C. Angels

It is important to note that not ALL angles live in Heaven. When Lucifer was cast out of Heaven in Isaiah 14 for the sin of pride, one third of the angles were thrown out with him according to Revelation 12:4

The remaining angles, although at times travel to and from earth abide in Heaven.

*Matthew 18:10 “...in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.”*

*Revelation 7:9-11 “After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. And all the angels stood round about the throne.....and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,”*

The last group of occupants of Heaven is the souls of men that have died in Christ.

### D. The Souls Christians That Have Already Passed Away

All of those who have died in Christ go directly to Heaven.

*II Corinthians 5:6-8 Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.*

*Luke 23:39-43 And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.*

There is no Purgatory in the Bible! There is no hint of a place called limbo in the Bible. To die with Christ is to gain immediate access to a literal place called Heaven!

Now that we have learned the Origin of Heaven and the Occupants of Heaven we will turn our attention to the Observations of heaven, or what Heaven is like.

### III. The Observations of Heaven – *What is heaven like?*

We must first recognize that no man can adequately describe Heaven. We cannot conceive how wonderful Heaven will be. Our minds cannot comprehend its beauty and greatness.

*I Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.*

While we cannot fully comprehend Heaven, we can learn some truths about it from God's Word. We will first try to understand the physical appearance of Heaven.

### A. The Appearance Of Heaven

*Revelation 21:10-21 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal; And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof. And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal. And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel. And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass. And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst. And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.*

In these verses we learn much about Heaven's appearance.

- Walled City (vs.12)
- 4 Walls With 4 Gates On Each Wall (vs.12)
- 12 Foundations (vs.14)
- Cubed City (vs. 16)
- Dimensions Are 12,000 Furlongs Cubed (vs. 16)  
*A furlong is .125 miles making Heaven 1,500 miles wide, 1,500 wide, and 1,500 miles tall making Heaven 3,375,000,000 miles cubed!*
- Its Walls Are Made of Jasper (vs.18) *That is 9 million square miles of Jasper!*
- The Contents Are Made of Pure Gold (vs. 18)
- The Foundations Are of Precious Stones (vs. 19)
- Each Of The Twelve Gates Are Made Of One Pearl Each (vs. 21)

What a city! The amazing appearance continues with what is gloriously missing in Heaven.

### B. The Absences In Heaven

*Revelation 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.*

*Revelation 21:22-23 And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.*

*Revelation 21:25 And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.*

*Revelation 22:3 And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:*

Consider all of the things that WILL NOT be in Heaven.

- No Tears (21:4)
- No Death (21:4)
- No Sorrow (21:4)
- No Crying (21:4)
- No Pain (21:4)
- No Temple (21:22)
- No Sun or Moon (21:23)
- No Night (21:25)
- No Curse of Sin (22:3)

Think about Heaven and all of its glory, and remember we can't image the splendor of Heaven. How beautiful Heaven must be!

If I had all the words in our language to use at a moment's command  
If I had all the beautiful pictures of nature, the sea, and the land;  
If I spoke in a voice never ending speaking only of loveliness,  
I couldn't begin to tell you how beautiful heaven is.

I never, no never could tell you how beautiful heaven is,  
I never, no never could vision it's magical lovliness  
If the gift of the sil'vry haired masters and prophets I could possess,  
I couldn't begin to to tell you how beautiful Heaven is.

If I mixed all the glorious sunsets with the fathomless myst'ries of Mars  
If I mixed all the beauty of springtime with the gleam of the moon and  
the stars  
If I added the love of all mothers and the thrill of a baby's kiss  
I couldn't begin to tell you how beautiful heaven is.

If I had all the hues of the rainbow translated to beautiful words  
If I had all the magical music If I had all the songs of the birds  
If I had all the wisdom of sages To help me my theme express  
I couldn't begin to tell you how beautiful heaven is.

Heaven, how beautiful it must be!

Let's now turn our attention from the origin, occupants, and observations of Heaven to the occurrences in Heaven.

#### **IV. The Occurrences of Heaven – *What happens in heaven?***

Cartoons have always pictures those in heaven sitting on white clouds floating around the sky while playing a harp with a golden halo suspended over their heads.

This is not the Bible description of what will be occurring in Heaven. The first occurrence that we see clearly taught in the Bible is that the redeemed will be singing the praises of God while gathered around His throne.

##### **A. We Will Sing Praises To God**

*Revelation 5:9-12 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.*

Not only will we sing praises to God, but we will serve God around His throne for all eternity.

## B. We Will Serve God

*Revelation 7:15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.*

*Revelation 22:3 And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:*

It is clear that we will be serving Him for all eternity.

The last occurrence in heaven that we will consider is that we will see one another and fellowship with one another.

## C. We Will See One Another In Heaven

One of the most common questions regarding Heaven is, “Will we know one another in heaven?” The answer is a definite yes.

David under inspiration of the Holy Spirit penned these words regarding his son that died as an infant.

*II Samuel 12:22-23 And he said, While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, Who can tell whether GOD will be gracious to me, that the child may live? But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.*

Another Scripture that teaches this truth is Matthew 7:1-4.

*Matthew 17:1-4 And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him.*

Moses and Elijah had died hundreds of years before Peter, James, and John lived, yet they recognized them! While I do not know our exact appearance in heaven, I do believe that we will both recognize and know one another. We will have fellowship with one another as we sing to and serve God.

I would caution those whose greatest focus regarding heaven is seeing their loved ones. While in heaven we will see our loved ones who have died in Christ, they will not be our primary focus. Immediately upon entering Heaven our consuming desire will be to see and worship our Savior.

We have now come to our fifth and final thought of Heaven, the option of Heaven.

## V. The Option of Heaven – *How can I go to heaven?*

Heaven is not an automatic for every person that has ever been born. Many falsely believe that everyone is going to Heaven. These people are mistaken. Not everyone will go to Heaven. Actually more people will NOT go to Heaven than WILL go to Heaven.

*Matthew 7:13-14 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.*

The truth is that no one is by default bound for Heaven. The contrary is true. Everyone is bound for Hell until we change our eternal destination.

To exercise our option of receiving Heaven and rejecting Hell we must first recognize that we are sinners.

## A. Recognize You Are A Sinner

The Bible says that all men are sinners and that our sins have separated us from God.

*Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God*

*Romans 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*

Sin is simply breaking God's Law. Once man has recognized that he has sinner, he must recognize the penalty of sin.

## B. Recognize That Sin Must Be Paid For

*Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death....*

Wages means payment. The payment of our sin is death and hell, separation from God forever. If we continue in our sin, we shall die without Christ and be without God forever.

This is exactly what happened to the rich man in Luke 16.

*Luke 16:22-23 ...the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments...*

Hell is the just payment for man's sin.

After recognizing that all men deserve Hell for their sins, man must recognize that Christ has made a way of escape for us and paid the penalty for sin on our behalf.

## C. Recognize That Christ Paid For Our Sins

The good news is that Christ paid for our sins. All of our sins were laid on Christ on the cross. He paid our sin debt for us. The Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross to pay for our sins.

*Romans 3:23 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

*II Corinthians 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

*Galatians 1:4 Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:*

The last step for a man to gain Heaven is for him to place his faith in Jesus Christ alone and receive Him as his personal Savior.

## D. Receive Christ As Your Personal Savior

Man must personally believe in his heart in Christ atonement for sins and pray and receive Christ by faith.

*Romans 10:10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

*Romans 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

If you have not made Heaven your eternal home, will you call upon Christ now to be your Savior? Heaven is waiting!