

# Heaven: The Throne Room of the Universe

## How Should God's Description in Revelation 4 & 5 Impact Each of our Lives Today?

### Revelation 4-5

Do you realize how much of the theological fog and confusion that surrounds so many sincere believers each day, can be cleared up just by a simple reading and believing of the truths of Revelation 4-5? To get a very foundational view of what God has taught us, please open with me to the last 4 verses of Revelation 5.

One of the truths that we never can hear often enough is that we are each in possession of God's Word today. God's actual voice recorded, His actual words written down, the Divine Revelation of God is ours in the Holy Bible.

When I travel to remote places, I usually leave on my phone a message from Bonnie, and others of my grown children, so I can play it over when I especially miss them, and hear again their voices.

Jesus told us His Voice is the key to everything that matters eternally to us. "My sheep hear My Voice, and I know them and they follow Me" (John 10:27). One of the greatest evidences of salvation is when Jesus said that those who are His would know, listen to, hear, and respond to His voice in John 10. That was not just true 2,000 years ago. It is true today. Each time a believer opens the Bible they hear not just the words that saved them (faith comes by hearing the Word) but also the Word that guides us for life. Our Bibles are:

### **A Literal, Trustworthy Record of God's Voice**

God has spoken, He has spoken clearly, and He has made sure that we have a written copy of His Word. Most likely the Bible we now hold, was started as a written document on Mount Sinai as Moses stood and watched God write with His own finger (Ex. 31:17-18), the Ten Commandments.

After that initial written Word from God, Moses was directed to write down, not his own words and thoughts and ideas, but the very words of God. No book has ever been written like God's Word the Bible.

No other record exists of the very mind and thoughts of God communicated in direct revelation, in human language; like the Bible we hold. So now for the application of everything we have studied from God's about the Throne Room in Heaven.

How should what we hear God say impact us from Revelation 4-5? May I show you just four ways that are critical to making it through the maze of daily life and safely into our Father's House in Heaven? I call these:

## **Four Foundational Truths To Guide us Through Life**

Here they are:

1. **God's Voice from Heaven in Rev. 4-5 describes the Real Heaven:** There is only one Real Heaven and Rev. 4-5 describes what it looks like, so none of the other accounts that you read or hear about Heaven, other than the truths of God's Word, are accurate or inspired.
2. **God's Voice from Heaven in Rev. 4-5 declares Eternal Heaven & Hell:** There are only two destinations, one is an eternal place God calls Heaven, filled with joy, peace, bliss, and endless pleasures; and the other is a place of conscious, endless torments called Hell: and you are going to one or the other.
3. **God's Voice from Heaven in Rev. 4-5 demands One Way of Salvation:** that the only way to Heaven is through having imputed to you by faith alone, the redemptive, blood-soaked, substitutionary sacrifice of Jesus upon the Cross, as described in God's Word.
4. **God's Voice from Heaven in Rev. 4-5 destroys Self-Sufficiency:** the only true salvation is the one that saved us out of our hopeless and helpless lostness; and that makes us bondservants of God. His salvation brings us into complete submission (that is the real Islam) to God the Father, to God the Son, and to God the Spirit; and the eternal embodiment of Almighty God is manifested for us as Jesus Christ the Lord.

First, join me in listening to that voice of God, written down for us plainly in His Word.

Please stand with me as we listen to God speaking. His words are in Rev. 5:11-14 (NKJV):

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!" 13 And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!" 14 Then the four living creatures said,

“Amen!” And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.

## **Pray**

Revelation 4-5 is a guided tour of Heaven, guided by God Himself.

Look at Rev. 1. How did we get this Book? It was a gift to us from God.

Why do we have this Book? So we can know the things God wants us to know.

Every word we have in these two chapters (plus all the rest of the Bible) are actual words from God. Let that settle in as we ponder this first truth.

