

Hymn of Heaven; Revelation 5:11-14

1. Heaven.
 - a. Heaven is our home.
 - i. Even though this earth is our residence, Heaven is our home.
 - ii. We work and serve here on this earth but long for our home with God.
 - iii. Philippians 1:21–23: “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.”
 - b. The Bible has little to say about what Heaven will be like.
 - c. Isaiah had a vision of the throne room.
 - i. Isaiah 6:1–4: “In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!” And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke.”
 - ii. Not a lot of detail.
 - d. Paul had the opportunity to see Heaven.
 - i. 2 Corinthians 12:2–4: “I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third Heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter.”
 - ii. Paul could not speak about what he saw.
 - iii. Paul’s first letter to Corinth tells us we will all be changed.
 - iv. 1 Corinthians 15:50–53: “I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.”
 - e. Peter tells us there will be a new heaven and earth.
 - i. 2 Peter 3:11–13: “Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.”
 - ii. He does not give us a look at Heaven.
 - f. “How I long to breathe the air of Heaven where pain is gone, and mercy fills the streets. To look upon the One who bled to save me and walk with Him for all eternity.”
2. The Glory of Heaven.
 - a. John gives us the most details about Heaven.

- i. Revelation 4:1: “After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in Heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.”
- ii. John tells us the appearance of God on the throne was like precious stones.
- iii. John tells us about the rainbow around the throne, reminding us of his promise in Genesis.
- iv. John tells us about the 24 thrones with elders in white garments and golden crowns.
- v. John tells us about the lightning and thunder coming from the throne and the creatures surrounding the throne.
- vi. All this is almost incomprehensible.
- b. A new song.
 - i. Revelation 5:9–10: “And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”
 - ii. Then John looks around and sees the living creatures, the elders, and thousands upon thousands of angels.
 - iii. Revelation 5:12: “saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”
 - iv. Then John hears every creature everywhere, in Heaven, on the earth, under the earth, and in the sea. (Revelation 13a)
 - v. Revelation 5:13b: “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”
- c. John’s vision is, by far, the closest we will get to seeing Heaven ourselves.
- d. Listen to the song!
 - i. Revelation 5:6–9a: “And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song.”
 - ii. “You were slain.”
 - 1. Jesus proved to be the Messiah by his teaching and the miracles he performed.
 - a. Has anyone ever made a blind man see?
 - i. John 9:6–7: “Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.”
 - ii. Jesus is the only One who has touched a person’s eyes and cured their blindness.
 - b. Has anyone ever rebuked the weather?
 - i. Matthew 8:23–27: “And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. And they went and woke him, saying, “Save us, Lord; we are perishing.” And he said to them,

“Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?” Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. And the men marveled, saying, “What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?”

- ii. Jesus is the only one in history who has commanded the weather.
 - c. Has anyone ever brought a person back after four days of death?
 - i. John 11:38–44: “Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days.” Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.” When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out.” The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”
 - ii. Jesus is the only one to resurrect someone.
 - 2. They killed Jesus because He was the Messiah.
 - iii. “He bled to save me.”
 - 1. This sacrifice is what saves us.
 - 2. His blood was spilled to wash us clean!
 - 3. 2 Corinthians 5:21: “For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”
 - 4. This cleansing, this washing, saves us from eternal destruction away from the presence of the Lord. (2 Thessalonians 1:9)
 - 5. 1 Peter 3:21: “Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,”
 - iv. “And walk with Him for all eternity.”
 - e. No matter how desperate (“every prayer we prayed in desperation”), how fearful or doubtful (“songs of faith we sang through doubt and fear”), we will see that it was worth it and know we’ll walk with Him for all eternity.
3. Hymn of Heaven.
- a. Even if we are unsure of what Heaven will look like, John’s, Paul’s, and Isaiah’s vision leaves us with feelings of comfort and longing to be with Jesus.
 - b. “And on that day, we join the resurrection and stand beside the heroes of the faith.”
 - c. “With one voice a thousand generations sing, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain.”