**Heaven**

*We treat eternal things like they are temporary and temporary things like they are eternal.*

**Scripture Background-** “”Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them.”

Revelation 21:1-3 NIV

1. **Watch your Language!**
2. **The amazing Bible.**

“Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers…” Hebrews 1:1 ESV

“many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.” Matthew 13:17 (NIV)

“The Old Testament is the New Testament *concealed* and the New Testament is Old Testament *revealed*.”

1. **Three types of Language.**

* **Figurative**
* **Symbolic**
* **Literal**

1. **Some important words and their meaning.**

* **Heaven-** The Bible uses the word “heaven” to refer to three different realms.

1. **Atmospheric Heaven.**

So the Lord said, “I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of *the heavens,* for I am sorry that I have made them.”

Genesis 6:7 (ESV)

1. **The Celestial Heaven.**

“Immediately after the distress of those days ‘the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and *the heavenly bodies* will be shaken.”

Matthew 24:29

1. **Heaven of God-the Third Heaven.**

“But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, *looked up to heaven* and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.” Acts 7:55

“I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to *the third heaven.* Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know—God knows.” II Corinthians 12:2

**There is the “present Heaven” and the “future Heaven”**

“… to be *absent from the body* and to *be present with the Lord*.”

II Corinthians 5:8

* **Earth.**  “Earth” is mentioned in the very first verse and over 930 times in the Bible.

“In the beginning God created the heaven and *the earth*” Gen. 1:1

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1. **Original Earth.**

“But they deliberately forget that long ago by God’s word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water. By these waters also **the world of that time** was deluged and destroyed.” II Peter 3:5

1. **Present Earth.**

“**the present** heavens and **earth** are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.”

II Peter 3:6

1. **Future Earth.**

“Then I saw “a new heaven and **a new earth**,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away…” Revelation 21:1

**There are many FALSE ideas about the Earth and Heaven:**

* **The earth is temporary.**

“The physical earth *is the temporary, probationary place to live out moral preferences "through the body*,"”

* **Heaven is a “state”.**

“Heaven is more of a *spiritual condition* than a *spiritual location*”.