

Only the Born Again Go to Heaven

When asked if she thought she would go to heaven, Barbara Walters—host of ABC’s December 20 special on heaven—responded, “I have no idea.”

- I. What is Heaven? Answers given to Barbara Walters by religious leaders—
 - A. Cardinal Theodore McCarrick (Roman Catholic)—“...is to come to the end of your life at peace with the Lord so that you may find eternal happiness in heaven.” (He did not explain how this is accomplished.)
 - B. Rabbi Neil Gilman (Jewish)—“The purpose of life is to live a decent life...and that you do it for its own sake, not for getting a reward.”
 - C. Rev. Calvin Butts (liberal Baptist)—“...eternal joy and happiness because you are at one with God.”
 - D. Dalai Lama (Buddhist)—“...is the best place to further develop the spiritual practice...for Buddhist the final goal is not just to reach there, but to become Buddha....If someone do very bad, badly...kill or steal...could be born in an animal body.”
 - E. Ted Haggard (Evangelical)—“Jesus Christ guarantees eternal life to anybody that’ll follow him....The purpose of life is to glorify God and go to heaven...’cause heaven is our home.”
 - F. Ellen Johnson (President of American Atheists Society)—“No, heaven doesn’t exist, hell doesn’t exist. We weren’t alive before we were born and we’re not going to exist after we die. I’m not happy about the fact that that’s the end of life, but I can accept that and make my life more fulfilling now, because this is the only chance I have.”
 - G. Feisal Abdul Rauf (Islam)—“The real life is the next life...and...how we live this life, it determines where we shall be in the next. We are told we will be in comfortable homes, reclining on silk couches...so we’re given the delights of sex, the delights of wine, the delights of food with all of their positive things without their negative aspects.”
 - H. Jihad Jarrar (sincere Muslim, failed suicide bomber)—“...the Lord promised the martyr who lost his life and lost the world on earth, that he promised him these 72 women in paradise as honor, as respect for him.”

- II. What is Heaven? Answers given by the Bible—
 - A. The Bible mentions three heavens: atmospheric heaven, where birds fly; terrestrial heaven, location of the stars and planets; and Celestial heaven, the location of God’s throne (Ps. 80:14; Isa. 66:1; Mt. 5:16, 45, 48)
 - B. Biblical Names for Celestial Heaven
 1. Third heaven (II Cor. 12:2)
 2. Paradise (II Cor. 12:4, Lk. 23:43; Rev. 2:7)
 3. Glory (Col. 3:4)
 4. The highest (Lk. 2:14)

5. The Father's house (Jn. 14:2)
 6. City of the Living God (Heb. 12:22)
 7. Heavenly Jerusalem (Heb. 12:22)
- C. Residents of the Celestial Heaven
1. The living God (Heb. 12:22)
 2. Innumerable angels (Heb. 12:22)
 3. Redeemed men and women (Heb. 12:23)
 4. Jesus Christ (Heb. 12:24)
- D. Characteristics of Heaven
1. Heaven is a holy place. There will be no evil or sin in heaven (Ps. 20:6; Rev. 21:8)
 2. Heaven is a place of worship (Rev. 4:8-11).
 3. Heaven is a place of paradise (Lk. 23:43; Rev. 2:7).
 4. Heaven is a place without any unpleasant thing (Rev. 21:4).
 5. Heaven is a place of active service (Rev. 22:3).
 6. Heaven is a place where everyone is like Jesus (Heb. 2:10-11; Rom. 8:29; I Jn. 3:1,2)

III. Who is going to heaven?—Answer given by Jesus and the Bible

- A. Only those who have been “born again” John 3:1-16.
1. Jesus said, “Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Being “born again,” then, is absolutely essential if one would see God’s kingdom, heaven.
 2. When Nicodemus questioned Jesus as to the matter of being born again, Jesus explained that belief is the prerequisite to being born again (John 3:14-16).
- B. Only those who have believed in Christ for salvation (John 14:1-6).
1. Belief in God is not enough to get one to heaven. Even demons believe in God (James 2:19). One must personally trust Christ (John 14:1).
 2. Jesus Himself claimed to be the exclusive way to heaven (John 14:6). No more intolerant, exclusive, narrow, non-politically correct statement has ever been made by any religious leader.
- C. Only those who have been saved by faith in Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12).
1. Only Jesus can save. All other religions lead to hell.
 2. Jesus is the only way of salvation; there are no alternate routes.

IV. Who is going to hell?—Answer given by the Bible

- A. All those who have not believed on Christ (John 3:18).
- B. All whose names are not recorded in the Book of Life (Rev. 20:11-15).
- C. All those who fit the description of Revelation 21:8.

