

**6/11/2026**

*Week 24*

*Sheila Walsh*

*Dr. David Jeremiah*

*“Questions About Heaven”*

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**MALE ANNOUNCER:** The following program is sponsored by friends of Life Outreach International.

**ANNOUNCER:** Next on "Life Today," join Sheila Walsh and Dr. David Jeremiah as they pull back the curtain, revealing the mysteries of heaven by answering some of the most popular questions people have.

**DR. DAVID JEREMIAH:** And here's what I heard. I had a little girl write me a letter. She says, "I don't know why you keep asking, 'Are animals in heaven?'" She said, "When Jesus comes back at the end, he's riding on a white horse. And if horses are in heaven, dogs must be in heaven."

**SHEILA WALSH:** Amen.

**DR. JEREMIAH:** I'm not sure about cats, but I'm pretty sure about dogs.

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**SHEILA:** Hi, welcome to "Life Today," I'm Sheila Walsh. And you know, I've been sitting and reflecting on just the goodness of God to allow me to be part of a ministry like this. And to be able to have walked side by side with them for so long has been such a gift.

**SHEILA:** But also being able to interview so many incredible people. And, you know, inevitably, we always end up with like one or two people that are just like, oh gosh, our favorites. And for me, that's always gonna be Dr. David Jeremiah.

**SHEILA:** I've learned so much from him. His study Bible is one of my absolute favorites. But I had him on the show not so long ago, and his book was, "Revealing The Mysteries Of Heaven." And what I love about it is that there's some questions that you think, "I wonder if this happens in heaven, or I wonder if that happens in heaven." But you never know quite who to ask. Well, I've found the person and I've found the book. It was wonderful having him here in studio, and I thought you might enjoy watching again. And if you have a dog, you wanna stay tuned. Watch this.

**SHEILA:** So, I just wanna say welcome to the show, I'm so glad. This is an incredible, incredible book.

**DR. JEREMIAH:** Thank you.

**SHEILA:** What made you write down everything about heaven?

**DR. JEREMIAH:** You know, I've been doing this pastor thing for a long time. And you get some questions about heaven. You begun to realize that people don't really know very much about heaven.

**DR. JEREMIAH:** I've said, you know, people spend more time planning a two-week vacation than they do getting ready to where they're gonna spend eternity. And so, all these questions started accumulating. And they were questions I had never seen in a book where people had--so, I thought I'd write a book on all the questions nobody else is asking about heaven, and that's what we did.

**SHEILA:** But it's fantastic. I mean, I even put a little thing out on Facebook asking people, "If you could ask Dr. Jeremiah anything about heaven, you know, what would it be?" And one of them is actually in your first chapter, like, is heaven a real physical place?

**DR. JEREMIAH:** Yes, on the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ himself, he said, "In my Father's house are many mansions, and I go to prepare a place for you." Not a dream, or a figment of your imagination, or whatever. Heaven is a place.

**SHEILA:** How many heavens are there? I always thought there was two, but I stand corrected.

**DR. JEREMIAH:** No, there's three heavens according to the Bible. In fact, when Paul was caught up to heaven, he said he was caught up to the third heaven. So, we have to figure out what the other two are.

**DR. JEREMIAH:** And I--the first heaven is the atmosphere where, you know, we fly our planes in the atmosphere. Then there's a celestial heaven, and that's where the stars and the moon and the sun are. And then the third heaven is above that and that's where God is.

**SHEILA:** Any time people talk about heaven, they point upward. Do we know that heaven's north?

**DR. JEREMIAH:** Well, that's a big deal. I remember when I was working on that somebody said, "Well, yeah, but north is different depending on what part of the world you're in."

**DR. JEREMIAH:** But what I know from the Bible, Ephesians says that he ascended to us. And over and over in the Gospels we read that Jesus came down. So, heaven is up, we know that.

**SHEILA:** What--for someone who dies before the Rapture, where are they at the moment?

**DR. JEREMIAH:** Well, you know, that's a really important question. That's one that's most often asked, Sheila, because especially when people lose somebody they love, it's very confusing to them because they hear that they've gone to heaven, but then they go to a funeral and they see the body and they go put the body in the grave and they don't understand.

**DR. JEREMIAH:** But the Scriptures are very clear. Here's the best way to say that. The Bible says, "Absent from the body, present with the Lord." In other words, when we die, our body goes in the grave, and our soul and our spirit go to be with God. In the resurrection, those two commodities are going to be joined together again.

