



Eternal Life

ETERNAL LIFE IN HEAVEN

TIM LAHAYE

(Revelation 21:22)

The greatest hope of all humans is that they will live again someday in heaven forever. People of other religions may have another name for this place, like “nirvana” or “the happy hunting grounds,” but the yearning to live again in a better place after death is an almost universal desire. Many think it is an intuitive quest placed in the human heart by God, a quest that can only be stifled by the most blatant atheism or rebellion.

While most people will admit to that innate yearning for life in a better world, only Christians and Jews have any definite knowledge of that place, for the Bible is the only true source of instruction. Perhaps we can imagine the Garden of Eden before the Fall. It was exquisite: a place of indescribable beauty, plenty, and peace, not only between humans and animals, but the entire creation. Heaven will be even better. And that is the key—heaven is indescribable and beyond the imagination of twenty-first-century individuals.

A PLACE PREPARED FOR US

Jesus Christ is the greatest of all authorities about heaven, for He lives there and is a living eyewitness to its glory. When He spoke about heaven while on earth, He called it, “My Father’s house.” Think of that! Heaven is the place where God lives, where His angels dwell, and where His people will spend eternity. Jesus said, “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also” (John 14:1–3). We have the promise of Jesus Christ Himself that He will take us to His Father’s house.

Recently I visited Buckingham Palace

in London, the home of the Queen of England. It is truly magnificent. We ordinary people can scarcely dream of living in such opulent splendor. Yet heaven, or “the Father’s house,” will be incredibly more beautiful. The last two chapters of the last book of the Bible, Revelation, describe some of the grandeur of heaven:

➤ *God will be with His people.*

“Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them” (Rev. 21:3).

“They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads” (Rev. 22:4).

➤ *Heaven will be a place of eternal joy.*
“God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain” (Rev. 21:4).

➤ *Heaven’s beauty is indescribable.*

It is filled with the glory of God. “Her light was like a most precious stone. . . . The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones. . . . The twelve gates were twelve pearls. . . . And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass” (Rev. 21:11, 18, 19, 21).

➤ *God is heaven’s focal point.*

“The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God

illuminated it. The Lamb is its light" (Rev. 21:23).

➤ *The river of life courses through it.*

"He showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb" (Rev. 22:1).

➤ *The tree of life grows there.*

"In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits" (Rev. 22:2).

➤ *Heaven is for God's people—those who have accepted Christ as Savior.*

"The throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him" (Rev. 22:3).

Those who reject or neglect faith in Jesus will never see heaven. That is the tragedy of the ages, because Jesus died for the sins of the whole world. Unfortunately, however, all the world will not enjoy heaven when they die because they have not received Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord. Let me be clear about this: He is the only means of forgiveness and salvation, for He alone died on the Cross for the sins of the world. And He alone was raised from the dead as a testimony of God's forgiveness.

One of the reasons Christians are so driven to share their faith with others is that they do not want anyone to miss God's wonderful plan for eternal life in heaven. But as the words of the famous old spiritual explain it, "Everybody talkin' 'bout heaven ain't goin' there." Only those individuals who have accepted Christ's sacrifice on their behalf—committing their past sins, their present life, and their eternal future to Jesus—will experience heaven.

The time is near. We do not know when Christ will return to take His people with Him, but we *do* know that He will come. As we await His return, we must continue to share our faith with others, hoping to bring them with us to heaven.

What a glorious future awaits us! We can excitedly say with John, "Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!" (Rev. 22:20).

FURTHER MEDITATION:

Other passages to study about the issue of eternal life include:

➤ Job 19:25, 26

➤ Luke 10:20

➤ John 3:16; 5:24; 11:23, 24; 17:1-3

➤ 1 Corinthians 15:12-57

➤ 1 John 5:11-13

To Learn More: Turn to the key passage note on eternal life at 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 on page 1584. See also the personality profile of the apostle John on page 1702.

with them *and be* their God. ⁴And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

⁵Then He who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” And He said to me,^a “Write, for these words are true and faithful.”

