

100 BIBLE LESSONS

These lessons were originally given at Manila, Philippines, in 1958 and 1959 by former missionary to China, Alban Douglas. Give these lessons to people you visit, youth groups, hospital patients, church visitors and new members. Use them in Sunday School, bus ministry, jail services, nursing homes, Christian schools, small discussion groups and many other places. God's Word will answer your questions and help solve your problems.

LESSON 43 – HEAVEN

INTRODUCTION

Notes taken from D.L. Moody (MP No. 5) and others. D.L. Moody's favorite subject was "Heaven."

"We are nearer heaven tonight than we have ever been before in our lives."

Story: A man kept shouting "Amen" during the sermon. A visiting preacher was coming and someone offered him a pair of boots if he would keep quiet during the sermon. He accepted the proposal. The preacher spoke on heaven and all its wonders and finally the man, unable to contain himself any longer shouted, "Boots or no boots, I must shout, Amen, Hallelujah."

I. THE ORIGIN OF HEAVEN

It was created by God in the beginning. Gen. 1:1, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." When or how long ago is a mystery hidden from man.

Heaven will abide forever. 2 Cor. 5:1, "...an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

Heaven is a prepared place (Jn. 14:2), for a prepared people.

II. WHAT IS HEAVEN?

Heaven is the home of the Lord God. Matt. 6:9, "Our Father which art in heaven..."

2 Cor. 12:2 speaks of a man caught up to the third heaven. The first heaven is the area where birds fly. The second heaven is where sputniks go. The third heaven is the home or throne of the Lord God.

Heaven is a building. 2 Cor. 5:1, "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

Heaven is a building of God. It is not man-made. 2 Cor. 5:1

Heaven is called a garner. Matt. 3:12, "...gather His wheat into the garner." This occurs at the division of the wheat (good doing to heaven) and the chaff being burned.

Heaven is called the kingdom of God and of Christ. Eph. 5:5, "...hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God."

Heaven is called the Father's House. John 14:2, "In My Father's house ..."

Heaven is called a place of rest. Heb. 4:9, "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God."

Heaven is called paradise. 2 Cor. 12:4, "And I knew such a man ... caught up into paradise."

III. SIZE OF HEAVEN

It is immeasurable. Jer. 31:37, "Thus saith the Lord; If heaven above can be measured ..."

Rev. 21:1, "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea." Some have erroneously considered the new Jerusalem of this chapter as heaven. The new Jerusalem is of equal length, width and height. That is, 12,000 furlongs. Someone (I believe Bob Ripley) figured the cubical contents at being capable of holding 49,679,308,800,000,000 (49 ½ pentillion) people. But that does not allow space for trees and the river of life. From creation to 1928, 302 hexillion people born. (302,231,454,903, 657, 293,676, 543). From creation to the present is about 77 generations (42 before Christ and 35 after). If these were all alive they would cover the earth to a depth of 113,326 miles. There were enough people born between Christ and Columbus to fill the New Jerusalem. Mr. Ripley says that if this is heaven, you had better get your reservation in early! However, I'm sure that this is not heaven, for the New Jerusalem comes out "from" heaven, but is not heaven itself, Rev. 21:2, 10. But heaven is for the limited few who are holy and pure and the mansions are definitely limited so it is very wise to book a mansion this very day.

IV. CHARACTERISTICS OF HEAVEN

Heaven is a high place. Isa. 57:15, "I dwell in the high and holy place."

Heaven is a holy place. Psa. 20:6, "He will hear him from His holy heaven."

Heaven is a happy place. Rev. 7:17, "God shall wipe away all tears."

Heaven is a place without death, tears, sorrow, crying or pain. Rev. 21:4, "...and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

Heaven is a place without night or darkness. Rev. 22:3-5, "...and there shall be no night there...neither light of the sun: for the Lord God giveth them light ..."

Heaven is a place without hunger, thirst, excessive heat. Rev. 7:16, "They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat."

Neither will it be too cold like North China or Canada.

V. INHABITANTS OF HEAVEN

1. Negative:

a. The devil will never enter there, Rev. 20:10.

b. Thieves will never enter there, Luke 12:33.

c. Rev. 21:8, "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars.."

d. Gal. 5:19-21, the 17 fruits of the flesh will never enter heaven's perfection.

2. Positive:

a. God the Father lives there, Matt. 6:9.

b. Jesus went there after His ascension, Acts 3:21.

c. Angels, myriads of these created beings are there, Matt. 18:10; 26:53.

d. Enoch and Elijah, who were translated, are there, Gen. 5:24; Matt. 17:3; 2 Ki. 2:11.

e. All those who have died trusting in Jesus will be there. 1 Thess. 4:14, "...even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him."

f. Moses who was buried by God, is there, Matt. 17:3.

VI. HEAVEN IS A PERFECT PLACE, Rev. 22:1-5.

Notes taken from H.W. Peeler, Millar Memorial Bible Institute.

1. A place of perfect satisfaction, Rev. 22:1-2, a pure river of water of life, a tree with 12 kinds of fruit. A picture of perfect leisurely comfort.

2. A place of perfect provision, Rev. 22:2, the leaves of the trees from the healing of the nations. Everything good, gloriously provided.

3. A place of perfect sinlessness, Rev. 22:3, no more curse. The curse of Eden removed forever from man. Can you imagine such sheer joy?
4. A place of perfect government, Rev. 22:3, ruled by God, the just One, and the Lamb.
5. A place of perfect service, Rev. 22:3, "...and His servants shall serve Him." Does this thought spoil the picture of heaven? Certainly not. We serve with joy.
6. A place of perfect communion, Rev. 22:4, "And they shall see His face." Wonderful!
7. A place of perfect possession. We will belong to Him alone. Rev. 22:4, "...and His Name shall be in their foreheads." No divided loyalty. His, all HIS.
8. A place of perfect glory, Rev. 22:5. No artificial light there. Together they shall reign forever and forever.

CONCLUSION

Do you want to go to heaven? Have you prepared? Heaven is for prepared people. An unbeliever would find it very uncomfortable in heaven because of its holiness.

Story: A king gave to his clown a walking stick in honor of his being the best clown, the biggest fool. It was to be given to one who was a greater fool only. One day the king was dying and the clown came to visit him. The clown asked him what preparations he had made for going to heaven? "None." Then solemnly the clown gave the king the walking stick remarking, "You are the greatest fool."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Distinguish the three heavens.
2. Which heaven is referred to in Genesis 1:1?
3. Is heaven a state or place? Explain.
4. How big is heaven?
5. Is the New Jerusalem of Rev. 21:16-17 heaven? Why?
6. Lists 7 characteristics of heaven.
7. Name 8 classes of people who will not be in heaven according to Rev. 21:8.
8. Lists 17 fruits of the flesh that will never enter heaven.
9. Who is living in heaven today?

10. Describe heaven from Rev. 22:1-5.