**DR. JEREMIAH:** But when we die, our body goes in the grave. So, it is true, when you lose a loved one, if you're a Christian and you go to the funeral, your brother, sister, mom, or dad, they're not there. Just the house they lived in while they were here.

**SHEILA:** In regards to the Rapture, what happens to those of us who are here on Earth at that point and what happens to those who've already died in Christ?

**DR. JEREMIAH:** All right, one of the things that's really misunderstood about that is that only the people who died first get a makeover. You know, everybody gets a makeover.

**DR. JEREMIAH:** The Bible says that we will be changed to be like the Lord and those who die first before Christ comes back they're in the grave, they actually take precedence over everybody else. Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, he says, "I don't want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who are asleep, for we shall not precede them." In other words, they're gonna go up first.

**DR. JEREMIAH:** And on--the Bible tells us on the way up, they're gonna be changed like unto the Lord Jesus Christ and his resurrection body. Over in Philippians, we're told that those of us who are alive and remain, we're gonna get that change too on the way. So, I think the chapter in my book was the extreme makeover. Everybody's always spending so much money. One day it's all gonna be done and done right, and we won't even need the makeup artist that can help us get ready for this show. They'll be out of business.

**SHEILA:** I'm pretty sure they do know.

**DR. JEREMIAH:** Yes, we do.

**SHEILA:** So, with my mom and dad who have both passed, will they go ahead of me to heaven?

**DR. JEREMIAH:** You know, here's the beauty of that. I don't think they will see the ultimate heaven in any precedence over us. In other words, the Bible says that those of us who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them.

**DR. JEREMIAH:** Who are them? The ones who've already died. And then we will be ushered into ultimate heaven together. My mom and dad are in heaven, but they won't see heaven as we will until we all see it together.

**SHEILA:** But that's, I mean, that's marvelous. It's just marvelous. One of the questions I got on Facebook, and I totally understood it because I used to think this myself. This girl said, "I'm glad I'm going to heaven because it's better than the alternative. But what are we gonna do for all those millions of years? Will we be bored?"

**DR. JEREMIAH:** Oh, everybody, you know, that's the ancient reason why people, you know, you hear guys, I've witnessed to so many guys who say, "I'm gonna go and I'm--I'd rather be with my drinking buddies and all that, you know? I'm going where my friends are." And that's such an ignorant thing to say.

**DR. JEREMIAH:** But heaven is not gonna be boring, and I'm gonna tell you why. First of all, God isn't boring. God would never create a place for those he loves that would be boring for eternity. And believe it or not, you and I are not gonna be boring because before we get there we're gonna be changed.

**DR. JEREMIAH:** And when we get there, heaven will be a place where we serve. The Bible tells us his servants will serve him. It's a place where incredible worship is gonna take place. We're going to have assignments to rule and reign just like in the millennium. And heaven will be a time where we can serve as long as we want and we'll never be tired.

**SHEILA:** Gosh, isn't that amazing?

**DR. JEREMIAH:** Isn't that something?

**SHEILA:** That's beautiful. Will we recognize one another?

**DR. JEREMIAH:** Absolutely. We know that, for instance, on the Mount of Transfiguration, when those three guys showed up from a different world they were known, everybody knew who they were.

**DR. JEREMIAH:** When Jesus came out of the grave, he was in his resurrection body and Mary knew him after a few moments, she knew him by his voice more than anything else, so. Yeah, there's--you know, if we can't remember, we aren't who we--we aren't a person. When we get to heaven, we'll remember the people, we'll know them, we'll be known by them, and we'll know them as we have never known them before.

**SHEILA:** Somebody asked me a question that was very heart-stirring. She said, "I have miscarried two children. Will they be in heaven? Will I know they're my children?"

**DR. JEREMIAH:** Well, let's just stop and think about that for a moment, Sheila. If you believe, as we do, that a child becomes a person at the moment of conception, then that person is as viable a person as anybody else.

**DR. JEREMIAH:** And if that child dies before it is actually born into the world, it is still a living person, and that child, because it obviously didn't have a chance to understand the gospel, will be covered under the blood of Christ and it will be in heaven.

**DR. JEREMIAH:** We--most people don't know this about us. We have four children, but we have five because we had a miscarriage right at the beginning. It was very, very--people don't think that's a big deal. I can tell you that's a big deal, especially if you haven't got any other children. And we had wanted children for quite a few years before we had them. Then all of a sudden we got them all at once.

**DR. JEREMIAH:** But this baby was miscarried. I'll never forget it because it--we miscarried that baby on the day that my grandfather died and I had to make the decision as to whether to go to the funeral of my grandfather or take Donna to the hospital. And that baby is there. We've never met that baby. We don't know that baby, but someday we will.

