

### Heaven

- The Scriptures contain very few descriptions of heaven.
  - God is in heaven (Ecclesiastes 5:2)
  - “The God of heaven” appears many times.
  - God sits on His throne in Heaven (Psalm 11:4)
  - God sees people from heaven (Psalm 33:13, 53:2, 102:19)
  - God is spirit (John 4:24)
  - Longest description: Revelation 4

### Heaven

- Many popular descriptions of heaven actually are about the “new heaven” that will appear after the present creation is destroyed.
  - Revelation 21:1 – 22:5
  - Hebrews 12:26 from Haggai 2:6
  - Isaiah 65:17, 66:22 – 24
  - 1 Corinthians 15:35 – 58
  - 2 Peter 3:7 – 13

### Explaining Heaven

- How can we explain the place where God lives to those who think only concretely, not abstractly?
  - Are fantasies bad?
  - How do we make the transition from fantasy to reality?
  - Tell what you know, then ask a child to tell what he or she thinks about it.

### Heaven in History

- Satan and his angels formerly had free access (Job 1:6 – 12, 21:1 – 8, Zechariah 3:1 – 2, Revelation 12:9 – 10).
- After Jesus returned to heaven, Satan was exiled from heaven to earth (Revelation 12:7 – 17).
- Jesus cleansed the original tabernacle with His blood and completed His sacrifice (Hebrews 9:11 – 12).

### Inhabitants of Heaven

- Not all inhabitants of heaven have stayed (the devil and his angels).
- Not all those who wish to enter will be allowed (Matthew 25:32 – 46).
- The spirits of the faithful are in heaven now (Ephesians 2:6, Revelation 6:9 – 11, 7:9 – 17, 14:1 – 5).

### Inhabitants of Heaven

- When creation is released from decay, the physically dead faithful will return with Jesus to collect the physically alive faithful (1 Thessalonians 4:13 – 18) and all will receive a new body of a different type (1 Corinthians 15:35 – 58).

### **Inhabitants of Heaven**

- Are our characters changed only on resurrection day or before?
  - 2 Corinthians 3:18
  - Colossians 3:9 - 10
  - Ephesians 4:22 – 24
  - Romans 8:13 – 14
  - 2 Peter 1:4
  - 1 John 5:4
- Will those in the final heaven have the ability to make choices?

### **Inhabitants of Heaven**

- Although no person or spirit or temptation or experience is strong enough to force us away from faith (John 10:29, 1 John 4:4, 1 Corinthians 10:13, Romans 8:38 – 39 *et al*), we have the ability to choose to reject faith (Galatians 5:4, Hebrews 3:12, 6:4 – 6, Romans 11:20 – 23, Revelation 3:5, *et al*).
- Will people without faith be in the final heaven?

### **Inhabitants of Heaven**

- Do we know that we will not choose unbelief in the future? How can we have security? How can we know that we have eternal life (1 John 5:13)?
  - Jude 24 – 25 God is able
  - 1 John 4:13 When we see the work of the Spirit in us.
  - 2 Corinthians 4:7
  - 1 Peter 4:10 - 11