⁶And He said to me, “It is done!^a I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. ⁷He who overcomes shall inherit all things,^a and I will be his God and he shall be My son. ⁸But the cowardly, unbelieving,^a abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

THE NEW JERUSALEM

⁹Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me^a and talked with me, saying, “Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb’s wife.”^b ¹⁰And he carried me away in the Spirit

to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy^a Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, ¹¹having the glory of God. Her light *was* like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. ¹²Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are *the names* of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: ¹³three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west.

¹⁴Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names^a of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. ¹⁵And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. ¹⁶The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its

21:5 ^aNU-Text and M-Text omit *to me*.

21:6 ^aM-Text omits *It is done*. **21:7** ^aM-Text reads *overcomes, I shall give him these things*.

21:8 ^aM-Text adds *and sinners*. **21:9** ^aNU-Text and M-Text omit *to me*. ^bM-Text reads *I will show you the woman, the Lamb’s bride*. **21:10** ^aNU-Text and M-Text omit *the great* and read *the holy city, Jerusalem*. **21:14** ^aNU-Text and M-Text read *twelve names*.

SOUL NOTE



All Things New (21:5) Everything that has been perverted by sin, death, and decay will be created over again at the end of history. All pain, sorrow, and death will pass away (21:4). Once again, everything will be perfect, straight from the hand of God. God promises that He will “make all things new.” Broken lives will be healed. Tears will cease. Souls will be renewed. Believers will be given heavenly bodies for living with God in paradise forever. This recreated and renewed world is God’s spectacular gift to those who have trusted in Him. We must stand strong for God; His promises will surely come to pass. **Topic: God’s Promises**

SOUL NOTE



True Home (21:10–27) Most people know the wonderful feeling of having a place where they are wanted and cared for, a place that they can call their own. John described the heavenly home that is waiting for Jesus’ followers. In the new Jerusalem, the streets are made of gold and the foundations adorned with jewels. And most importantly, God lives there. His glory gives light to the city. Although we may have a home we enjoy on this earth, one day we will reach our ultimate destination—our true home in heaven with God forever. We must be sure we are ready. **Topic: Eternal Life**

⁴So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read^a the scroll, or to look at it. ⁵But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose^a its seven seals."

⁶And I looked, and behold,^a in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

WORTHY IS THE LAMB

⁸Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a

harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹And they sang a new song, saying:

"You are worthy to take the scroll,
And to open its seals;
For You were slain,
And have redeemed us to God by Your
blood
Out of every tribe and tongue and
people and nation,
¹⁰ And have made us^a kings^b and priests to
our God;
And we^c shall reign on the earth."

5:4 ^aNU-Text and M-Text omit *and read*. 5:5 ^aNU-Text and M-Text omit *to loose*. 5:6 ^aNU-Text and M-Text read *I saw in the midst . . . a Lamb standing*. 5:10 ^aNU-Text and M-Text read *them*. ^bNU-Text reads *a kingdom*. ^cNU-Text and M-Text read *they*.

PERSONALITY PROFILE



Eternal Life

JOHN'S GLIMPSES OF HEAVEN

(REVELATION 4)

Heaven: This word gets tossed around and used in many ways: "This vacation spot is heavenly." When they feel particularly healthy and happy, some might say, "I'm in heaven." In any case, the word always has a positive connotation. When something is "heavenly," it's a good recommendation.

If the apostle John were among us today, he would be astounded at our shortsighted analogies, however. He saw heaven, and was sent by God to write about it. His power-packed book of Revelation reveals to believers a glimpse of their future home.

The Book of Revelation, for all the writing and arguing that has taken place about the unfolding of its events, does give us some certainties about heaven. In the end, God's people will be there. John described a peaceful place: "God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain" (Rev. 21:4). It will be a beautiful place: John describes precious stones, gates of pearl, and streets of gold (Rev. 21:10-21). It will be a glorious place: "The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light" (Rev. 21:23). Heaven is an eternal place, where God's people "shall reign forever and ever" (Rev. 22:5).

This world is not our final home; in reality, we are pilgrims on a journey. People give their lives to Christ because of the promise of His presence and peace on this earth *and* the promise of eternal life in heaven with Him. As they learn that they can trust God's promises, they know that the reality of heaven awaits them.