**SHEILA:** When Christian was 2-years-old, I miscarried, and I can't wait to think that one day that I'll get to meet that little one. What's the difference between the Great White Throne and the judgment seat of Christ?

**DR. JEREMIAH:** Well, the difference is a lot of years, for one thing. The Great White Throne judgment doesn't happen until the end of the thousand-year reign of Christ, the millennium. The judgment seat of Christ happens immediately after the Rapture, and it's for Christians only.

**DR. JEREMIAH:** Here's the best way to remember that. The judgment seat of Christ is a place where no unsaved people will ever be. When you stand before the judge at the judgment seat of Christ, it's not to be judged for your sin, but be--to be judged for the works you've done in your flesh as a believer. And it's not even a judgment for good and bad as much as it is the rewards are given and it's how have we served the Lord? Have we served him with all of our hearts?

**DR. JEREMIAH:** The Great White Throne judgment takes place clear at the end of the millennium, at the end of the thousand-year reign. And that's a place where no Christians will ever be. Only unbelievers will be there, and that will be a very sober time in the history of the world.

**SHEILA:** What are some of the rewards that--because I often think there's so many people out there who get very little recognition on this earth, but have faithfully served Christ all their lives.

**DR. JEREMIAH:** And do you know what's really interesting, Sheila? A lot of Christians I meet think that rewards shouldn't happen, that you should just serve Jesus and not really care about a reward. But the problem with that is rewards are everywhere in the Scripture. And so, God knows a lot more about us than we think he does, that we are motivated by rewards.

**DR. JEREMIAH:** There's a soul winner's reward. There's a reward for those who love the appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ. There's five rewards that I know of and I've written about them in the book that we're candidates for, most of us. And if we serve the Lord with a pure heart and a desire to honor him, one day we're gonna get these rewards and the beauty of it is we won't keep them long. The Bible says we'll take them and throw them--and cast them at the feet of Jesus as our way of worshiping him.

**DR. JEREMIAH:** Here's something that I taught a couple weeks ago that shocked everybody. I've been doing a little series called "What You May Not Know about Jesus." And here's what you may not know. When in heaven, Jesus is in his body. He went up in his Resurrection body and the angel said, "This same Jesus who was taken up from you will come in like manner." And so, that means he is in heaven right now in his humanity.

**DR. JEREMIAH:** And I remember reading, "God loves humanity so much that he allows his own Son to live in humanity at the right hand of the Father." So, when I pray today, and I ask God to help me through Jesus Christ, I'm actually talking to Jesus, who is still in his humanity, even though he is in heaven. Isn't that amazing? Isn't that amazing? Now, that's something most people don't know about Jesus.

**SHEILA:** No, and will he still be marked with the marks of crucifixion?

**DR. JEREMIAH:** Absolutely, that's what's so beautiful about that. When you see him, you'll be able to see the scars in his hands, and in his feet, and the marks of your redemption will always be available for you to know what he did so that you could be there.

**SHEILA:** Why do you think he chose to rise with those marks? I mean, he could have left those behind in the tomb. Why do you think he kept the only scars in heaven will be the scars of Christ?

**DR. JEREMIAH:** That's right. And, you know, he understands how desperate we need to be reminded of this. In fact, isn't that what Communion is about, "This do in remembrance of me." And so, those scars will always be there as a motivation for worship, I think. When we see his scars, we will worship him as never before.

**SHEILA:** I got a question, actually it was just last weekend, where I was out. When a young guy, probably, I don't know, 14 or 15, said, "When I gave my life to Christ, my mom told me that my name was written in the Lamb's book of life. Can anything ever erase that?"

**DR. JEREMIAH:** Christians cannot be erased from the Lamb's book of life. It's impossible for that to happen, I mean, somebody probably wanna argue with me about that, but I believe that when you commit your life to Jesus Christ, he says, "And I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish."

**DR. JEREMIAH:** Now when--the Lamb's book of life is an interesting little story because it's different than most people think. In the Roman and Greek cities, Bible days, they had a

register of the people who lived in the city. They were in the city's registry. If they were convicted of a horrible crime, or if they committed murder, their names would be taken out of the list.

**DR. JEREMIAH:** So, the book of life in the New Testament, the book of Revelation, basically it's a book in which every name is written of everybody who was ever born, and if they get to the end of their life and they haven't received Jesus Christ, their name is removed from the book of life. That's different than most people think, but that's what the Scripture teaches.