The first Foundational Truth that we each need to settle in our minds, and hold tightly to in the days ahead is this:

### **Truth-1, God’s Voice from Heaven in Rev. 4-5 describes the Real Heaven:**

There is only one Real Heaven and Rev. 4-5 describes what it looks like, so none of the other accounts that you read or hear about Heaven, other than the truths of God's Word, are accurate or inspired.

How should we apply that truth? Here is one of the most powerful and helpful ways to do so. Jesus said that the closer to the end of days we get, the more deceptive Satan’s lies become.

The errors from the Pit are going to infect the earth more widely and deeply than ever before as the end approaches. What is one way that we can protect ourselves from Satan’s lies today? Here is a very simple application:

## **Beware of Anytime Heaven is Described Differently than How God Described it**

Just a quick search through the electronic stacks of the world’s largest bookstore, Amazon, yields many books that testify to out-of-body journeys from earth to Heaven, and back.

Here are the top-ten list, which are just a few:

1. **To Heaven and Back: A Doctor's Extraordinary Account of Her Death, Heaven, Angels, and Life Again: A True Story** by Mary C. Neal (May 29, 2012)

2. **Heaven is for Real: A Little Boy's Astounding Story of His Trip to Heaven and Back** by Todd Burpo, Sonja Burpo, Colton Burpo and Lynn Vincent (Nov 2, 2010)
3. **The Boy Who Came Back from Heaven: A Remarkable Account of Miracles, Angels, and Life beyond This World** by Kevin Malarkey and Alex Malarkey (Jun 30, 2010)
4. **Flight to Heaven: A Plane Crash...A Lone Survivor...A Journey to Heaven--and Back** by Dale Black (May 1, 2010)
5. **My Time In Heaven** by Richard Sigmund (Dec 14, 2009)
6. **We Saw Heaven: True Stories of What Awaits Us on the Other Side** by Roberts Liardon (Oct 1, 2006)
7. **Nine Days In Heaven: The Vision of Marietta Davis** by Dennis Prince (Jun 28, 2006)
8. **23 Minutes In Hell: One Man's Story About What He Saw, Heard, and Felt in that Place of Torment** by Bill Wiese (Jan 30, 2006)
9. **90 Minutes in Heaven: A True Story of Death and Life** by Don Piper and Cecil Murphey (Sep 1, 2004)
10. **Matthew, Tell me about Heaven: A Firsthand Description of the Afterlife** by Suzanne Ward (Sep 2002)

## **Point One: ONLY God's Word Can Describe the True Heaven**

So, beware of whenever Heaven is described differently than how God has described it so clearly in His Word.

How about this book with such a beautiful cover, so beautiful that five million copies were sold in just the first 9 months, and over seven million and climbing. It is still in the top 100 selling books for 55 weeks on the NYT best sellers listing<sup>1</sup>.

The online encyclopedia<sup>2</sup> of publications listing states:

Todd Burpo, a Christian pastor, says that during the months after emergency surgery, Colton began describing events and people that seemed impossible for him to have seen or met. Examples include his miscarried sister, who no one had

<sup>1</sup>Michael Hyatt <http://michaelhyatt.com/an-interview-with-todd-burpo-author-of-heaven-is-for-real.html>

<sup>2</sup>[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heaven\\_Is\\_for\\_Real](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heaven_Is_for_Real)

told him about, and his great grandfather who died 30 years before Colton was born<sup>[2]</sup>. Colton also claims that he had personally sat in Jesus' lap, while the angels sang to him<sup>[3][4][5]</sup>, and that he saw the Virgin Mary standing beside Jesus in Heaven<sup>[6]</sup>.

## What Should We Do When We Hear Claims Like That?

Paul said in his very first letter to a local church of believers, that they were to test everything against the doctrines taught in God's Word, and only hold onto as truth what matched the doctrines from God (I Th. 5:21). So, how does Colton's story of Heaven match up with God's Word? Not very well.

