










- 1  **The Biblical Doctrine of Heaven**  
Study #2  
**“Heaven: Past, Present & Future”**
- 2  **Summary of Study #1**
  - Heaven is not the primary focus of people today
  - Our society has lost its point of reference
  - Satanic deception is a key cause of this
  - Satan may not deny but he distorts Heaven
  - “Disembodied spirits in an immaterial heaven”
  - “Heaven is the place where almost everything that is dear to us is located.” - John MacArthur
  - Heaven is up!
- 3  **Preliminary consideration**
  - **It is impossible to have an accurate understanding of the biblical doctrine of Heaven without an understanding that Heaven has a past, a present and a future. There is a chronology to events in heaven just as there is for events on earth.**
  - **One vital key to a Biblical understanding of the doctrine of Heaven is the distinction between the finite and the infinite [i.e. between God and Created beings] as it relates to the chronology of a time and space environment.**
- 4  **Where does the idea that there will be no time in Heaven come from? Is this true?**
  - **A common line of reasoning:**
  - There is a line of reasoning which suggests that Heaven is where God dwells and it has to do with eternity. Since God is infinite [i.e. without limit], He is not bound by a time and space existence like we humans. Therefore, Heaven represents the absence of time and space [i.e. in heaven there is no past, present or future; only an eternal now!].
- 5  **Also, There is a misleading translation of Rev. 10:6 which has contributed to this faulty thinking**
  - ... **Rev. 10:6** in the **KJV** says,
  - “... ***there should be time no more.***”
  - Other versions, like the **NIV** and the **RSV** correctly translate this phrase:
  - “***There will be no more delay!***”
- 6  **Although God is infinite and not limited by time and space, His finite creatures are limited by time and space**
  - “... It is certainly justifiable to abandon the scheme of time and space and to put in its place **a divine simultaneity.**”- Ulrich Simon
  - **Alcorn points out,** “Those are the Creator’s attributes, not the creature’s. There’s no evidence that we could be several places at once. The promise of Heaven is not that we will become infinite - that would be to become inhuman. It’s that we’ll become far better finite humans than we have ever been. ... [but] ... we’ll still be finite.”
- 7  **Consider the following statements by Randy Alcorn:**
  - “*God is the one who inhabits eternity*” (Isaiah 57:15, NKJV). Creatures inhabit time. Jesus, as the God-man, inhabits both. By being with him on the New Earth, we will share space and time with God.
  - “Resurrection doesn’t eliminate space and time; it redeems them.”
- 8  **Consider the following statements by Randy Alcorn:**
  - “To say we’ll exist outside of time is like saying we’ll know everything. It confuses eternity with infinity. We’ll live for eternity as finite beings. **God** can accommodate to us by putting himself into time, but **we** can’t accommodate to him by becoming timeless. It’s not in us to do so because we’re not God.”
  - “God knows and can access past and future as readily as present. We can remember the past and anticipate the future, but we can live only in the present. Time is our environment. Just as fish cannot live outside of water, so we cannot live outside of time and space.”
- 9  **There are many passages in Scripture which confirm the fact that there is time in Heaven:**
  - **Luke 15:7,** Jesus spoke of how the angels in heaven rejoice the moment a sinner on earth repents.

- **Revelation 6:10-11**, the martyrs in heaven are told to “wait a little longer” when they ask “how long” before Christ will judge the inhabitants of earth and avenge the blood of the martyrs.
- **Ephesians 2:7**, Paul spoke of heaven in terms of “the coming ages.”
- **Rev. 7:15** says that God’s people in Heaven “serve Him day and night in his temple.”
- **Rev. 22:2** says the Tree of Life on the New Earth will be “yielding its fruit every month.”
- **Isa. 66:22-23** God says through the prophet: “The New Heavens and the New Earth that I will make endure before me ... From one New Moon to another and from one Sabbath to another...”
- **Genesis 8:22**, God says, “Summer and winter, day and night will never cease.”
- **Rev. 8:1** says: “There was silence in heaven for about half and hour.”
- **Rev. 5:9-12**, we are told the inhabitants of Heaven sing!

## 10 ***Time itself is not evil, nor is time our enemy***

- “People imagine time is an enemy because the clock seems to move so slowly when we’re having a root canal and so quickly when we’re doing what we love. But time isn’t the problem, the Curse is. Time isn’t the enemy, death is (I Cor. 15:26). Time predated sin and the Curse. When the Curse is lifted, time will remain. Without the Curse, time will never work against us. We won’t run out of it. Time will bring gain, not loss. The passing of time will no longer threaten us. It will bring new adventures without a sense of loss for what must end.” ... “We’ll live with time, no longer under its pressure. ...”  
- **Randy Alcorn**

## 11

## 12 **Heaven: Past, Present, Future**

- Past - Job 38:4-7 - A time at the beginning of creation when all angels sang and rejoiced together
  - Ezek. 28:12-17 - Sin found in one angel
  - Rev. 12:3-4 - Red Dragon causes one third of angels to defect

## 13 **Heaven: Present**

- Job 1:6-12 - Reveals cosmic conflict
- Ephesians 1:3 - Spiritual Blessings for Redeemed
- Ephesians 3:10-12 - Church on earth a wonder in heaven
- I Peter 1:12 - Even angels desire to look into these things

## 14 **Heaven: Future**

- Ephesians 1:9-10 - Christ to bring heaven and earth together
- Ephesians 2:6-7 - Church, a trophy of God’s grace
- I Peter 3:13 & Rev. 21:1-5 - New Heaven’s and New Earth

## 15 **Conclusion**

- **“Buddhism, which knows no resurrection, teaches that time will be extinguished. Christianity, solidly based on a resurrection of cosmic dimensions, teaches time will go on forever.”**  
- **Randy Alcorn**