HEAVEN IS FOR REAL



A clear understanding of heaven will give you <u>purpose</u> and <u>perspective</u> and <u>hope</u>.



"For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality."

-1 Corinthians 15:53

"But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you."

-Romans 8:11



1. There is an unseen world.

"Don't be afraid . . . Those who are with us are more than those who are with them. And Elisha prayed, 'Open his eyes, LORD, so that he may see.' Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha."

-2 Kings 6:16, 17



2. Those who have died believing are in the 'present heaven' (Paradise).



"When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?" Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the full number of their fellow servants, their brothers and sisters, were killed just as they had been."

- Revelations 6:9-11



3. What those in the present heaven, experience.

<u>1. Life.</u> Nowhere in scripture is there ever, ever an indication of anything even remotely like annihilation.

2. Continuity. The character of individuals are not changed.

<u>3. Self Consciousness.</u> We maintain some sense of our own faculties.

<u>4. Individuality.</u> We do not melt into one indistinct uniform mass of living creatures.

5. Earth Consciousness. We know and remembered their life on earth.

6. Progressive Understanding. We don't know everything.

<u>7. Concern.</u> We have a heightened concern for righteousness.

<u>8. Prayer.</u> We talk to God on behalf of the saints still on the earth.

<u>9. Anticipation.</u> We wait in anticipation of God's future fulfillment of all his promises.

<u>10. Connection.</u> We have a strong connection with those on earth who look for the coming of the king.



"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."

-Hebrews 12:1-3