

Thy Kingdom Come (Day 9) Friday 29th May 2020

'If My people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray, and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, **then I will hear from heaven....**'

Is heaven real?

Heaven is not something we hear much about any more, outside of the church or sadly even within. In our post modern culture with our scientific mindset, we demand proof for everything and unless we can observe it then it's simply not science therefore not real! Have you ever tried to see gravity and paint it blue? I cant see a headache but I know when I've got one!

So is heaven a real place? When God spoke to Solomon in the passage we have been reflecting upon over these last 9 days, God said to Solomon, 'I will hear from heaven...' so the obvious answer is yes! But what does Scriptures have to say about this mysterious place?

The Scriptures tells us a number of things about heaven, consider the following as a starting point for there is much to say....

When Jesus was on the cross and the thief asked Jesus to remember him when He came into His Kingdom, Jesus promised, today you will be with me in Paradise, which is significant for 3 reasons

1. It's the home of Jesus (Jn 14:2-3)
2. It's the home of the Father, the Kings throne (Isa 66:1; Acts 7:49)
3. It's a beautiful place (Rev 21)

After Jesus' resurrection He appeared to many over a period of 40 days with many convincing proofs of His resurrection. Then on the 40th day while on the Mt Olives with His disciples He ascended, before their very eyes, returning to reclaim His glory and take His seat at the right hand of the throne of God (Mark 16:19, Luke 24:51, Acts 7:55-56)

Jesus not only went before us, entering on our behalf, but He is alive and has a present ministry in heaven, serving as our High Priest in the true tabernacle made by God (Hebrews 6:19-20; 8:1-2). Jesus Himself tells us that He will one day come back to earth and take us to be where He is in heaven (John 14:1-4)

Therefore our belief as Christians in an eternal home in Heaven based on an explicit promise of Jesus. Heaven is most definitely a real place. Heaven truly does exist.

When people deny the existence of Heaven, they deny not only the written Word of God, but they also deny the innermost longings of their own hearts. Paul addressed this issue in his letter to the Corinthians, encouraging them to cling to the hope of Heaven so that they would not lose heart. Although we "groan and sigh" in our earthly state, we have the hope of Heaven always before us and are eager to get there (2 Corinthians 5:1-4)

Paul urged the Corinthians to look forward to their eternal home in Heaven, a perspective that would enable them to endure hardships and disappointments in this life. "For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal” (2 Corinthians 4:17-18).

The writer of the book Ecclesiastes says that God has placed eternity in the hearts of men. And this is true when we think about our own demise. We know one day we will say goodbye to this world but we never think it's going to be in the next 5 minutes!! We always think its sometime in the future, never a present reality we may take our last breath.

This is because we were created for eternity and so this is what the writer of Ecclesiastes meant when he writes, God has planted eternity in our hearts.

Paul writing to the church in Rome says that God has put in men's hearts the knowledge that He exists, so are we “programmed” to desire Heaven. Read Romans 1:19-20. The Scriptures actually call those who don't believe there is a God as fools (see Psalm 14:1)

Heaven is such a wonderful hope in a world that is cursed with entropy, prone to decay and death, that it has inspired countless books, songs, and works of art.

Unfortunately, our sin has barred the way to Heaven. Since Heaven is the abode of a Holy and perfect God, sin has no place there, nor can it be tolerated. Fortunately, God has provided for us the key to open the doors of Heaven—Jesus Christ (John 14:6). All who believe in Him and seek forgiveness for sin will find the doors of Heaven swung wide open for them.

May the future glory of our eternal home motivate us all to serve God faithfully and wholeheartedly. “Since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is his body, and since we have a great high priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart full of assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water” (Hebrews 10:19-22).

Pray for your 5 that they may have an awakening to the reality that cries out in their hearts longing for more than the world offers because we were created for an eternity.