

How Heaven is like the Grand Canyon

Scripture Text: John 14:1-3

In the context, Jesus is encouraging the disciples because he is about to go away.

He wants to let them know that they will be with Him again.

The place where the disciples will be with Jesus is a place that Jesus is preparing.

And that he is going to return one day to bring them to this place.

We know this place as heaven.

This morning, I want us to answer the question: How is heaven like the Grand Canyon?

I. IT'S GRAND!

1. The Grand Canyon is big, beautiful, and spectacular. So is heaven.
2. Heaven is the place where God lives. — Psalm 11:4
3. Heaven is full of beauty — consider the description in Revelation 20:18-27 — Jasper, gold clear glass, precious stones, pearls — all of these items are used to describe the beauty of heaven.
4. Heaven is full of spectacular blessings — Revelation 21:1-4

II. THERE IS NO CHEAP WAY TO GET ACROSS.

1. Whether one walks, drives, or rents a helicopter, it costs something valuable to get across.
2. There is no cheap way to get to heaven, either.
3. The price of access cost the blood of God's Son, Jesus.
 - 1) Consider Hebrews 10:19-20
 - 2) Ephesians 2:18

III. THERE ARE MANY WHO JUST WANT TO ADMIRE THE VIEW

1. Many go to the Grand Canyon each year just to admire the view.
2. According to census polls, over 90% of Americans believe in heaven.
 - 1) They like the idea of heaven.
 - 2) They admire the view, so to speak.
 - 3) But they don't live their lives in a way that will get them there.
3. What needs to be done not simply to admire the view of heaven but to enter?
 - 1) Do the will of the Father. Matthew 7:21-22.
 - 2) Be converted. Matthew 18:3.
 - 3) Be born again. John 3:5 – Jesus is talking about baptism.

IV. THE WAY TO THE OTHER SIDE IS NARROW AND FEW GO THERE.

1. How do you get to the other side?

1) One may walk to the other side of the Grand Canyon.

a. It is around 8-10 miles.

b. The hike usually takes three days.

c. The path is narrow, curvy, and difficult.

2) One may also drive in a car.

a. The drive is about 200 miles.

b. It takes 4-5 hours.

c. The road is also narrow, curvy, and difficult.

2. The way to heaven is also a narrow way and few will go there.

1) Matthew 7:13-14

2) Consider Luke 13:23-24

V. YOU'VE GOT TO GO TO THE WATER TO GET TO THE OTHER SIDE.

1. To get to the other side of the Grand Canyon you've got to go down to the river.

2. To get to heaven, we've got to go to the water as well.

1) Of course, I am speaking of the waters of baptism.

2) John 3:5 that we noted earlier is discussing baptism.

3) Acts 2:38, Acts 22:16, Romans 6:1-11, Galatians 3:27, Colossians 2:11-13, 1 Peter 3:21.

3. And just because you get to the water doesn't necessarily mean you are at the other side!

1) We've got to finish the journey.

2) Hebrews 12:1

VI. IF YOU HIKE THE TRAIL YOU WILL NEED FOOD AND DRINK

1. In order to accomplish the journey you need nourishment.

2. So also to finish our spiritual journey we need spiritual nourishment as well.

1) Matthew 5:6-7 – Blessed: Hunger and Thirst after righteousness/

2) We need the bread of life (John 6:51).

3) We need the water of life. Revelation 22:17. Song: There's a Fountain Free.

3. In order to make the journey there must be nourishment!

VII. YOU'VE GOT TO PASS THROUGH THE VALLEY TO GET TO THE OTHER SIDE!

1. The Grand Canyon is not just one valley; it is a series of ever deepening valleys!

2. Life is also a series of ever deepening valleys.
 - 1) The valley of trials. Consider 1 Peter 1:7.
 - 2) The valley of temptation. Consider James 1:12
 - 3) The valley of death. Consider Psalm 23:4
3. Heaven waits on the other side of the valley.

How is heaven like the Grand Canyon?

- 1) Its grand!
- 2) There is no cheap way to get across.
- 3) There are many who just want to admire the view.
- 4) The way to the other side is narrow and few go there.
- 5) You've got to go to the water to get to the other side.
- 6) If you hike the trail you will need food and drink.
- 7) You've got to pass through the valley to get to the other side.

Have you ever been to the Grand Canyon? I haven't yet, but I want to one day. We obviously have not been to Heaven yet, but we want to [or should want to].

We should put on our "To Do" list to get to Heaven, and we should strive to see it at all costs. Think about going on a vacation to the Grand Canyon:

- You have to plan
- You have to save up
- You have to pack

The same things apply to Heaven.

Have you planned? Saved up? Packed? Are you ready? If not, get ready!

If we can help in any way, please come as we stand and sing.

March 10, 2013 AM Wood Church of Christ
starting outline and notes from G. E. Watkins

©2013, 2020 Justin D. Reed
thejustinreedshow.com/bibleresources
Post Office Box 292 · Woodbury TN 37190