

What's all this about the rapture?

“Then we who are alive, who are left, will be **caught up** together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.”

(1 Thessalonians 4:17 ESV)

Heaven is an intermediate state

“For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.”

(2 Corinthians 5:1–8 ESV)

clothed with a tent

naked/unclothed

“building from God”

filled with His Spirit

at home with the Lord

further clothed

Our souls await the resurrection in either heaven or hell

WCF, Chapter XXXII

Of the State of Men after Death, and of the Resurrection of the Dead

I. The bodies of men, after death, return to dust, and see corruption: but their souls, which neither die nor sleep, having an immortal subsistence, immediately return to God who gave them: the souls of the righteous, being then made perfect in holiness, are received into the highest heavens, where they behold the face of God, in light and glory, waiting for the full redemption of their bodies. And the souls of the wicked are cast into hell, where they remain in torments and utter darkness, reserved to the judgment of the great day. Beside these two places, for souls separated from their bodies, the Scripture acknowledges none.

- II. At the last day, such as are found alive shall not die, but be changed: and all the dead shall be raised up, with the selfsame bodies, and none other (although with different qualities), which shall be united again to their souls forever.⁵⁷⁰
- III. The bodies of the unjust shall, by the power of Christ, be raised to dishonor: the bodies of the just, by His Spirit, unto honor; and be made conformable to His own glorious body.

Q. 37. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at death?

- A. The souls of believers are at their death made perfect in holiness, and do immediately pass into glory; and their bodies, being still united in Christ, do rest in their graves, till the resurrection.

Did the OT teach about heaven?

Enjoying God in the Land of the Living

Sheol/grave

Seeing God's face/land of the living

“As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness; when I awake, I shall be satisfied with your likeness.”
(Psalms 17:15 ESV)

“You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory.”
(Psalms 73:24 ESV)