

THE FATHER'S HOUSE

- Jesus speaks just before the cross
- The disciples are troubled and uncertain
- Jesus gives them **certainty about their future**
- The focus is not just heaven as a place
- The focus is **being with the Father**

1. GOD'S DWELLING WITH MAN (PAST – PRESENT – FUTURE)

- God desired to dwell with man
 - Tabernacle – Ex 25:8
- Israel rejected God's presence
 - Judgment on Jerusalem – Mt 23:37–39, Mt 24:1–2
 - Jesus wept over the city – Lk 19:41–46
- Temple was meant to be:
 - A house of prayer – Is 56:7
- Jesus called it:
 - “My Father's house” – Lk 2:49, Jn 2:16
- Result of rejection:
 - Presence departed
 - Temple destroyed (70 A.D.)

2. THE PROMISE OF THE FATHER'S HOUSE

- Jesus gives assurance:
 - A prepared place – Jn 14:2
- Heaven defined:
 - Where God dwells
 - A family home, not just a location
- Believers' future:
 - Heavenly city – Heb 12:22–24
 - Eternal dwelling – Ps 23
 - Eternal body – 2 Cor 5:1, 5–8
- “Many mansions”:
 - Permanent dwelling
 - Prepared for every believer

3. WHAT HEAVEN WILL BE LIKE

- New Jerusalem:
 - Comes from God – Rev 21:2
- God's presence:

- Dwells with His people – Rev 21:3
- No suffering:
 - No death, sorrow, or pain – Rev 21:4
- Eternal inheritance:
 - For overcomers – Rev 21:5–7
- Warning:
 - Judgment for unbelievers – Rev 21:8

4. FINAL JUDGMENT AND THE SECOND DEATH

- Great white throne judgment – Rev 20:11–15
- Second death:
 - Eternal separation from God – Rev 2:11, Rev 20:6, 14, Rev 21:8
- Eternal punishment:
 - Outer darkness and torment – Mt 8:12, Rev 20:7–10

5. DETAILS OF THE HEAVENLY CITY

- Structure:
 - 12 gates, 12 foundations – Rev 21:12, 14
 - Cube-like city – Rev 21:16
- Beauty:
 - Gold, jasper, pearls – Rev 21:18, 21
- No temple:
 - God Himself is the temple – Rev 21:22
- No sun needed:
 - God is the light – Rev 21:23, 1 Jn 1:5–7
- River of life:
 - Flows from God – Rev 22:1
 - Life and healing – Rev 22:2
- No curse:
 - Direct access to God – Rev 22:3–5

6. HOW HEAVEN WAS PREPARED

- Jesus prepares the way:
 - Through death, resurrection, ascension
- Fulfillment of the Old Covenant:
 - Entered heavenly sanctuary – Heb 9:11–15
 - Blood required for remission – Heb 9:16–22
 - One sacrifice forever – Heb 10:12
- Foundation:
 - Christ alone – 1 Cor 3:11–15

7. THE TIMING: HE WILL COME AGAIN

- Promise:
 - Jesus will return – Jn 14:3
- Ascension and return:
 - Same manner – Acts 1:9–11
- Gathering of believers:
 - 1 Thess 4:16–17
- Universal visibility:
 - Every eye will see Him – Rev 1:7

8. WHY WE NEED TO BE MADE FIT FOR HEAVEN

- Problem:
 - All have sinned – Rom 3:23–24
- Solution:
 - Must be born again – Jn 3:3–6
- New life:
 - Spirit dwells in us – Rom 8:9–11
- Access to God:
 - Through Christ’s blood – Heb 10:19–22
- Transformation:
 - New creation – 2 Cor 5:17
 - New heart and a new spirit – Ezek 36:25–27
 - Righteousness in Christ – 2 Cor 5:21
- Final change:
 - Glorified body – 1 Cor 15:50–54
- Identity:
 - Citizenship in heaven – Phil 3:20–21

9. THE WAY TO THE FATHER’S HOUSE

- Only one way:
 - Jesus – Jn 14:6
- Assurance:
 - Names written in heaven – Lk 10:20
- Final separation:
 - Book of Life determines destiny – Rev 20:11–15, Rev 21:27
- God remembers the faithful:
 - Book of remembrance – Mal 3:16–18

10. KEY TRUTHS TO EMPHASIZE

- Heaven is:

- Not just a place
 - It is **God's presence**
- The greatest promise:
 - “That where I am, there you may be also” – Jn 14:3
- The central question:
 - Are you prepared for the place prepared for you?

11. PRACTICAL CLASS QUESTIONS

- What does it mean that heaven is the Father's house and not just a place?
- Are you preparing for heaven, or assuming you are ready?
- What evidence shows your nature has changed?
- Do your desires reflect a heavenly citizenship?
- Are you trusting in Christ alone as the way?