

Second Heaven - Heavenly Bodies

And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, Genesis 1:14 (ESV)

Third Heaven - God's Home

What is heaven like?

Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. 2 Corinthians 5:8 (ESV)

I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. Philippians 1:23 (ESV)

How can I be sure to be with Jesus when I die?

Ask Jesus to be:

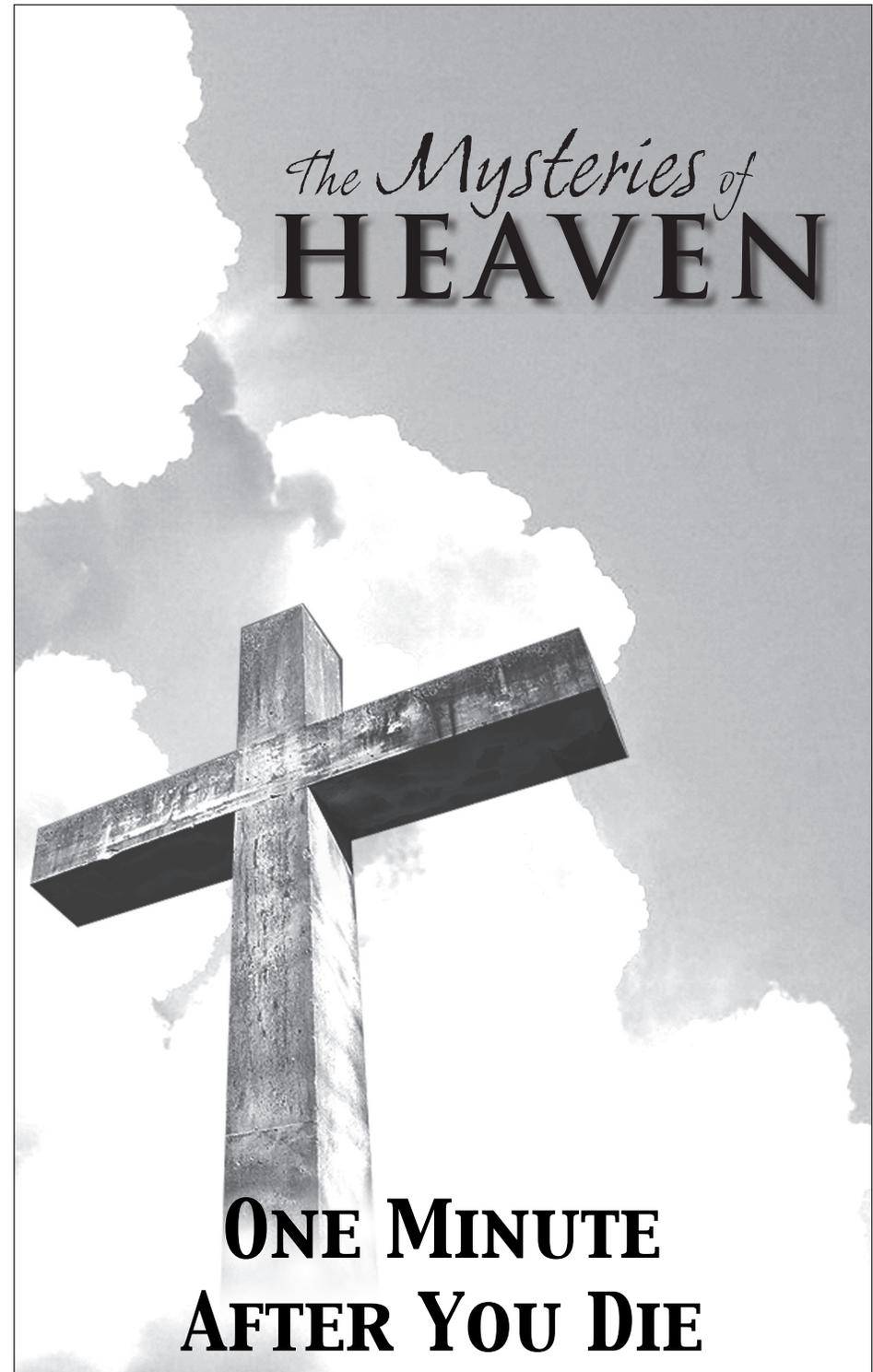
- The savior for my sin
- The king in my heart.
- The joy of my life.

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Want To Learn More? This handout, small group questions, sermon manuscript and the audio files of the sermon are available at:

www.faithfree.com or www.christ2rculture.com

Next Week: When Heaven Gets Better - What is the new creation?
Two Weeks: Welcome to the Heavenly City - The New Jerusalem



Faith Evangelical Free Church

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One Minute After You Die

Progressive Revelation - God reveals more about himself, his plans and our eternity over time.

Sheol - Afterlife in the Old Testament

1. Sheol is not Hell.
2. Sheol means more than grave.
3. English doesn't have a good word for Sheol.

All his sons and daughters came to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted. "No," he said, "in mourning will I go down to the grave to my son." So his father wept for him. Genesis 37:35 (NIV)

All his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted and said, "No, I shall go down to Sheol to my son, mourning." Thus his father wept for him. Genesis 37:35 (ESV)

4. Sheol was the place of the righteous and the wicked.

So they and all that belonged to them went down alive into Sheol, and the earth closed over them, and they perished from the midst of the assembly. Numbers 16:33 (ESV)

What about Lazarus?

Paradise = The compartment of the righteous in Hades.

he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. Acts 2:31 (ESV)

For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,... Psalm 16:10 (ESV)

But God will ransom my soul from the power of Sheol, for he will receive me. Selah Psalm 49:15 (ESV)

since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. Hebrews 11:40 (ESV)

I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. 2 Corinthians 12:2–4 (ESV)

First Heaven - Earth's Atmosphere

For as the heavens are higher than the earth... For as the rain comes down... from heaven." Isaiah 55:9-10

5. All who entered Sheol did not have the same experience.

For a fire is kindled by my anger, and it burns to the depths of Sheol, devours the earth and its increase, and sets on fire the foundations of the mountains. Deuteronomy 32:22 (ESV)

6. The righteous hoped for rescue from Sheol.

But God will ransom my soul from the power of Sheol, for he will receive me. Selah Psalm 49:15 (ESV)

and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. Hebrews 2:15 (ESV)

Hades - Afterlife in the New Testament

Sheol = Hades

and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.' Luke 16:23–26 (ESV)

The rich man was alive and in agony.

And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.' Luke 16:24 (ESV)

There was no second chance.

And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.' Luke 16:26 (ESV)

He knew he deserved it.

And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house— for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' Luke 16:27–28 (ESV)

He knew what he was missing.

and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. Luke 16:23 (ESV)

then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment, 2 Peter 2:9 (ESV)