# Heaven

**The kingdom of heaven is near.**

***(St. Matthew 3:2)***

**Behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you.  
(St. Luke 17:21)**

**And I saw a new heaven and a new earth;**

**for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away.**

***(Revelation 21:1)***

**The ancients believed that the heaven was higher than the earth; therefore, they maintained that God's habitation is in heaven from whence he watches men. In Aramaic and Hebrew the same word that means “heaven” also means “sky” and “the universe.” God is everywhere. The term heaven means peace and harmony. In Aramaic, we often say, “This is heaven,” which means, “We are living in peace and tranquility.” (George M. Lamsa, in Old Testament Light , p. 723)  
Balancing the budget is like going to heaven. Everybody wants to do it. They just don’t want to do what you have to do to make the trip. (Senator Phil Gramm)  
  
 George Washington, Abraham Lincoln and Tommy Lasorda under the same roof? It happened Tuesday as a portrait of the Los Angeles Dodgers legend was unveiled at the Smithsonian’s National Portrait Gallery on Lasorda’s 82nd birthday. The unveiling was the latest honor for a one-time pitcher with an 0-4 major-league record, Lasorda was voted into baseball’s Hall of Fame in 1997 and had an asteroid named after him in 2003 – Asteroid Lasorda. He now serves as special advisor to the team. “Somebody out here asked me what’s next for you?” Lasorda said. “I said, ‘Heaven.’” (Chicago Tribune)**

**Children are the hands by which we take hold of heaven. (Henry Ward Beecher)  
  
Bible translators have not understood the spiritual meaning of the Scriptures, and they have nearly always translated the word “heavens” in the singular, making it read “heaven.” This error has misled many into thinking that Jesus, in His many parables and comparisons, referred to a place called heaven. But it is apparent that in these parables and comparisons He was trying to explain to His hearers the character of the omnipresent substance and life that has all potentiality and is the source of everything that appears on the earth. (Charles Fillmore, in Atom-Smashing Power of Mind, p. 170)**

**If you keep looking for a bliss, then you may as well stay stuck in where you are, because that is the closest you will get to it. (Dr. Paul Brenner)**

**Man’s reach should exceed his grasp, else what’s a heaven for? (Browning)**

**You'll not be in heaven if you're not leaning on the arm of someone you have helped. (Edgar Cayce)**

**We don’t go to heaven, we grow to heaven. We grow in consciousness to the heaven of love, peace, joy and wholeness. And, the time of going and growing is now! A change from the 20th to the 21st century will not change your life nor mine. The change must be an inner change. (Dr. R. Eugene Nichols, in Ave-News)**

**Many people have asked me to tell them about heaven and the afterlife. I sometimes smile because I do not know any more than they do. Yet when one young man asked if I looked forward to being united with God and all those who have gone before me, I made a connection to an old memory. The first time I traveled with my mother and sister to my parents’ homeland of Tonadico di Primiero in Northern Italy, I felt as if I had been there before. After years of looking through my mother’s photo albums, I knew the mountains, the land, the houses, the people. As soon as we entered the valley, I said, “I know this place. I am home.” Somehow I think crossing from this life into life eternal will be similar. I will be home. (Joseph Cardinal Bernardin, in The Gift of Peace)  
  
Hopscotch was once a religious game. Final square was heaven. (L. M. Boyd)**

**Your enjoyment of this world is never right, ‘til every morning you awake in heaven. There is none other than the house of God and the gate of heaven. (Aldous Huxley)**

**I've feasted on rich sunsets that were gorgeous as could be, and yet the rarest sunset is the one I'll never see. As footprints spoil the beauty of a smooth and silver beach, so nature’s wondrous music is destroyed by human speech. The birds and forests disappear when civilization comes, enchanting landscapes are replaced by narrow streets and slums. Man's touch defiles the lovely things and ravishes the land, that's why God keeps His Heaven just beyond our mortal hands! (Nick Kenny, in Poems to Inspire)  
  
I believe there is a language in heaven which we learn on earth. If we learn the vocabulary of love now, when we meet God face to face we will know what He is talking about. (Phil Barnhart, in Seasonings for Sermons, p. 86)**

**I have always imagined that Paradise will be a kind of library. (Jorge Luis Borges, Argentine author)**

**“I wish,” said the drinker to the clergyman, “that you had the keys to Heaven so that you might let me in.” “Twere better,” said the clergyman, “that I had the keys to hell that I might let you out!” (Malachy McCourt, in Harold Be Thy Name)  
  
Keep in mind that “heaven,” as Jesus uses the term, is not a place in the sky or a reward for after life. The word “heaven” comes from a Greek root that means “expanding.” Thus, Jesus is talking about the expanding potential within the individual -- within you. Heaven is the potential of the Spirit in you that is wrapped in your human nature. (Dr. Eric Butterworth, in Discover the Power Within You , p. 58)**

**If I ever reach heaven, I expect to find three wonders there; first to meet some I had not thought to see there; second, to miss some I had expected to see there; and third, the greatest wonder of all, to find myself there. (John Newton)**

**At the beginning of his ministry Jesus declared, “Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” This was an entirely new idea about heaven to people who had been postponing their expectancy of good, their security, their peace of mind, their happiness, to some remote future. But Jesus came declaring that it is all at hand, right now, with us and within us. *(Carl Moran, in INTA magazine)***

**Am told “paradise” is a Persian word that literally means “hunting ground.” (L. M. Boyd)**

**Pennies from heaven: Six hundred years ago, if you wanted to go to heaven when you died, you simply bought a certificate, called an indulgence, from the Catholic Church in Rome. *(The Diagram Group, in Funky, Freaky Facts, p. 50)***

**Jean-Paul Sartre (arriving in heaven): “It’s not what I expected.” God: “What did you expect?” Sartre: “Nothing.” (SCTV)**

**The gate of heaven is very low; only the humble can enter it. (St. Elizabeth Seton)**

**Where did the phrase “seventh heaven” come from? Mohammedan belief that there were seven heavens, each happier than the one before, with the seventh supremely happy. (L. M. Boyd)**

**I am certain that there will be three surprises in heaven. First of all, I will see some people there whom I never expected to see. Second, there will be a number whom I expect to be there who will not be there. And, even relying on His mercy, the biggest surprise of all may be that I will be there. *(Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, in Treasure in Clay)***

**Instead of a heaven after death, the new Christianity teaches a kingdom of the heavens existing now as a righteous state of mind. It teaches that man makes his heaven here and now by the formative power of his thought. *(Charles Fillmore, in Jesus Christ Heals)***

**Heaven is going to be a vast, colorful tapestry of living things. God is a God of life, and his home is going to reflect that. Does this seem too childish and silly to believe? I certainly hope so, because that’s a sure sign that it’s true. (Anthony Destefano, in A Travel Guide to Heaven)**

**Heaven goes by favor. If it went by merit, you would stay out and your dog would go in. (Mark Twain)**

**There is a little church in Ireland with beautiful stained-glass windows. The richness of the reds and blues are breathtaking. However, there is one window that has been left in clear glass. It is the most beautiful window of them all for it looks out over a panorama that includes a clear-blue lake and green rolling hills. Under the window is this inscription: “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth His handiwork.” (Dynamic Preaching)**

**How can the world be improving, when what we once called “heaven” we now call “space”? (Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)**  
**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***