

# CHRISTIANITY

# 101

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

*About*

SIN & SALVATION  
RESURRECTION & JUDGMENT

↑  
HEAVEN

HELL  
↓

THE NATURE OF MAN

◉ *The Nature of God* ◉

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**HEAVEN**

# WHAT DO PEOPLE THINK ABOUT HEAVEN?

- ▶ According to a 2007 Gallup poll, 81 percent of adult Americans say they believe in heaven.

- ▶ Nearly 80 percent of those questioned in the 2007 poll also said they believe they will be admitted to heaven when they die. In other words, a very large majority of people believe in heaven, and almost everyone who believes in heaven expects to go there in the afterlife.

▶ But here's a stunning irony: While interest in heaven is rapidly rising, belief in God is steadily declining. During the same decade bookended by those two Gallup polls, atheism was gaining unprecedented popularity, 3 and record numbers of people now say they regard the Bible as nothing more than a book of fables and legends.

- ▶ Incidentally, nearly a third of those questioned in Gallup's 2007 poll said they don't believe in hell or aren't sure about it. Roughly the same number say they doubt the existence of the devil.

# WHERE DO WE GET INFORMATION ABOUT HEAVEN?

- ▶ We need to accept the boundaries God himself has put on what he has revealed. It is sheer folly to speculate where Scripture is silent. It is sinfully wrong to try to investigate spiritual mysteries using occult means.

- ▶ And it is seriously dangerous to listen to anyone who claims to know more about God, heaven, angels, or the afterlife than God himself has revealed to us in Scripture.

# GOD HAS PLACED KNOWLEDGE OF HIMSELF WITHIN US

# FOUR LONGINGS

- ▶ We long for immortality... why?
- ▶ We were created to have eternal life

# FOUR LONGINGS

- ▶ We long for wealth... why?
- ▶ We were created to have it all

# FOUR LONGINGS

▶ We long for power... why?

▶ We were created to have dominion

# FOUR LONGINGS

- ▶ We long for a place to belong... why?
- ▶ We were created to be a kingdom or family

# GOD HAS PLACE KNOWLEDGE OF HIMSELF IN CREATION

▶ Romans 1:16-20

# GOD HAS PLACE KNOWLEDGE OF HIMSELF IN CREATION

- ▶ All the atheist propaganda in the world cannot (and never will) eliminate humanity's innate knowledge about God, silence the testimony of creation, muzzle the human conscience, stifle that sense of eternity in the human heart, or quell our longing for heaven.

- ▶ That explains why every major religion and every significant culture in the history of the human race has had some notion of perfect paradise— nirvana, Elysium, Valhalla, Utopia, Shangri-La, or whatever.

# WHAT IS THE MOST NOTABLE FEATURE OF HEAVEN

- ▶ The majesty and grace of the One whose glory fills the place.
- ▶ Whenever a prophet in Scripture was blessed with a heavenly vision, his focus was firmly fixed on God and the all-surpassing glory that surrounds God's throne.

# A BIBLICAL VIEW OF HEAVEN

- ▶ Isaiah 6:1-5
- ▶ Ezekiel 1:28
- ▶ Daniel 10:5-11, 15, 16-17
- ▶ Revelation 1
- ▶ Ezekiel 1

- ▶ Every vision of heaven recorded in Scripture highlights that same sense of breathtaking majesty and daunting radiance.
- ▶ The glory of heaven is infinitely more intricate, transcendent, beautiful, awe-inspiring, full of wonder and delight.

- ▶ If you could observe it for all eternity you would never grow weary of it.
- ▶ If you are a believer, that is precisely what is in store for you.
- ▶ I Timothy 6:16

- ▶ This, of course, is the single most powerful attraction and the highest reward of heaven: God's glory is permanently on display there in all its full resplendence. We will be able to see it without being destroyed by it.

# SPURGEON ON SALVATION

- ▶ Self-righteousness exclaims, "I will not be saved in God's way; I will make a new road to heaven; I will not bow before God's grace; I will not accept the atonement which God has wrought out in the person of Jesus; I will be my own redeemer; I will enter heaven by my own strength, and glorify my own merits."

- ▶ The Lord is very wroth against self-righteousness. I do not know of anything against which His fury burneth more than against this, because this touches Him in a very tender point, it insults the glory and honor of His Son Jesus Christ.

- ▶ Depend on it, my hearer, you never will go to heaven unless you are prepared to worship Jesus Christ as God.

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**HEAVEN**