Here is a quick Biblical analysis<sup>3</sup> of the doctrines of God's Word vs. the doctrines Colton explained to his parents that are now coming out in a children's version so that millions of children can be taught doctrines that are not from God:

Heaven is For Real is a book that chronicles, supposedly, the trip of a four-year-old during an appendectomy to heaven. He went to heaven, came back. You would think that a book like that couldn't fall off a shelf, let alone have somebody take it off a shelf and buy it. But five million were sold in the first nine months...five million books in which a four-year-old describes what he saw in heaven while he visited there during his appendectomy.

He saw the Father, he says, who has wings like Gabriel. [**DOCTRINE CHECK:** Does God have a body? No, God is a Spirit. He is not material but spiritual, and has no wings. By the way, the Bible never says that angels have wings, only Seraphim and Cherubim have wings. Gabriel was seen by Daniel 2x, Zacharias 1x, and Mary 1x, and none of those three who actually saw Gabriel ever describe wings.]

He saw Jesus who has blue eyes and is only half as tall as Michael and shorter than Gabriel. But though He's really short, He's more powerful than the rest of them and He rides a rainbow horse that only He can ride. [**DOCTRINE CHECK:** We know exactly what Jesus Christ looks like in Heaven. John wrote an inspired word picture in Rev. 1.]

And he saw the Holy Spirit, too. And the Holy Spirit is a blue transparent fog floating around up there who shoots out power toward the earth. [**DOCTRINE CHECK:** The Holy Spirit is a Spirit, not fog.]

The Holy Spirit has been turned into the latest transformer toy. He can become whatever you want Him to be. Whatever shape you want Him in, whatever

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<sup>3</sup> 214 words from John MacArthur <http://www.gty.org/resources/print/sermons/90-424>, with added bracketed comments

comforts you, whatever interests you, whatever allows you to manipulate people for your own ends.

Now an illustrated version is out so that this Christmas you can buy one and help your children and grandchildren get a false, un-Biblical picture of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit burned into their minds so that when they grow up they will think that maybe God does have a body just like the cults and false teachers all have said that He does.

So, this is where we get our view of the Holy Spirit and God the Son and God the Father and heaven? From a four-year-old whose imagination is prompted and expanded by his parents, no doubt?

Point one: God and His forever settled Word says beware of whenever Heaven is described differently than how God has described it so clearly in His Word.

## **Test All Things, Hold Fast to God's Truth**

The truth from God's Word that we each need to settle in our minds, and hold tightly to in the days ahead is this:

**Lesson One-God's Voice from Heaven in Rev. 4-5 says:** There is only one Real Heaven and Rev. 4-5 describes what it looks like, so none of the other stories that you read or hear about Heaven, other than God's Word are accurate or inspired.

- *Even if the book is in a Christian Bookstore, don't accept it as truth.* God is the sole source of truth about Heaven, no person's experience or modern so-called prophet is to ever be trusted over the Lord God Almighty!
- *Even if the book has been read by your friends, and strongly affirmed by them, and they are godly and devout followers of Christ: don't accept it as truth.* God is the sole source of truth about Heaven, no person's experience or modern so-called prophet is to ever be trusted over the Lord God Almighty!
- *Even if a local church in the area that knows the truth, preaches the truth, and is filled with godly believers uses one of these books about Heaven in a small group study or Christian education class: don't accept it as truth.* God is the sole source of truth about Heaven, no person's experience or modern so-called prophet is to ever be trusted over the Lord God Almighty!

**To protect your mind from confusion about truth:** beware of whenever Heaven is described differently than how God has described it so clearly in His Word.

The second Foundational Truth that we each need to settle in our minds, and hold tightly to in the days ahead is this:

**Truth-2, God's Voice from Heaven in Rev. 4-5 says:** There are only two destinations, one is an eternal place God calls Heaven, filled with joy, peace, bliss, and endless pleasures; and the other is a place of conscious, endless torments called Hell: and you are going to one or the other.

