

Chapter 10 **Heaven is real**

The Bible mentions heaven 750 times.

First, there are three heavens - (1) our immediate atmosphere - heaven of the clouds, (2) the starry heavens, (3) God's dwelling-place - “our Father in heaven.” Matthew 6.9.

Second, Jesus confirmed heaven's reality. He said, “I have come down from heaven” John 6.38, and he emphasised this twice more: John 6.51,58. And he's there now “at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12.2.

Third, God plans for all believers to join him in his dwelling-place to receive “an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled.” 1 Peter 1.4. (All believers are “joint heirs with Christ” Romans 8.17).

Therefore, one day soon Jesus “will descend from heaven” and “the dead in Christ will rise” to meet him in the heaven of the clouds! This is the promised resurrection of believers.

“Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.” 1Thessalonians 4.17.

This catching up of all living believers is called the “rapture” because in the Bible's Latin translation - known as the Vulgate - the word “rapio” is used. For more about this, see under heading “Easy to believe”.

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To believe in heaven is not to run away from life; it is to run toward it.