

The Present Heaven
Part 4

What is life like in the
Present Heaven?

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“9When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. ¹⁰They called out in a loud voice, “How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?” ¹¹Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and brothers who were to be killed as they had been was completed.” Rev 6:9-11

21 things we can learn about the Present Heaven
from these 3 verses:

1. When these people died on Earth, they relocated to Heaven.

“I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain...” V 9

When a believer dies he is birthed into heaven. There is no such thing as “purgatory” where people are held in limbo until enough prayers are said or money is given to get them out. This is a false and unbiblical doctrine.

You can get on a plane and relocate yourself to an entirely new location without much effort on your part. Likewise, you will be relocated to a great location (Heaven) through a vehicle called death.

2. These people were the same people who were killed for Christ while on Earth.

- This shows our direct continuity between our identity on Earth and our identity in Heaven. You are you here on Earth and you will be you in Heaven.
- The martyrs’ personal history extends back to their lives on Earth. Those in the present Heaven are not different people; They are the same people relocated – “righteous men made perfect” (Hebrews 12:23)

3. People in Heaven will be remembered for their lives on Earth.

These were known and identified as ones slain, “because of ... the testimony they had maintained” V 9

Notice that we don’t know anything about their individual lives except for they were martyrs. He we do not know: how often they went to church, how often they read their Bibles, or how much they put in the offering.

Individual rewards vs Team rewards

A. In Heaven, those who endured bad things on Earth are comforted.

“But Abraham replied, Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony.” Luke 16:25

B. Our memories of our life on Earth will be more accurate when we get to heaven down to specific:

- **Words**

“But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken.” Matthew 12:36

- **Actions**

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.” 2 Cor 5:10

4. They were able to express themselves audibly

“They called out...” V 10.

People in Heaven have vocal cords.

5. People in the Present Heaven can raise their voices.

“They called out in a loud voice,”V.10

This indicates that they are: rational, communicative, and emotional (even passionate) beings, like people on Earth.

6. They called out in “a loud voice,” not “loud voices.”

“They called out in a loud voice,”V.10

Individuals speaking with one voice indicate that Heaven is a place of unity and shared perspective. A place where everyone wants the same thing.

Here we all lookout for ourselves. This is part of the curse. The bank wants to make money for the bank. The company wants to make money for the company. The employee wants to make money for the employee. The investor wants to make money for the investor. When Adam and Eve sinned and sin entered the world, sin brought us into bondage of serving ourselves. Now as Christians we work to fight against this bondage by giving and serving but at the end of the day, we only give and serve as much as we can and we are still a part of the curse and will take care of ourselves.

Adam did not sow together fig leaves for Eve. He sewed his own and so did Eve. Thus began the idea of taking care of yourself, FIRST.

7. The martyr’s are fully conscious, rational, and aware of each other, God and the situation on Earth.

If the martyrs in Heaven know that God hasn’t yet brought judgment on their persecutors, it seems evident that the inhabitants of the present Heaven can see what’s happening on Earth, at least to some extent.

When Babylon is brought down, an angel points to events happening on Earth and says,

“Rejoice over her, O heaven! Rejoice, saints and apostles and prophets! God has judged her for the way she treated you.” Rev 18:20

That the angel specifically addresses people living in Heaven indicates they’re aware of what’s happening on Earth.