**SHEILA:** In Revelation 21, there's always been something I've never quite understood. It says that, "The sea will also be gone." Will there be no sea?

**DR. JEREMIAH:** You know what? You and my wife. Donna loves the ocean, and one day when I preached on that, she said, "You know what? I was all excited about heaven until you told me there wasn't gonna be any ocean."

**DR. JEREMIAH:** Well, I don't pretend to know all what was in God's mind for that. But we need to remember there will be water in heaven. The Bible says, "There's a river that flows from the throne of God all the way to--and it's bordered by the 12 trees of the fruit trees, and it's a beautiful scene when you read about it.

**DR. JEREMIAH:** But, you know, 75% of our world is ocean water, salt water. And salt is a preservative. When you get to heaven, you don't need that anymore. When you get to heaven, you don't need the preservative in the ecological system. God's ecological system will be perfect. And there will be water, and I'm sure you and Donna will be able to find a place on the shore.

**SHEILA:** To paddle.

**DR. JEREMIAH:** Yeah, right.

**SHEILA:** Okay, here's the question I really want the answer to: Are my dogs going to heaven?

**DR. JEREMIAH:** Are your dogs going to heaven? Well, you know, I gotta tell you something. We put that on the internet at Turning Point. It got more hits than anything we have ever done. Do animals go to heaven?

**DR. JEREMIAH:** And here's what I heard. I had a little girl write me a letter. She says, "I don't know why you keep asking, 'Are animals in heaven?'" She said, "When Jesus comes back at the end, he's riding on a white horse. And if horses are in heaven, dogs must be in heaven." I'm not sure about cats, but I'm pretty sure about dogs.

**SHEILA:** Well, apologies to all you cat lovers. No, I know he didn't mean that. If my dogs are gonna be there, I'm pretty sure your cats will be there too. I mean, God created everything. In the beginning when you think about it, when God and in the Garden of Eden, everything

was there and it was all perfect. And if that's what God intended then, I know that's gonna be part of our new life.

**SHEILA:** But it's such a wonderful privilege to work with someone like Dr. Jeremiah, who's spent his life teaching the Word of God. Sometimes when I've been working with him, I've asked to look at his sermon notes and he literally writes out word by word, every message. And I have just personally learned so much.

**SHEILA:** So, I'm gonna tell you how you can get hold of his book, "Revealing The Mysteries Of Heaven." But first of all, I want to ask you if you will help us with something. We all look forward to that day when we're finally home, when we finally see Jesus face to face. But there's a lot of people right now on this earth who are struggling, who are hurting, who are in pain.

**SHEILA:** And for those of us who know the Lord, who've been blessed by his gift of life and a future, we have the privilege of making a difference in their lives right now. This is something that's so important to us here at Life, that we hear the high--the cries of the hungry, and we respond in Jesus's name. So, I'm gonna ask you to watch something and then I'm gonna tell you how you and I can be an answer to their prayers. Watch this.

**JOHN YEATTS:** So, I'm sitting here in Vista, Angola. It's a very rural countryside area. And I've just listened to Rosa here share her story of the loss of her children. It's so tragic. She's lost three of her children to hunger. And she was sharing the story of her oldest child that died from malnutrition. He was four years old.

*[speaking foreign language]*

**JOHN:** "Mama, I'm going." And she said it caused her to literally faint. And when she woke up, he was gone. Can you imagine "Mama, I'm going"?

**JOHN:** I know that you love Rosa and Clementine. Without Mission Feeding, we cannot guarantee that Clementine is not going to follow her brothers and sisters in that same path of, "Mama, I'm going." Do all that you can to make sure that villages like this don't have to lose any more children. That no mother ever has to listen to her child say, "Mama, I'm going." Please help.

**SHEILA:** Yeah, John's right, there's nothing worse than hearing the stories of some of these mums and the last things that their children have said to them. I remember one of the first women that I met and her--she knew that her son was sick and she tried to take him to a clinic. And, but by the time they got there, her son had already passed.

**SHEILA:** Another woman was carrying her son back home, and he asked her to put him down. And she put her son down and he was gone. And the thing that is fascinating to me is that there's situations in the world right now, we hear about it on the news every day, that are, that there's things that we think, "There's nothing I can do about that." There's wars,

and rumors of wars, and things going on, on so many levels, and we think, "I can't impact that in any way."

**SHEILA:** This is a war that you and I can win. This war on poverty. Poverty is not God's will. It is not God's will that any child should have to say to their mum, "Mama, I'm going," when a child recognizes in themselves that they don't have the strength to breathe one last breath. But you and I can do something about that.

