

Is Heaven a Temporary or Permanent Place?

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Often I am asked by those who are aware that I believe God is great enough to save everyone – AFTER they have reaped what they have sown, and because the Bible repeatedly affirms that God IS going to save everyone:

“Do you believe everybody will go to heaven?”

My answer is, “Of course not. But I DO believe that everybody eventually will be saved.”

“Then you must believe that everyone will go to heaven,” they respond.

“No,” I answer, “because Heaven is a temporary place.”

Christians seem to believe that everyone who is saved will go to heaven forever. But that’s not what the Bible says. Indeed, everyone who is saved, and eventually that will include everyone who has ever lived on this earth, will live forever - - - but not in heaven.

Heaven is a temporary place.

Is there more than one heaven? The Bible speaks of 3 heavens (2 Cor 12:2).

- 1) Our immediate atmosphere
- 2) Outer Space (where the sun, moon and stars are)
- 3) Where God lives, presumably Orion because Orion is where stars are “born” and Orion is a place in the sky where everyone on earth can see it at the same time.

Speaking of the Second Coming of Christ, the Bible says:

“Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.” 1 Thess 4:17

Indeed, the righteous taken to heaven at the Second Coming WILL “ever be with the Lord” but not for an eternity in heaven.

Where will the Judgment take place?

Revelation 20:

Satan Bound to this earth 1,000 Years

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. ² He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is *the* Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years (the millennium); ³ and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.

After Jesus comes, will the earth be populated during the Millennium?

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, **and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.** ²

Peter 3:10

Judgment takes place on earth.

⁴ And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then *I saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received *his* mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a^[a] thousand years. ⁵ But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection. ⁶ Blessed and holy *is* he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

Satanic Rebellion Crushed

⁷ Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison ⁸ and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the **earth**, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number *is* as the sand of the sea. ⁹ They went up on the breadth of the **earth** and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. ¹⁰ The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet *are*. And they will be tormented day and night for the eon of the eons.

The Great White Throne Judgment

¹¹ Then I saw a **great white throne** and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. ¹² And I

saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things that were written in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades (the grave) delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵ And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire

Rev 21: 1-3 : **1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.**

2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, **coming down out of heaven from God**, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, **“Behold, the tabernacle of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God**

Revelation 5:9-10, the people that Jesus will redeem at judgment will become kings and priests to God and **reign on the earth;**

Heaven is a temporary place for the righteous to dwell

God will make His headquarters of the universe on earth because this is the site of his greatest achievement: by His death on the cross – to change – and to save - every sinner who has ever lived.