

Heaven Now

Pastor Mike Palompo

Heaven Revealed: Week 3: Intermediate Heaven

March 4-5

65 years old! Goodbye hair! Hello Medicare! 😜👉😄

Old Jokes 😊

A pastor asked this elderly lady how she was doing, she said she was fine. She's actually dating four men at one time. She said I wake up with

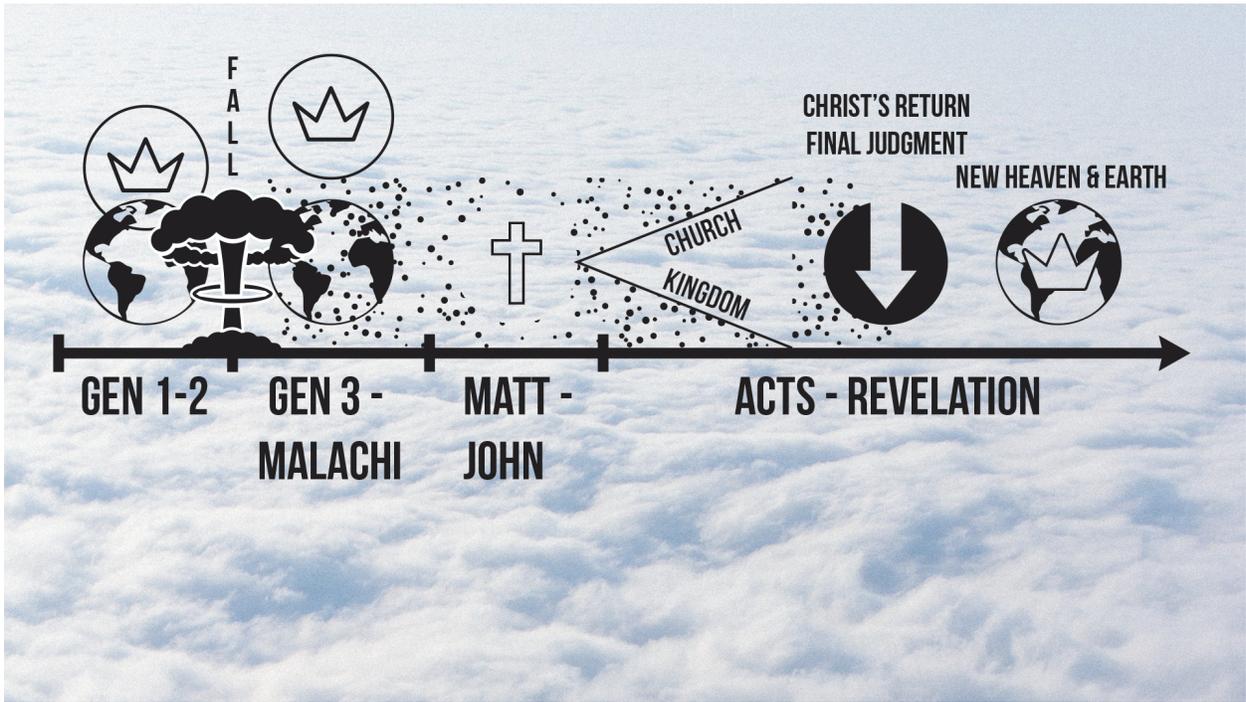
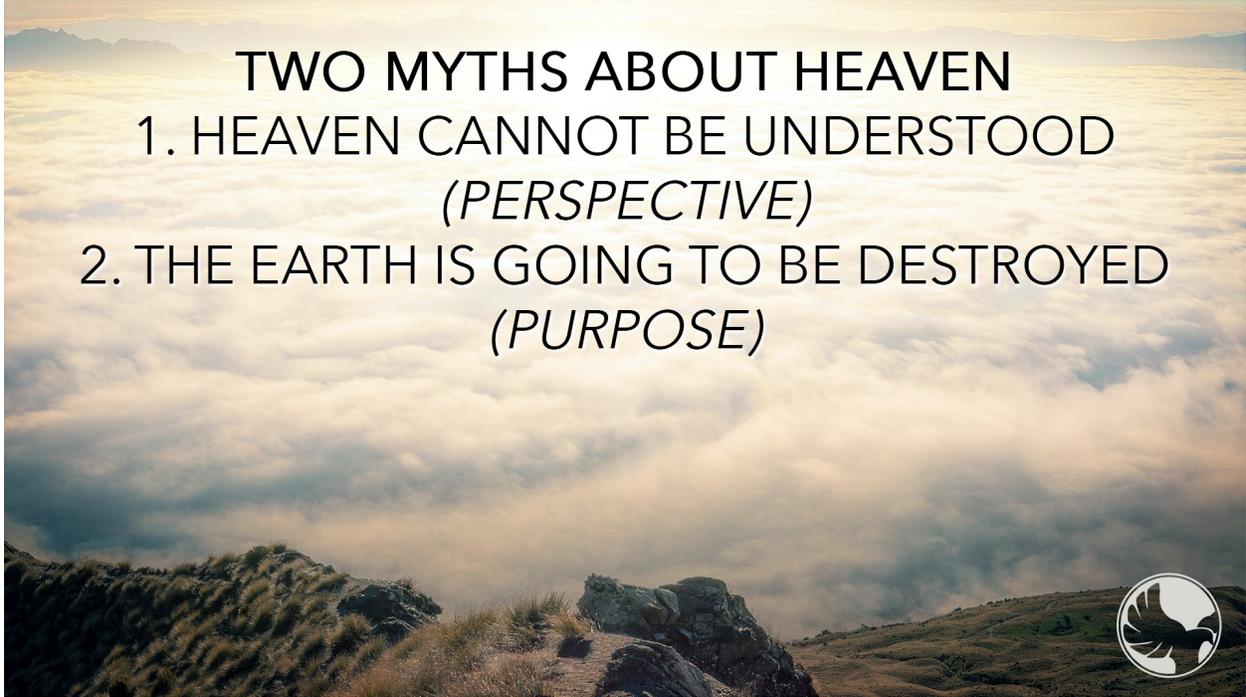
- Arthur -itis and he stays with me till I go hiking with
- Charlie horse. When I come home. I spend quite a bit of time in the
- John but my best part of the day is I go to bed each night with
- BenGay