When we read the awesome account of John's glimpses of heaven, our finite minds can barely grasp the concept. But we *can* grasp the concept of a promise kept. God has promised eternal life and a home in heaven with Him. What we envision now will turn out to be a pale shadow of the reality. What a glorious gift God has prepared for all who believe!

To Learn More: Turn to the article about eternal life on pages 1718, 1719. See also the key passage note at 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 on page 1584.

the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. ¹⁶For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸Therefore comfort one another with these words.

THE DAY OF THE LORD

5 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should

write to you. ²For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. ³For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. ⁴But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. ⁵You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. ⁶Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. ⁷For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. ⁸But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a

SOUL NOTE



Reunion (4:13, 14) The Thessalonian believers wondered what was happening to their fellow believers who had died. They had been taught that Christ would come again, but they wondered if those who had died would miss out. Paul comforted the church, answering their question by explaining that believers do not need to "sorrow as others who have no hope." Believers have the ultimate assurance. We believe that Jesus died, rose again, ascended, and is coming again; and we also believe that He will bring with Him those who have died. One day, all believers will be reunited in the grandest reunion ever seen! **Topic: Grief/Loss**

KEY PASSAGE



Eternal Life

FOREVER AND EVER

(4:13-18)

Eternal life with God is an absolute certainty for believers. These words should be taken literally—Christ will return, and "the dead in Christ will rise" from their graves. Believers who are alive at that time will be drawn up with them into heaven and "thus we shall always be with the Lord."

There is much debate about the timing or order of various events surrounding the Second Coming, but several truths are undeniable:

- Eternal life begins the moment a person accepts Christ as Savior. If the believer must experience death before Christ returns, that is merely the way to heaven. Believers who have died will experience a bodily resurrection, living believers will be changed, and all will receive new, glorified bodies that will never get sick or die.
- Christ will return to defeat evil and death forever.
- Believers will live forever in heaven with Christ.

As Paul noted to the Thessalonians, we should "comfort one another with these words."

To Learn More: Turn to the article about eternal life on pages 1718, 1719. See also the personality profile of the apostle John on page 1702.

PSALM 16

THE HOPE OF THE FAITHFUL, AND THE
MESSIAH'S VICTORY*A Michtam of David.*

1 Preserve me,
O God, for in
You I put my
trust.

O my soul, you
have said to the
LORD,

"You are my Lord,
My goodness is nothing apart from You."
As for the saints who are on the earth,
"They are the excellent ones, in whom is
all my delight."

Their sorrows shall be multiplied who
hasten *after* another god;
Their drink offerings of blood I will not
offer,
Nor take up their names on my lips.

O LORD, You are the portion of my
inheritance and my cup;
You maintain my lot.

6 The lines have fallen to me in pleasant
places;
Yes, I have a good inheritance.

7 I will bless the LORD who has given me
counsel;
My heart also instructs me in the night
seasons.
I have set the LORD always before
me;
Because He is at my right hand I shall
not be moved.

9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory
rejoices;

My flesh also will rest in hope.

10 For You will not leave my soul in Sheol,
Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see
corruption.

You will show me the path of life;
in Your presence is fullness of joy;
at Your right hand
are pleasures forevermore.

PSALM 16:11

11 You will show me
the path of life;
In Your presence is
fullness of joy;
At Your right hand
are pleasures
forevermore.

PSALM 17

PRAYER WITH CONFIDENCE IN FINAL SALVATION

A Prayer of David.

1 Hear a just cause, O LORD,
Attend to my cry;
Give ear to my prayer *which is not from*
deceitful lips.

Let my vindication come from Your
presence;

Let Your eyes look on the things that are
upright.

3 You have tested my heart;
You have visited *me* in the night;
You have tried me and have found
nothing;

I have purposed that my mouth shall not
transgress.

