



Heaven is a Physical Place

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When we read the creation account in Genesis 1, we read that God in all his wisdom and love saw fit to create the heavens and the earth.

The idea of a physical heaven is directly linked to _____.

Hebrews 8:5 ESV

*They serve a **copy** and **shadow** of the heavenly things...*

Romans 8:20-21 ESV

*For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be **set free** from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.*

In the beginning God created the _____ and the earth. He doesn't need _____ to exist but he _____ in it.

Revelation 21:10 ESV

*And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the **holy city Jerusalem** coming down out of heaven from God...*

Heaven isn't just a city, it's a _____ as well.

Hebrews 11:16 ESV

*But as it is, they desire a better **country**, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.*

Philippians 3:20 ESV

*Our **citizenship** is in heaven.*

We should stop thinking of Heaven and Earth as opposite and instead view them as **overlapping circles** that share certain commonalities. ~ Randy Alcorn

Revelation 10:5-6 ESV

*And the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven and swore by him who lives forever and ever, who **created** heaven and **what is in it**, the earth and what is in it, and the sea and what is in it, that there would be no more delay...*

Revelation 8:1 ESV

*When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about **half an hour**.*

Revelation 22:1-2 ESV

*Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit **each month**. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.*

So in the city of Heaven not only is there a physical river, there is also a physical tree of life!

There is going to be music in Heaven and music requires _____. Without _____, music can't exist.

Sin has _____ everything.

None of us have experienced Sabbath rest without sin's effects. But God plans to _____ and _____ rest in the physical sense.

Without sin that _____ and _____ of Jesus... all of our heart's attention is on him!

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Small Group Questions

1. Three weeks into our series on Heaven, how are you processing the teaching and understanding that Heaven is a physical place?
2. Reflect on Randy Alcorn's quote: *Though God chooses to dwell in Heaven, he does not need a dwelling place. However, as finite humans, we do. It's no problem for the all-powerful God, a spirit, to dwell in a spiritual realm or a physical realm or a realm that includes both. The real question is whether people, being by nature both spiritual and physical, can dwell in a realm without physical properties.*

Alcorn is assuming that to be human is both spiritual and physical...how do you respond to what he's saying? Do you agree? Why or why not?

3. Read Hebrew 8:5. If earth is a copy and a shadow of heavenly things, then what does that tell us about the nature of Heaven? If earth is like a blueprint of Heaven, what are the implications?
4. Pastor Dan talked about what rest will look like in a restored state without sin. What activities are you most looking forward to experiencing in Heaven without the curse of sin? (For example: in our life here on earth, at times we have a tendency to eat, work, play and take it to an unhealthy extreme. In Heaven where there are no sinful tendencies like this, what are you most excited about? Said another way, how is the curse of sin diminishing your experience of even the 'good' things of life here on earth? What do you long to be free from?)