

Heaven: An introduction  
Part 2

Common misconceptions  
about heaven

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## I. Misconceptions about Heaven:

### 1. There won't be anything to do in Heaven.

Far side cartoon by Gary Larson. A man with angel wings and a halo sits on a cloud, doing nothing, with no one nearby. He has the expression of someone marooned on a desert island with absolutely nothing to do. "Wish I'd brought a magazine."

With all these "goodie two shoes" together in one place in must be terribly boring.

"Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years." Rev 20:6

### 2. There won't be any "fun" people in Heaven

In The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, Huck asks the Christian spinster Miss Watson, who thought that in heaven we would go around all day with a harp and sing forever and ever and who took a very dim view of Huck's fun-loving ways – if she thought Tom Sawyer would go to heaven and she said ...No way. I was glad about that because I wanted him and me to be together."

All the fun-loving people will be in hell where is will be a big party.

"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him" 1 Cor 2:9

### 3. That we exist as a ghost in a non-physical place.

"After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." Rev 4:1

### 4. Naturalism. The belief that the world and everything in it can be explained in scientific terms

"So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." 2 Cor 4:18

C.S. Lewis wrote of this spell called naturalism in the Chronicles or Narnia, The Silver Chair.

In this book, Puddleglum, Jill and Eustace are captured in a sunless underground world by an evil witch who calls herself the queen of the underworld.

The White Witch.

Aliases: Jadis, White Queen, Imperial Majesty Jadis, Empress of the Lone Islands, Queen of Narnia.

The White Witch is an allegory of Satan.

"And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light." 2 Cor 11:45

The evil witch explains:

That any memories they have of the over-world - Narnia, are but figments of their imagination.

The children try and explain what the sun looks like - "a lamp" She counters with: Your sun is a dream. You have seen a lamp here and so you pretend there is something called the 'sun'

The children try and explain Aslan the lion, the King of Narnia. She counters with: You have seen cats here in the underworld and have projected those imagines into the make-believe notion of a giant cat.

The queen hates Aslan and wishes to conquer Narnia, tries to deceive them into thinking that whatever they cannot perceive with their senses must be imaginary – which is the essence of naturalism.

They longer they are unable to see the world they remember, the more they lose sight of it.

The witch tells them: “There has never been any world but mine...the children repeat after her: “There is no Narnia, no Over-world, no sky, no sun, no Aslan.”

The truth is exactly the opposite of naturalism’s premise – in fact, the dark world’s lamps are but copies of the sun, and its cats are copies Aslan. Heaven isn’t an extrapolation of earthly thinking: Earth is an extension of Heaven.

Sometimes we succumb to naturalistic assumptions that what we see is real and what we don’t see isn’t. God can’t be real because we can’t see Him. Heaven can’t be real because we can’t see it. But the curse has blinded us to the truth. Just like a person, who is in fact actually blind, cannot see the stars, should he conclude that there are none simply because he cannot seem them?

### The Curse of Sin has

#### **A. Blinded us**

“The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.” 2 Cor 4:4

#### **B. Placed us and the earth into bondage**

“Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin." John 8:34

“... the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.” Romans 8:21

### **II. People who understood heaven.**

#### **1. Jonathan Edwards**

“It becomes us to spend this life only as a journey towards heaven...to which we should subordinate all other concerns of life. Why should we labor for or set our hearts on anything else, but that which is our proper end and true happiness.”

#### **2. Charles Spurgeon**

“To come to Thee is to come home from exile, to come to land out of the raging storm, to come to rest after long labor, to come to the goal of my desires and the summit of my wishes.”

#### **3. Randy Alcorn**

“What God made us to desire is exactly what he promises to those who follow Jesus Christ: a resurrected life, in a resurrect body, with the resurrected Christ on a resurrected Earth.”

### **III. Where do we get our misconceptions about Heaven?**

The devil and deception

“When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.” John 8:44

“He opened his mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven.” Rev 13:6

Our enemy lies to us about three things:

God's person

God's place

God's people

It must be maddening for the devil to that we're now entitled to the home he has kicked out of. No wonder he lies to us about the every place on which God tells us to set our hearts and minds.

**The devil cannot stop:**

**A. Christ's redemptive work**

But he can keep us from seeing it

**B. Christ from defeating him**

But he can persuade us that Christ's victory is only partial and that God will abandon his original plan for mankind and the earth.

If I believe that Heaven is boring, full of boring people and is a ghost-like non-physical place than I have believed a lie straight from the pit.

In Heaven you will be surrounded by:

- Awesome work that you will love
- Awesome people that you will enjoy
- A beautiful place that you can touch and will envelop you