4 Concerning the works of men,
By the word of Your lips,
I have kept away from the paths of the
destroyer.

5 Uphold my steps in Your paths,
That my footsteps may not slip.

SOUL NOTE



The Path of Life (16:11) David trusted in God and sought Him in times of need and fear. David often faced murderous enemies, yet God always preserved his life. In this psalm, David praised God for caring for, protecting, and guiding him. He foresaw a coming Holy One whom God would raise from the dead (16:9, 10), and he understood that he would have eternal life too, through that Savior. One day all believers will be in God's presence and at His right hand where there are "fullness of joy" and "pleasures forevermore." That is something worth waiting for! **Topic: Eternal Life**

³²There were also two others, criminals, led with Him to be put to death. ³³And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left. ³⁴Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."^a

And they divided His garments and cast lots. ³⁵And the people stood looking on. But even the rulers with them sneered, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ, the chosen of God."

³⁶The soldiers also mocked Him, coming and offering Him sour wine, ³⁷and saying, "If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself."

³⁸And an inscription also was written over Him in letters of Greek, Latin, and Hebrew:^a

THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

³⁹Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ,^a save Yourself and us."

⁴⁰But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong." ⁴²Then he said to Jesus, "Lord,^a remember me when You come into Your kingdom."

⁴³And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

⁴⁴Now it was^a about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. ⁴⁵Then the sun was darkened,^a and the veil of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father, 'into Your hands I commit My spirit.'^a" Having said this, He breathed His last.

⁴⁷So when the centurion saw what had happened, he glorified God, saying, "Certainly this was a righteous Man!"

⁴⁸And the whole crowd who came together to that sight, seeing what had been done, beat their breasts and returned. ⁴⁹But all His acquaintances, and the women who followed Him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

JESUS BURIED IN JOSEPH'S TOMB

⁵⁰Now behold, *there was* a man named Joseph, a council member, a good and just man. ⁵¹He had not consented to their decision and deed. *He was* from Arimathea, a city of the Jews, who himself was also waiting^a for the kingdom of God. ⁵²This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁵³Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a tomb *that was* hewn out of the rock, where no one had ever lain before. ⁵⁴That day was the Preparation, and the Sabbath drew near.

⁵⁵And the women who had come with Him from Galilee followed after, and they observed the tomb and how His body was laid. ⁵⁶Then they returned and prepared spices and fragrant oils. And they rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment.

HE IS RISEN

24 Now on the first *day* of the week, ^{24:1}early in the morning, they, and *certain other women* with them,^a came to the tomb

^{23:34} ^aNU-Text brackets the first sentence as a separate addition. ^{23:38} ^aNU-Text omits *written and in letters of Greek, Latin, and Hebrew*. ^{23:39} ^aNU-Text reads *Are You not the Christ?* ^{23:42} ^aNU-Text reads *And he said, "Jesus, remember me."* ^{23:44} ^aNU-Text adds *already*. ^{23:45} ^aNU-Text reads *obscured*. ^{23:46} ^aPsalms 31:5 ^{23:51} ^aNU-Text reads *who was waiting*. ^{24:1} ^aNU-Text reads *and certain other women with them*.

SOUL NOTE



Heavenly Promise (23:42, 43) Contemplating one's death can cause anxiety and fear. For Jesus and the thief on the cross beside Him, death was imminent—only a few hours away. Instead of despairing, the thief put his trust in Jesus. In response, Jesus assured him, "Today you will be with Me in Paradise." Because of Jesus' death, eternal life and heaven are waiting for believers the moment they die. Even though the thought of death can make us sad or fearful, we know it is just the door through which we pass into heaven. There we will spend eternity with our Savior. **Topic: Eternal Life**

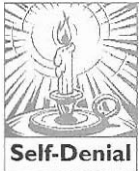
what He has seen and heard, that He testifies; and no one receives His testimony. ³³He who has received His testimony has certified that God is true. ³⁴For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure. ³⁵The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand. ³⁶He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

A SAMARITAN WOMAN MEETS HER MESSIAH

4 Therefore, when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John ²(though Jesus Himself did not baptize, but His disciples), ³He left Judea and departed again to Galilee. ⁴But He needed to go through Samaria.

