

Kailua Christian Church
Sunday, March 12, 2023
“Heaven: The Real Story”
Rev. 21:1-7 & 1 Corinthians 13:12
Guest Pastor: Chaplain Les Araki

Scripture Readings:

Rev. 21:1-7

21 Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,”[a] for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’[b] or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

5 He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

6 He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. 7 Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

1 Corinthians 13:12

12 For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

Title: Heaven: “THE REAL STORY”

Theme: Heaven will be more than we could ever Imagine.

Much of this sermon was based on the writings of Randy Alcorn and his book “Heaven”

Intro: If you were to move to Australia permanently would you be interested in what that new hemisphere would be like? Would you want to know the climate, things to expect, things to look forward to, etc. How much more if you were to be going to Heaven for all of eternity.

J.C. Ryle

Have you ever wondered what heaven will be like?

Will our pets be in Heaven?

Can I know for sure that I am going to Heaven?

Does heaven exist?

Will there be sunsets or oceans in heaven?

In belief in a literal final adventure in heaven necessary today?

Is heaven and hell topics that are taboo in today’s church?

I hope to answer these answers and more this morning.

I went to a typical seminary. In theology we learned about God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, we even learned about the Rapture of the believers, different theories on the Tribulation and the Millennial Kingdom, but we ran out of time before we learn about the last two chapters in the Bible Revelation 21 and 22.

Paul's attitude about life and being with Jesus. To live is Christ to die is gain. Phil. 1:21

My best friend Garret Uehara and I have talked about everything under the sun. We talked girls and the rapture in intermediate school. We talked about bettering each other in weight lifting and living the godly life in high school. We talked about heartbreak and the joys of marrying godly women and having awesome children. He role modeled having our father as our best friend... and we talked about heaven since we were in very young. We got most of our ideas from movies. We would share theories of what we hoped we could do in heaven. Junior high we could fly from star to star. As we got older, we got to the important questions: will we be able to hunt and fish. Will the fish and animals feel pain? Will we be eating meat? Will there be surf? What does "no longer any sea" in Rev. 21 mean? What will our relationships be like in heaven with our wives and family? No more marriage or being given in marriage.

Answer questions biblically:

Have you ever wondered what heaven will be like? Will our pets be in Heaven? Can I know for sure that I am going to Heaven? Does heaven exist? Will there be sunsets or oceans in heaven? Is belief in a literal final adventure in heaven necessary today? Are heaven and hell topics taboo in today's church? Where are our loved ones now?

Is Paradise, the militias kingdom, and New earth the same.

Am I 100% sure I will go to heaven? Can you be? I John 5:11-13.

Conclusion:

The Bible actually says a lot about heaven. Do you believe in heaven?

C.S. Lewis The Last Battle:

"And as He spoke, He no longer looked to them like a lion; but the things that began to happen after that were so great and beautiful that I cannot write them. And for us this is the end of all the stories, and we can most truly say that they all lived happily ever after. But for them it was only the beginning of the real story. All their life in this world and all their adventures in Narnia had only been the cover and the title page: now at last they were beginning Chapter One of the Great Story which no one on earth has read: which goes on forever: in which every chapter is better than the one before."

I would like you to dream about heaven.

1 Corinthians 13:12

12 For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

Amen.