

Jesus was probably using an analogy commonly known to his hearers
after engagement a groom would go back home to prepare a place

much like the Amish, it would be part of the family home

uncertainty was not if, but when, he would return for his bride

There is no doubt from the Gospels that Jesus believed in reality of heaven
Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise - Luke 23:43

There is also no doubt Jesus believed we could impact the quality of our
time there by how we live our life here

LUKE 6:20-23

MATTHEW 25:31-46

Why a Faith Professed Must Be a Faith Practiced

Some day there will be a great Judgment Day, a great separation
sheep from the goats, the good from the bad

there will be many surprises on that day (Matthew 7:21-23)

The basis for judgment: Did we live out the faith we professed?
staying true to the faith even when it costs us will be rewarded

the deeds listed are intensely practical, and often hard to do

such deeds are the basis of our eternal inheritance

while we get to heaven by faith, our deeds determine our rewards

In heaven everyone's cup will be full, but not all cups will be the same size

Summary: Heaven is a real place that Jesus is right now preparing for us

While he does the building, we provide the materials

One skipped question: How do I make a guaranteed reservation?
John 14:5-6

WHAT JESUS BELIEVES ABOUT HEAVEN

INTRODUCTION

What is heaven like?

fluffy clouds, streets of gold, lots of harps?

the insights of a little girl

Heaven is an unknown region with a well-known inhabitant

J.I. Packer

Randy Alcorn's book *Heaven* talks of a present heaven and a future heaven

present heaven is our home after death until our bodily resurrection

the future heaven will actually be earth renewed and transformed

Isaiah 65:17-19, 2 Peter 3:13, Revelation 21:1-5

What did Jesus have to say about heaven?

JOHN 14:1-4

My Father's House

Context: Jesus says he is about to leave, and Peter wants to know where

Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later

John 13:36

Peter: Why can't I go now? I'll do whatever it takes!

Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me - vs. 1

My Father's house has plenty of room - vs. 2

God is in charge of this place

it is a place

it is a spacious place that won't run out of room

we each will have our own place prepared by Jesus

Jesus will come back and get us when our place is ready

Jesus will be with us in that place