**Introduction:** What’s your idea of heaven?

**Review – A biblical overview**

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<th>PAST (Genesis 1-2)</th>
<th>PRESENT (Genesis 3 – Revelation 20)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Original mankind</td>
<td>Fallen mankind; some believe and are transformed</td>
<td>Resurrected mankind</td>
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<td>Original earth</td>
<td>Fallen earth with glimmers of the original</td>
<td>New earth; resurrected on mankind’s coattails</td>
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<td>God delegates earth’s reign to innocent mankind</td>
<td>Disputed reign with God, Satan, and fallen mankind</td>
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<td>Creation and mankind are perfect</td>
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<td>Mankind in ideal place</td>
<td>Mankind banished, struggles, and wanders in fallen places</td>
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<td>God’s plan for mankind and earth revealed</td>
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*From Randy Alcorn’s book *Heaven*
Question: What’s Heaven like?

What will heaven be like if you died today?  
Revelation 4-20

A moment after a believer dies…

1. Angels usher your soul to heaven.  
Luke 16:22

2. You immediately enter God’s presence.  
2 Corinthians 5:6-8

3. You are conscious, in command of your faculties of thinking, feeling, speech and memories.  
Luke 16:19-31

4. You participate in magnificent worship with angels and believers before the throne of God and Christ.  
Revelation 4-5

5. You are aware to some degree of activities and events on earth.  
Revelation 6:9-10  
Hebrews 11 & 12

6. You will recognize and communicate with believers who preceded you to heaven.  

7. You will be joined by all living Christians when Jesus “raptures” the Church from the earth to be judged for rewards at the Bema Seat. You will then enjoy the Marriage Supper of the Lamb in heaven with Christ and His Bride.  
2 Corinthians 5:10  
Revelation 19:6-10

8. You will await God’s judgment of the earth at the end of the tribulation and will be bodily resurrected to reign and judge with Christ for 1,000 years on the earth.  
Revelation 20:4-6

9. You will witness the justice of God at the judgment of Satan, angels and the wicked dead at the Great White Throne.  
Revelation 20:11-15

10. You will witness the new heaven coming down on the new earth.  
Revelation 21:1
What will heaven be like in the new heaven and the new earth? Revelation 21-22

1) It will be a lot like the “new” ________.
   - Just as my body will be __________________________. 1 Corinthians 15:40-53
     so the earth will be __________________________.
   - My new body will be like __________________________. 1 John 3:2-3
   - Jesus’ resurrected body _______ and _______ and had flesh and bone and new capabilities. Luke 24:39

2) It will be a lot like the old ________.
   - The new heaven and new earth is __________________________. Revelation 21:1
   - The old earth “passes away” not __________________________. 2 Peter 3:8-9
   - Like the “old me” passed away, so will the old ________. 2 Corinthians 5:17
   - The new earth = New, better, different, but with continuity from the old earth.

Summary:
- As mankind was, so was the earth.
- As mankind went, so went the earth.
- As mankind will be, so will be the earth.
Two big questions for you:

1. Do you know for certain that you’ve trusted God’s plan and accepted Jesus’ sacrifice for your salvation?

2. On what are you focusing / how are you living today?

Discussion Questions:

1. What new fact about heaven or the intermediate heaven most surprised you? Why?

2. What about heaven give you the most comfort and hope? Why?

3. How does a specific and clear view of heaven impact how and why you live each day?

4. What are some of the sobering aspects of entrance into heaven and the justice of God’s judgment for those who reject Him?

Recommended Resources:

Book – *Heaven* by Randy Alcorn
Book – *The Glory of Heaven* by John MacArthur
CD Series – *The Revelation* by Chip Ingram