**SHEILA:** I just think it's the most incredible opportunity God has given us. When you think of everything that God has gifted us with, you know, I pray that you're in a great place with your family, I pray that your children are doing well. But can you imagine what it's like to be in a situation like that, where you're literally having to bury one child after another, from something that is preventable. That's the thing that kind of gets me.

**SHEILA:** You know, sometimes you hear of a child that gets some devastating illness, and doctors will do everything they can, and there's nothing else they can do. This is something that you and I can do something about. We can change this right now, if we all determine together to do something.

**SHEILA:** If you're able to give \$30, if you would call right now, that number on your screen, and just say, "You know what? I can give \$30." Do you know that will feed three children for three months? Now, this is our last week, this is the last opportunity in Mission Feeding for you to make an impact. Perhaps you've watched a couple of programs and thought, "Well, yeah, I would like to do something." But you haven't done it yet, now is the time.

**SHEILA:** If you could give \$50, that would give five children food for three whole months. We have wonderful gifts that we'd love to send to you. But I know you don't do it for that. You do it for mums like that. She doesn't want to lose one more child. So, please, go online, give the best gift you can, call that number on your screen, and determine that this year, we're gonna make a difference in Jesus's name. Please, would you do it now?

**ANNOUNCER:** Right now, across the continent of Africa, children are suffering, facing severe malnutrition and even death. With food reserves critically depleted and many areas experiencing devastating famine, we urgently need to replenish supplies to keep feeding the 350,000 children who are counting on us every single day.

**ANNOUNCER:** Through Life's Mission Feeding outreach, your gift of love can be an answer to a prayer for a hurting and hungry child in their time of need. Call now with your life-saving gift of \$30, \$50, or \$100 to help feed and care for 3, 5, or 10 children for 3 full months.

**ANNOUNCER:** With your gift, we'll send you "The Father's Heart" devotional. Drawing from scripture and his past, James Robison takes you on a 90-day journey to help you experience a deeper, more personal relationship with God as your loving Father.

**ANNOUNCER:** With your gift of \$100 or more, you will receive "The Father's Heart" bundle. This stationary set paired with the devotional is a thoughtfully designed collection created to help you share encouragement, prayer, and the love of our heavenly Father with those you care about.

**ANNOUNCER:** Finally, with your gift of \$1000 or more, which will help feed 100 children in desperate need, request Life's beautiful bronze sculpture, "The Good Shepherd." This is the last week. Please call, write, or make your gift online.

**ISAK PRETORIUS:** I've always said that, to me, the greatest tragedy that could ever happen to any human being is to bury your own children. And yet, for this mother and many others in her village, that is a reality year after year after year.

**ISAK PRETORIUS:** Please, do what you can do. Be a part of helping a mother like this to ensure that she doesn't bury the last of her two children that are left. You say, "Well, what can I do? How do I change that? My heart's broken too, but what do I do about changing this mothers? How can I change this?"

**ISAK PRETORIUS:** You can bring Mission Feeding to this village, you can bring life to this village. If you will just get up right now, dial the number that's on your screen, just give the best gift that you can give. Give the gift of love and the gift of life. Give Mission Feeding to this mother, her children, and her entire village.

**SHEILA:** Thank you so much, and remember this is our last week of Mission Feeding. For any gift at all, request your own copy of "Revealing The Mysteries Of Heaven," fantastic book.

**SHEILA:** But I just wanna thank you so much for your faithful, not only your faithful viewing of the program, for your faithful partnership, for the way that you have responded over and over again. So, thank you so much from all of us here at Life. We pray God's richest blessing on you, and we'll see you next time.

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♪♪♪

♪ Mom, you can't hear me cry. ♪

♪ See my dreams all die. ♪

♪ From where you're standing on your own. ♪

♪ It's so quiet here. ♪

♪ And I feel so cold. ♪

*♪ This house no longer-- ♪♪*

**FEMALE ANNOUNCER:** At Life Outreach, we believe in making a lasting impact on your life and the lives of others. Through Life Planning Services, we offer estate planning and giving solutions that provide tax advantages, income, and the satisfaction of supporting a cause close to your heart. With options like bequests, charitable gift annuities, and IRA rollovers, you can chart a purposeful path, creating a legacy of love and hope for future generations. Call or visit Life Planning Services today.

**MALE ANNOUNCER:** Do you want to live longer, master your metabolism, reduce pain, fight depression, or conquer cancer? Learn to eat and live God's way.

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