⁵So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph, ⁶Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from

PERSONALITY PROFILE



Self-Denial

JOHN THE BAPTIST: EVERYTHING FOR JESUS

(JOHN 3:30)

John the Baptist was completely sold out for Jesus. John had been given a mission since before his birth, and he fulfilled that mission completely and wholeheartedly. John denied himself in order to see to it that people's hearts were prepared for the coming Messiah.

John had an urgent message, and a unique way of presenting it. John did not go to the temple and speak to the leadership; he went into the desert and spoke to the throngs who followed him there, irresistibly drawn by his message. John "was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey" (Matt. 3:4). Although John himself was a fulfillment of Scripture (John 1:23), he did not consider himself to be of greater importance than Christ. He understood that his role was to be the messenger, to direct people to Someone else. "I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before Him . . . He must increase, but I must decrease," he said. When the time came for Christ to begin His ministry, John willingly stepped aside, sending his own followers to follow "the Lamb of God" (John 1:35, 36).

Self-denial is not refusing to enjoy life or have fulfillment. It's a willingness to set aside our own agenda in favor of following the Lamb of God. Self-denial means finding complete gratification in life, for we are only denying ourselves some activities, possessions, or honors in order for God to give us greater opportunities to serve Him—and greater joy in the end.

To Learn More: Turn to the article about self-denial on pages 1346, 1347. See also the key passage note at Galatians 2:20 on page 1539.

SOUL NOTE



Why Believe? (3:36) John the Baptist pointed people to Jesus as the Messiah. John made it clear that people have only two options when it comes to making a decision about Christ. Those who believe in the Son have everlasting life. The moment they believe, they begin eternal life. Those who do not believe the Son, however, face the wrath of God. They have rejected God, and in the end He will reject them. The choice is clear. To not accept Christ is to reject Him. There is no middle ground.

Topic: Eternal Life

is I; do not be afraid.”²¹ Then they willingly received Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land where they were going.

THE BREAD FROM HEAVEN

²²On the following day, when the people who were standing on the other side of the sea saw that there was no other boat there, except that one which His disciples had entered,^a and that Jesus had not entered the boat with His disciples, but His disciples had gone away alone—²³however, other boats came from Tiberias, near the place where they ate bread after the Lord had given thanks—²⁴when the people therefore saw that Jesus was not there, nor His disciples, they also got into boats and came to Capernaum, seeking Jesus. ²⁵And when they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, “Rabbi, when did You come here?”

²⁶Jesus answered them and said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. ²⁷Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.”

²⁸Then they said to Him, “What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?”

²⁹Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.”

³⁰Therefore they said to Him, “What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do? ³¹Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”^a

³²Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true

bread from heaven. ³³For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

³⁴Then they said to Him, “Lord, give us this bread always.”

³⁵And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. ³⁶But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. ³⁷All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. ³⁸For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. ³⁹This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. ⁴⁰And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

REJECTED BY HIS OWN

⁴¹The Jews then complained about Him, because He said, “I am the bread which came down from heaven.” ⁴²And they said, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How is it then that He says, ‘I have come down from heaven?’”

⁴³Jesus therefore answered and said to them, “Do not murmur among yourselves. ⁴⁴No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. ⁴⁵It is written in the prophets, ‘*And they shall all be taught by God.*’^a Therefore everyone who has heard and learned^b from the Father comes to Me. ⁴⁶Not that anyone has

^{6:22} ^aNU-Text omits *that* and *which His disciples had entered*. ^{6:31} ^aExodus 16:4; Nehemiah 9:15; Psalm 78:24 ^{6:45} ^aIsaiah 54:13 ^bM-Text reads *hears and has learned*.

SOUL NOTE



Secure (6:39, 40) Jesus said that He would not lose even one person whom the Father had given Him. So how does that account for Judas, the disciple who committed suicide by hanging himself? Jesus didn’t “lose” Judas, because he never believed in Jesus as the Messiah. Jesus later called Judas “the son of perdition”

(17:12), because he was never saved. Everyone who believes in Jesus Christ as Savior *has* everlasting life, is secure in God’s promise, and will be raised up at the last day. No one who has really trusted in Jesus Christ for their salvation will be lost. **Topic: Eternal Life**