



**Keswick
Ministries**
RESOURCES

What on Earth is Heaven?

What and Where is Heaven?

James Paul: Seminar 1

MAKE THE MOST OF THIS SEMINAR

This seminar is the first in a series of two. You can watch the seminars on your own or with your church, small group, or friends. The questions/reflections below may help you discuss and work through how to apply what you've learnt to your own life. Start the video and then pause it when suggested to look at the question(s).

WATCH THE VIDEO:

[Seminar 1:
https://tinyurl.com/yp2j8nv4](https://tinyurl.com/yp2j8nv4)



To watch the video, scan the QR code or go to @KeswickConvention on YouTube and search for James Paul

SEMINAR OUTLINE

The images we often have - pink fluffy clouds populated by fat babies with wings or an endless church worship service - make heaven seem an unattractive, even a boring future. What does the Bible actually say about heaven? In this seminar we will explore the biblical story of heaven and earth and see that heaven is much more than a future place we go to when we die.

QUESTIONS

Watch the video and pause it at 18:10 minutes.

1. What images, words and feelings come to mind when you think of heaven?
2. How does our culture portray heaven?

Restart video at 18:10 minutes (<https://tinyurl.com/56c9n68b>) and watch until 31:04 minutes.

3. What difference does it make to our attitudes and behaviour when we realize that:
 - Heaven is not a place but the dimension of reality where God's will is done.
 - The material world is not bad. It comes out of the considered, loving will of God.

Restart video at 31:04 minutes (<https://tinyurl.com/yzjxa5cr>) and watch until the end.

4. 'Wherever you turn your eyes the world can shine like transfiguration. You don't have to bring anything to it except a little willingness to see' (Marilynne Robinson). When have you seen the world shining like transfiguration?
5. What 'gates of heaven' (Genesis 28:17) do you find in the Old Testament? What do they teach us about the character of God and the nature of heaven?
6. What does it mean for Jesus to be 'the heavenly man' (1 Corinthians 15:48)?





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REFLECTION/PRAYER

- Thank God for all the ways he has brought heaven down to us, especially in the person of Jesus. We could never get to heaven by our own effort, but Jesus opens up the way. He is 'the gate' (John 10:7) bringing heaven to us and us to heaven.
- Reflect on this idea of heaven not being a place you go when you die but a dimension of reality where God's will is done. How does this concept impact how you speak about heaven, the content of your prayers and your expectations for life?
- 'Worldly means living as if the earth is all there is and there is nothing beyond it' (James Paul). In what ways are you living a worldly life? What action do you need to take?
- If you would like to think more about this topic read, 'What on Earth is Heaven?' by James Paul.





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What on Earth is Heaven?

Participating in Heaven Here
and Now on Earth

James Paul: Seminar 2

MAKE THE MOST OF THIS SEMINAR

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WATCH THE VIDEO:

Seminar 2:
<https://tinyurl.com/y52tt836>



To watch the video, scan the QR code or go to @KeswickConvention on YouTube and search for James Paul

SEMINAR OUTLINE

It can be easy to think of the gospel as telling us how we can escape this earthly life for a heavenly future. Yet when Jesus said that 'the kingdom of heaven is here', he seemed to be pointing to a present reality. What then does it mean to participate in heaven, here and now, in our ordinary everyday lives on earth?

QUESTIONS

Watch the video and pause it at 19:51 minutes.

1. In what ways did Jesus bring the kingdom of heaven near (Matthew 4:17)?
2. What can we learn from Jesus' resurrection body about what the new creation will be like?

Restart video at 19:51 minutes (<https://tinyurl.com/3bd74mad>) and watch until 38:47 minutes.

3. What happens to us between our death and Jesus' second coming? Look at Luke 23:43, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 1 Corinthians 15:51-54 and Psalm 23:4.

Restart video at 38:47 minutes (<https://tinyurl.com/ykc2sdck>) and watch until the end.

4. How can we bring heaven to earth today? Think what this could look like for:
 - An older person living in a retirement home
 - A student at university
 - A parent overwhelmed with looking after young children
 - A person with a demanding job
5. How does it change our attitudes and actions when we acknowledge that we don't build the kingdom of God, but God builds his kingdom through his people?
6. What opposition and discouragement have you encountered trying to bring heaven to earth? Where have you found encouragement and hope?





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REFLECTION/PRAYER

- Pray that your church community would be increasingly obedient to God's will and a conduit of God's power, bringing his kingdom to earth.
- Chat with a Christian friend about what it means for you personally to participate in building God's kingdom on earth.
- 'Even if what you do is reversed by someone else or undone, it is part of the new creation and will be there when Christ returns. Everything you have done which is part of the kingdom of heaven is eternal' (James Paul). How are these words an encouragement and a challenge to you today?
- Meditate on 1 Corinthians 15:58 as you seek to bring the kingdom of heaven to your square inch of earth: 'Stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.'