How should we apply that truth? The errors from the Pit are going to infect the earth more widely and deeply than ever before as the end approaches. Here is a second simple application:

## **Point Two: Beware of Satan's Lie that "All Religious roads lead to Heaven"**

Ten years ago there was a book that swept the country. The author, Betty Eadie, told a story that gripped millions. It was her account "as a follower of Jesus Christ" she called herself, of her near death event. The book chronicles her out of body experience in 1973. The book is still selling well, called:

**Embraced by the Light** by [Betty J. Eadie](#) (Oct 29, 2002)

A close examination of the book reveals that though she claimed to be a follower of Jesus Christ she was actually, by her own writings, a follower of Mormon doctrine, with heavy New Age leanings.

Woven into her tale of angels, robed spirit-guide monks, and the light that warmed her soul as she met Jesus Christ, are the following doctrines she described in detail:

1. **Humans pre-existed as spirits before they were born into this world.** This pre-existence of human spirits is central to Mormon doctrine. Betty said, "All people as spirits in the pre-mortal world, took part in the creation of the earth."

Of course that is completely contrary to God who said that the first human, Adam, became a living soul as God breathed life into him in Genesis 2:7. There is no pre-existence of human spirits allowed in the doctrines of God's Word.

2. **There are multiple gods in Heaven.** This denial of the Trinity is also central to Mormonism, as well as the rest of the false religions of the world. Betty said, "My Protestant upbringing taught me that the Father and Jesus Christ were one being." But as she toured around Heaven she states: "I understood to my surprise that Jesus Christ was a separate being from God."

Of course this is completely contrary to God's Word that states in John 10:30 "I and My Father are one". Jesus is God the Son and He is one with God the Father. (See also Deut. 6:4; I Cor. 8:6; I Tim. 2:5).

3. **Humans can become gods.** This Mormon doctrine of the deification of the human soul, was also restated by Betty with these words: "God wants us to become as He is, and that He has invested us with god-like qualities."

That is exactly contrary to the Lord who says that only He is God in Isaiah 42:8 "I am the Lord, My glory I will not give another." We are to become more and more Christlike, and when we see Him, we will be like Him, but never with the qualities and attributes of God.

4. **There is a second chance at salvation in the after life.** The New Age and most false religions all share some form of Universalism, that people will get another chance and then become "embraced by the Light" as Betty describes salvation.

This is of course contrary to God who said in Hebrews 9:27, "It is appointed unto man to die once, after this the judgment."

5. **The universe has two eternal forces or energies: positive and negative.** This dualism is part of Gnosticism, Hinduism, and most science fiction stories. The "Force" is either positive or negative; and if you can just focus the good side that is within, you can use this positive energy to be healed, and to create your own destiny, and so on.

Satan started his lies to humanity in Eden, and they haven't changed. Each version is just a redo of the old. The false teachers, the cults, and Eastern Religions of today are just reincarnating Satan's deceptions for each new generation.

Today's New Agers, false religions like Hinduism, and Satan's lies usually all have three strands that are woven throughout their teachings:

- Pantheism (the belief in the divinity of both the creation and the Creator vs. the One Living and True God separate from His creation as seen in God's Word);
- Mysticism (the belief that truth is something that one finds within themselves vs. from God's Word);
- Syncretism (the belief that religion is blending and merging religious ideas from various sources vs. one source God's Word)

Point number two that we each need to settle in our minds, and hold tightly to in the days ahead is this: **Beware of Satan's Lie that "All Religious roads lead to Heaven"**

### **Four Foundational Truths To Guide us Through Life**

Today we saw the first two:

1. **God's Voice from Heaven in Rev. 4-5 describes the Real Heaven:** There is only one Real Heaven and Rev. 4-5 describes what it looks like, so none of the other accounts that you read or hear about Heaven, other than the truths of God's Word, are accurate or inspired.
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