



Q: if you have to believe in Jesus to go to heaven, what happens to virtuous people in places and times who never heard about Jesus?

A: We _____, but we _____.

1. Heaven is where Jesus will _____ to save us.

But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. — Phil. 3: 20

Then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise, and the very elements themselves will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be found to deserve judgment. — 2 Pet. 3: 10

(See also: Acts 1:9–11; Rom. 8; 1 Thes. 4:13–18; 2 Thes. 1:7–10; Rev. 21–22.)

2. God's _____, not our _____ is the basis of salvation.

Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. — John 14:6

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. ... Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ. — Eph. 2:8–9,13

So don't make judgments about anyone ahead of time—before the Lord returns. For he will bring our darkest secrets to light and will reveal our private motives. Then God will give to each one whatever praise is due. ... What do you have that God hasn't given you? And if everything you have is from God, why boast as though it were not a gift? — 1 Cor. 4:5,7

3. Only God can _____ who is virtuous.

There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death. — Prov. 14:12

We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags. — Isa. 64:6

The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is? — Jerem. 17:9

He will judge everyone according to what they have done. ... When the Gentiles sin, they will be destroyed, even though they never had God's written law. And the Jews, who do have God's law, will be judged by that law when they fail to obey it.

— Rom. 2:6,12

4. God _____ the heathen _____ you do.

When the LORD registers the nations, he will say, "They have all become citizens of Jerusalem."

— Psalm 87:6

People from many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the, to the house of Jacob's God.

— Micah 4:2

This is a record of the ancestors of Jesus the Messiah, a descendant of David and of Abraham: ... Salmon was the father of Boaz (whose mother was Rahab). Boaz was the father of Obed (whose mother was Ruth).

— Matt. 1: 1,5

He said to them, "The Scriptures declare, 'My Temple will be called a house of prayer for all nations,' but you have turned it into a den of thieves."

— Mark 11:17

"Certainly there were many needy widows in Israel in Elijah's time ... He was sent instead to a foreigner—a widow of Zarephath in the land of Sidon. And many in Israel had leprosy in the time of the prophet Elisha, but the only one healed was Naaman, a Syrian."

— Luke 4:25,27

"Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him. Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. ... Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?" Jesus asked.

— Luke 10:33-34,36

5. Jesus told _____ to make _____.

In the future, foreigners who do not belong to your people Israel will hear of you.

— 1 Kings 8:41

"You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. ...let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father."

— Matt. 5:14,16

"I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

—Matt. 28:18-20

"I am sending you to the Gentiles to open their eyes, so they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God. Then they will receive forgiveness for their sins and be given a place among God's people, who are set apart by faith in me."

— Acts 26:17-18

But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?

— Rom. 10:14