

**Sermon Quotes**  
**November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2007**  
**Eternity and Eternal Things- What Present Heaven Is Like**

“Usually when we refer to Heaven, we mean the place that Christians go when they die...When we tell our children ‘Grandma’s now in Heaven,’ we’re referring to the present Heaven...It bears repeating because it is so commonly misunderstood: *When we die, believers in Christ will not go to the Heaven where we’ll live forever.* Instead, we’ll go to an **intermediate Heaven**. In that Heaven—where those who died covered by Christ’s blood are now—we’ll await the time of Christ’s return to the earth, our bodily resurrection, the final judgment, and the creation of the new heavens and New Earth. If we fail to grasp this truth, we will fail to understand the biblical doctrine of Heaven.”

—Randy Alcorn

2 Truths That Prove an Intermediate Heaven:

1. When Christians die they immediately go to Heaven.
2. God promises to create a “New Heavens and a New Earth,” at the end of the Age.

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-14** “But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, **about those who are asleep**, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. (14) For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.”

**NOVA:** Well...most people have trouble envisioning a fourth spatial dimension. Can you?

**Dr. Greene:** No. I cannot envision anything beyond three dimensions. What I can do is I can make use of mathematics that describe **those extra dimensions**, and then I can try to translate what the mathematics tells me...But the picture is certainly inadequate to the task of **fully describing what’s going on**...To tell you the truth, I’ve never met anybody who can envision more than three dimensions. There are some who claim they can, and maybe they can...But it’s very hard, when your brain is involved in a world **that appears to have three dimensions** and is well suited to envisioning that world, to **go beyond that and imagine more dimensions**.”

**Hebrews 1:13-14** And to which of the angels has he ever said, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"? Are **they** (the angels) not all **ministering spirits sent out to serve** for the sake of **those** who are to **inherit salvation**?

**2 Kings 6:15-17** When the servant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. And the servant said, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" He said, "Do not be afraid, **for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.**" Then Elisha prayed and said, "O LORD, please **open his eyes** that he may see." So the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

**Acts 7:54-57** ESV Now when they heard these things they (the Jews) were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. But he (Steven), full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. And he said, "**Behold, I see the heavens opened**, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him.

**Philippians 1:20-21** "...It is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life **or by death**. For to me **to live is Christ, and to die is gain.**"

**Philippians 1:23** "...My **desire is to depart** and be with Christ, for **that is far better.**"

**2 Corinthians 5:8** "Yes, we are of good courage, and we would **rather be** away from the body and at home with the Lord."