

# One Minute After You Die: Heaven Troy Knight

Key Scripture:

**Psalms 16:9-11**

*No wonder my heart is glad, and I rejoice. My body rests in safety. 10 For you will not leave my soul among the dead or allow your holy one to rot in the grave. 11 You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever.*

**Revelation 21:1-7**

*1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. 2 And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. 4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever." 5 And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new!" And then he said to me, "Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true." 6 And he also said, "It is finished! I am the Alpha and the Omega—the Beginning and the End. To all who are thirsty I will give freely from the springs of the water of life. 7 All who are victorious will inherit all these blessings, and I will be their God, and they will be my children.*

**Isaiah 11:6-9**

*In that day the wolf and the lamb will live together; the leopard will lie down with the baby goat. The calf and the yearling will be safe with the lion, and a little child will lead them all. 7 The cow will graze near the bear. The cub and the calf will lie down together. The lion will eat hay like a cow. 8 The baby will play safely near the hole of a cobra. Yes, a little child will put its hand in a nest of deadly snakes without harm. 9 Nothing will hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain, for as the waters fill the sea, so the earth will be filled with people who know the Lord.*

## TALK IT OVER

Start **talking**. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- What do you think heaven will be like? What do you hope to experience when you first enter heaven?
- Describe a moment when you felt like you experienced a piece of heaven.

Start **thinking**. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- **Read Psalms 16:9-11**. What did David know about God that we sometimes forget?
- **Read Revelation 21:1-7**. How does this change or confirm what you believe about heaven?
- We often think about heaven being somewhere out there. How does it make you feel to realize that part of heaven will be life on a new improved earth?
- What do you think your job will be in heaven? What do you want it to be?
- **Read Isaiah 11:6-9**. What will the lion eat? Will your pet be in heaven? Why or why not?

Start **sharing**. Choose a question to create openness.

- Have you ever felt unsure of whether or not you're going to heaven? How have you worked through that?
- How does your specific view of heaven change the way you live on earth?
- Who is the first person you want to meet in heaven?
- What's the best thing about heaven?

Start **doing**. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- What actions will you take in response to this message series?
- Whom can you talk to about your eternal hope? Start sharing your story of faith with someone.

Start **praying**. Be bold and pray with power.

- God, we love You. Thank You for preparing a place in heaven for us. Thank You for sending Jesus as the way, the truth, and the life. Teach us to seek You and Your will on earth as it is in heaven. Help us to share the hope we have with others. Amen!

Start **digging**. For further study.

- Read the 2nd page and discuss it.

## **Question: "What is Heaven like?"**

**Answer:** Heaven is a real place described in the Bible. The word "heaven" is found 276 times in the New Testament alone. Scripture refers to three heavens. The apostle Paul was "caught up to the third heaven," but he was prohibited from revealing what he experienced there (2 Corinthians 12:1-9).

If a third heaven exists, there must also be two other heavens. The first is most frequently referred to in the Old Testament as the "sky" or the "firmament." This is the heaven that contains clouds, the area that birds fly through. The second heaven is interstellar/outer space, which is the abode of the stars, planets, and other celestial objects (Genesis 1:14-18).

The third heaven, the location of which is not revealed, is the dwelling place of God. Jesus promised to prepare a place for true Christians in heaven (John 14:2). Heaven is also the destination of Old Testament saints who died trusting God's promise of the Redeemer (Ephesians 4:8). Whoever believes in Christ shall never perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).

The apostle John was privileged to see and report on the heavenly city (Revelation 21:10-27). John witnessed that heaven (the new earth) possesses the "glory of God" (Revelation 21:11), the very presence of God. Because heaven has no night and the Lord Himself is the light, the sun and moon are no longer needed (Revelation 22:5).

The city is filled with the brilliance of costly stones and crystal clear jasper. Heaven has twelve gates (Revelation 21:12) and twelve foundations (Revelation 21:14). The paradise of the Garden of Eden is restored: the river of the water of life flows freely and the tree of life is available once again, yielding fruit monthly with leaves that "heal the nations" (Revelation 22:1-2). However eloquent John was in his description of heaven, the reality of heaven is beyond the ability of finite man to describe (1 Corinthians 2:9).

Heaven is a place of "no mores." There will be no more tears, no more pain, and no more sorrow (Revelation 21:4). There will be no more separation, because death will be conquered (Revelation 20:6). The best thing about heaven is the presence of our Lord and Savior (1 John 3:2). We will be face to face with the Lamb of God who loved us and sacrificed Himself so that we can enjoy His presence in heaven for eternity.