A lady had a baby at 80 years old, and when the journalist came to interview her, she said, would you like some tea. He said yes. He said, can I see the baby she said yes but we have to wait until he cries he said why? The lady replied that way I can remember where I left him last.

Thank you 😊 for all your prayers for me and my family. And for your very generous support. I went to Whole Foods for the very first time ever and that's my favorite store now!

Today we continue our study of what Heaven is like not by speculating but by examining the word of God.

[Slides]Review last week



[Slide: What if someone dies within the wedge?]

So we're trying to answer one of the most common and profound questions people ask. What is the afterlife like?

People die everyday but this past year more people whom we knew personally passed away than any year I can recall.

Mark went through the list in our new years message. Gail Raimes, Wayne Miyasato. Very recently my friend, Ron Menor died. And Melanie, Brady, and Zach lost their husband and dad, Aaron, during the Pandemic.

My mom went to glory on October 30th last year. That was a moment my family will never forget. After an 8-year battle with Alzheimer's, we could see her time was near. The whole family gathered around her bedside, spontaneously shared scripture (we have 4 pastors in the family), sang songs, and spoke to mom one last time. When she took her last breath, we all wept, including dad, the Navy senior chief who never cries.

And yet there was also peace. You see mom has a very beautiful relationship with Jesus and we all knew where she went. So where did she go? What did she see the moment she died? We're going to answer that question today.

As you are well aware, this moment is coming for all of us. Except me! I plan to stick around for the rapture!

If you're taking notes I'm going to give you a list of 5 things the Bible tells us you will experience in the first moments immediately after death.

I think this may be one of the most important lessons you will hear this year. Reason? If you are a follower of Christ, after today, you will never again be afraid of death.

[slide: spirit of fear]

One of the things that happened to many of us during the pandemic was a spirit of fear may have gotten into us.



