

# Heaven: Our Misconceptions

Revelation 21:1-27

## Introduction

### I The Content Of Our Misconceptions

- A. Sitting on clouds with harps and wearing white robes
- B. Watching fat little cherubs floating by
- C. Spending all of eternity:
  - 1. Worshipping God and Jesus Christ - Rev 4-5
  - 2. Recounting the experiences of past saints - Heb 11-12:1
  - 3. Peppering God with:
    - a. Our “Why” questions
    - b. Our “Theological” questions
  - 4. Living a life disconnected from the past
  - 5. Anticipating an endless, monotonous, unfulfilling future

### II The Sources Of Our Misconceptions

- A. The world:
  - 1. History and culture - Rom 1:21
  - 2. False religions and philosophies - Matt 24:10-11
  - 3. Media - 2 Cor 11:14-15
- B. The church
  - 1. An undeveloped theology of Heaven - 1 Thess 4:13
  - 2. A lack of biblical teaching on Heaven - Dt 29:29; 1Cor 2:9
- C. Satan
  - 1. His person
    - a. The ancient serpent - Gen 3:1; Rev 12:9; 20:2
    - b. The deceiver of the world - Jn 8:44; 13:5-6
    - c. The one who leads the whole world astray - Rev 12:9
  - 2. His purpose
    - a. To usurp God’s authority and glory - Is 14:12-15
    - b. To thwart God’s plan of redemption
    - c. To blockade the way to Heaven - Matt 23:13
  - 3. His plan
    - a. To deter salvation - Mt 13:19; Jn 10:10
    - b. To discourage service and evangelism - Acts 17:13

c. To depress godly anticipation - 1 Cor 15:19

### III The Consequences Of Our Misconceptions

- A. An undeveloped understanding of Heaven - 1 Cor 15:19
- B. A distorted and flawed view of Heaven - 2 Tim 2:15
- C. An unappealing view of Heaven resulting in:
  - 1. A low drive for eternal things - Col 3:1-4
  - 2. A high drive for temporal things - Mt 6:19-21
  - 3. A neglect of the Great Commission - Mt 28:19-20

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Take some time this week to consider the following:

1. What are some of the first things that come to mind when you think of Heaven? How much inspiration and motivation do you derive in your daily life from your anticipation of Heaven?
2. What questions, if any, would you like to ask God when you get to Heaven? Do you have more “Why” questions or more “Theological” questions?
3. What cultural, religious or media influences have confused you about what Heaven will be like? To what extent do you believe these influences are orchestrated by Satan? How have they impacted your views and anticipation of Heaven?
4. What impact has the lack of a developed understanding of Heaven had on 1) Your passion for and obedience to Christ? 2) Your willingness and capacity to persevere under trial? 3) Your participation in sharing the Good News with those around you? 4) Your ambition to make your life count for eternal things?
5. Take a few minutes to write down what you know about Heaven. Tuck this paper away in your Bible and review after our series is over to discover how much you have learned.

**BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE**

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