

I first heard the song “Everybody wants to go to heaven” sung by Allison Krauss and written by Loretta Lynn from a CD. Someone gave it to me because they didn’t like it. Since then I have grown to really like it, not just for the music but for what it is saying.

Everybody wants to go to heaven but nobody wants to die
Lord I wanna go to heaven but I don't wanna die
Well, I long for the day when I'll have new birth
'but I love the livin' here on earth
Everybody wants to go to heaven but nobody wants to die.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nngJpYVY2ao>

I believe the song tells a universal truth. Everyone wants to go to heaven but is scared to death of dying (*pun intended*).

Everyone pretty much knows what life is like here on earth. It is what we deal with every day. For some it is not so bad – a few disappointments, a few pains, all thrown in with some great moments. But for some it is a constant battle with aches and pains, mental anguish, even the threat of starvation and death. It is no wonder that we crave something better.

We were actually created for that “something better”. When we were created we were living in Eden. The Hebrew word for Eden has the connotation of pleasure.

Pleasure is a mental state that experience has proven to be positive, enjoyable, or worthwhile seeking. It includes specific mental states such as happiness, entertainment, enjoyment, ecstasy and euphoria. The concept of pleasure is described as the mechanism that motivates us to recreate the situation we have just found pleasurable, and to avoid situations that cause pain.

The desire for that condition seems to be built into our “DNA” – the desire for pleasure vs. pain. Sadly only Adam & Eve have been the only two human beings that have ever experienced the apex of this concept. But even they lost it to the condition we experience today – known as “The Fall of Humanity”.

So what is “heaven”? Why do we think it will be better? Is it a place? Does it have a location? Does it even exist physically in the universe?

These are questions that have been debated since the beginning.

Heaven is said to be God’s Throne, and many a song or sermon has propagated this notion of it being a place. Scripture even speaks of God’s Throne. So is it truly a place or is it a word we use to speak of a thing we know little to nothing about?

I would like to propose that heaven (God’s Throne) is not a place and yet it exists. To grasp this one must release the concept of space-time that we live in. God is outside of time and inhabits all space as well as what ever is outside of space as we know it.

You alone are the Lord. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you. Nehemiah 9:6

Where can I go from your Spirit?

Where can I flee from your presence?

If I go up to the heavens, you are there;

if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. Psalm 139:7-8

From the Psalm we can know that God is everywhere, and from Nehemiah we can know that He created everything. Therefore must exist outside of everything we can know – the earth, time, and the universe (and for those theoretical physicists the multiverses).

His throne then seems not to be a place we can know because it must exist beyond our sphere of understanding. But He has provided a path for us to enter that realm and that path is death of our physical existence. That seems counter intuitive, but our spirit belongs to Him and returns to Him when we die.

... and the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it. Ecclesiastes 12:7

Paul tells us: *There are also heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies; but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is one kind, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is another.* 1 Corinthians 15:40

Maybe we should strive to do the best we can with our earthly body for now, knowing that there will be a heavenly body to enjoy in the future and not love one less than the other. Both are important.