*"For God has not given
us a spirit of fear,
but of power and of love and of a
sound mind" (2 Tim. 1:7).*

Being careful and considerate of people around us—especially our kupuna—is one thing but becoming afraid is something totally different: afraid to walk out of your house, afraid of crowds, afraid to go to church, afraid to go to work because you might get sick and die. I'm not judging you. You be the judge if this has become true of you because for 2 years straight every day, 24 hours a day you were given a body count of how many people were sick, on a ventilator, or dead because of Covid. Then maybe a loved one got sick. And we become

like Peter who should have kept his eyes on the Lord, but instead starts looking around at the wind and the waves, became afraid, and sank like a lead balloon.

I found this powerful passage in Leviticus of what happens to us if we do not obey God and keep the Sabbath holy. Watch this:

[Slide]

“As for those of you who may be left, (exile) I will also bring weakness into their hearts in the lands of their enemies. And the sound of a driven leaf will chase them, and even when no one is pursuing they will flee as though from the sword, and they will fall (Leviticus 26:36 ESV).

If we don't acknowledge the manifest presence of God in our lives, we will live in fear of every little thing. You'll hear the sound of leaves rustling and be like, “What's that?!”

Again, I'm not judging you. You must you be the judge if this has become you. After today, you will not only never again be afraid of death, you may even, like Paul, be hard-pressed to decide whether to die and be with the Lord or stay and serve others in this life. That is, you may even look forward to dying.

Synopsis: Every year it seems like there is a new book or movie about someone who visited heaven and then lived to tell the tale. Did you know the Bible contains a story like that as well? His name was John. John visited the Intermediate Heaven and then came back to tell us about it. As a Christian, if you were to die right now, this would be your experience in the moments that followed.

Intermediate Heaven vs. Future Heaven

Assumption 1: Assume you are a follower of Jesus Christ

Assumption 2: You are about to die instantaneously.

What happens the moment you die? Let's list 5 things that will happen in the first few moments after you die.

1. Angels will usher your soul to heaven

"The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried," (Luke 16:22).

Jim Elliot (Missionary) "The tribe saw angels" They heard singing in the trees.

2. You are immediately in God's Presence

6 "Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. **7** For we live by faith, not by sight. **8** We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord," (2 Corinthians 5:6-8).

You are conscious and in command of your thoughts

The story of the beggar and the rich man. They retained their memories

3. You participate in worship of God with the angels

"At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne. **3** And he who sat there had the appearance

of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald. 4 Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads” (Revelation 4:2-4 ESV).

This is what heaven is like now but not forever.

“And day and night they never cease to say, “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come” (Revelation 4:8 ESV).

Define “Holy”

Mikhael turns out does NOT mean “he who is like God.” It’s a rhetorical question: Who is like the Lord? The answer? No one! No category for Him. He is in a class all to Himself.

11 Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, 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” (Revelation 5:11-12 ESV)!

4. You are aware, to some degree, of the activities on the earth

When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained; and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You

refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth? (Revelation 6:9-10)

Hebrews 12

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith” (Hebrews 12:1-2 ESV).

Pastor Wayne IG Story

5. You will recognize people

Paul says our new bodies will be similar to Christ’s resurrected bodies. Definitely HIM but not exactly.

20 “But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep” (1 Corinthians 15:20 ESV).

So that and much more will be our experience of HEAVEN NOW.

NO fear of death!

Gandalf Reassures Pippin About Death

[Video: [White Shores - The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King](#)]

PIPPIN: I didn't think it would end this way.

GANDALF: End? No, the journey doesn't end here. Death is just another path, one that we all must take. The grey rain-curtain of this world rolls back, and all turns to silver glass, and then you see it.

PIPPIN: What? Gandalf? See what?

GANDALF: White shores, and beyond, a far green country under a swift sunrise.

PIPPIN: Well, that isn't so bad.

GANDALF: No. No, it isn't.

J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Lord of the Rings*

Questions for Discussion and Meditation

1. What have you learned so far that has given you the greatest hope about the reality of heaven?
2. If you had fear creep into your heart during the pandemic, how does the Biblical truth about Heaven dispel your fear?
3. What is the Spirit saying to you about the way you are living right now in anticipation of what will happen the moment you die?