

THE HEAVENS - A BRIEF

1. **Atmosphere** - the envelope of air around the Earth, “*heavens*” (שָׁמַיִם - Heb. shamayim) Gen. 1:1, 8; Ex. 20:11; Dan. 7:13; Hosea 2:18; “*heaven*” οὐρανός - Gk. ouranos) and “*air*” (ἀέρος - Gk. aeros) (1 Thess. 4:16-18; Eph. 2:2)
 - a. Oxygen ends at about 39,000 feet (5 or 6 miles)
 - b. The atmosphere ends at about 6,700 miles.
 - c. The geostationary orbit (geosynchronous orbit) is about 22,320-25,260 miles.
 - d. Outer space begins at something called the “Karman Line” at about 62 miles

2. **Universe** - outer space, the stars and galaxies, etc. (Gen. 1:1, 14-18); “*heavenly places*” (οὐράνους - Gk. ouranois) (Matt. 5:16; Eph. 4:10; 6:12; Col. 1:5; Rev. 3:12b)

3. **God’s abode** - the heaven of heavens, the “*third heaven*” (2 Cor. 12:2-4; cf. Acts 14:19-22; Eph. 1:3; Rev.4:1 with Rev.1:11; Deut. 10:14; 1 Kings 8:27; 2 Chron. 2:6; Neh. 9:6; Psa. 148:4; Isa. 14:13, 14; “*the majesty on high*” Heb. 1:3; 9:23, 24)

4. **New (Heavenly) Jerusalem** - heaven for believers (Isa. 65:18; John 14:1-3; Heb. 11:9, 10, 16; 12:22, 23; 13:14; Rev. 3:12e; 21:2, 9-27; 22:1-5)
 - a. It is a city of “*pure gold like clear glass.*” (Rev. 21:18)
 - b. The streets of this city are also to be of “*pure gold like clear glass.*” (Rev. 21:21)
 - c. The city is **possibly a cube** of these dimensions: 1,500 miles in length, width, and height (or possibly 1,500 miles **high** above the earth). (Rev. 21:16)
 - d. It is the home of the bride, the wife of Christ (the church). (Rev. 21:2, 9)
 - e. It is probably suspended over the earth during the millennial age. Rev. 21:10).
 - f. It apparently descends to be on the *new earth* at the end of the millennial age and to continue there forever. (Rev. 21:1-8)

5. **New heavens and a new earth** - recreation or restoration of the now existing heavens and earth (ref. 2 Pet. 3:10-13; cf. Isa. 65:17; 66:22)
 - a. The heavens and earth are restored at the beginning of the millennium. (Isa. 65:17; 66:22; 2 Peter 3:10, 11)

- b. The heavens and the earth will be totally restored at the end of human history, after the “*great white throne*” judgment.
(Rev. 20:11-15; 21:1-8; 2 Peter 3:12, 13; cf. Hebrews 1:10-12; Psa. 102:25-27; Isa. 51:6)