

## **Where's Heaven?**

Series: Following Jesus: Naturally Supernatural

Ecclesiastes 5:2 (0915)

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May 3, 2009

Ecclesiastes 5:2 NIV *God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few.*

N.T. Wright *How do heaven and earth, God's space and our space, relate to one another?*

### **I. Misunderstandings about heaven**

#### **a. Somewhere out there...**

N.T. Wright *"Heaven, in the very common biblical sense is God's space as opposed to our space, not God's location within our space-time universe.*

NOTE: REFER HERE TO THE 3 MATHEMATICAL ILLUSTRATIONS BELOW (PAGE 2)

#### **b. Someday out there...**

N.T. Wright *...Heaven is used regularly to mean "the place where God's people will be with him, in blissful happiness, after they die." It has thus come to be thought of as a destination, a final resting place for the souls of the blessed.*

N.T. Wright *...In the earliest Christian traditions, heaven simply offered a way of talking about where God always is, so that the promise held out in the phrase, going to heaven is more or less exactly, "going to be with God in the place where he's been all along."*

### **II. Views on how heaven and earth relate to one another**

#### **a. Option One—together and indistinguishable**

N.T. Wright *But when everything (including yourself) shares in divinity, there's no higher court of appeal when something bad happens. Nobody can come and rescue you.*

#### **b. Option Two—separate and independent**

N.T. Wright *Many people in the Western world assume that when they talk about "God" and "heaven" they're a long way away and have little or nothing to do with us. That's why, when many people say they believe in God, they will often add in the same breath that they don't go to church, they don't pray, and in fact they don't think, much about God from one year's end to the next. I don't blame them. If I believed in a distant, remote God like that, I wouldn't get out of bed on a Sunday morning either.*

#### **c. Option Three—overlapping and intersecting**

### **III. Implications of a biblical understanding of heaven**

#### **a. A creating, loving and sustaining God**

#### **b. A God who loves enough to risk**

#### **c. A God whose echoes are consistent and persistent**

N.T. Wright *To pray the Lord's Prayer is to speak not of an awkward metaphysical blunder, nor of a "miracle" in the sense of a random invasion of earth by alien (supernatural?) forces, but to speak of the loving Creator acting within the creation which has never lacked the signs of his presence. It is to speak, in fact, of such actions as might be expected to leave echoes. Echoes of a voice.*

N.T. Wright *Many people in the Western world assume that when they talk about "God" and "heaven" they're a long way away and have little or nothing to do with us. That's why, when many people say they believe in God, they will often add in the same breath that they don't go to church, they don't pray, and in fact they don't think, much about God from one year's end to the next. I don't blame them. If I believed in a distant, remote God like that, I wouldn't get out of bed on a Sunday morning either.*

## Mathematics

$$2 + 2 = 4 \quad \dots \quad 3 - 2 = 1 \quad \dots \quad 2 \times 3 = 6 \quad \dots \quad 2 - 3 = -1$$


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## Cone

Surface Area

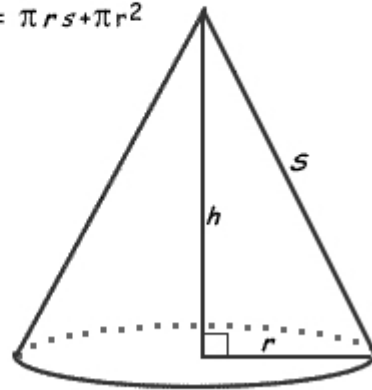
We will need to calculate the surface area of the cone and the base.

Area of the cone is  $\pi r s$

Area of the base is  $\pi r^2$

Therefore the Formula is:

$$SA = \pi r s + \pi r^2$$

Volume

$$V = \frac{1}{3} \pi r^2 h$$


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The derivative of a function with a fractional power:  $f(x) = x^{1/2}$

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x_0) &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x_0 + h) - f(x_0)}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(x_0 + h)^{1/2} - (x_0)^{1/2}}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{[(x_0 + h)^{1/2} - (x_0)^{1/2}] [(x_0 + h)^{1/2} + (x_0)^{1/2}]}{h [(x_0 + h)^{1/2} + (x_0)^{1/2}]} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(x_0 + h) - x_0}{h [(x_0 + h)^{1/2} + (x_0)^{1/2}]} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{h}{h [(x_0 + h)^{1/2} + (x_0)^{1/2}]} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{[(x_0 + h)^{1/2} + (x_0)^{1/2}]} = \frac{1}{x_0^{1/2} + x_0^{1/2}} = \frac{1}{2x_0^{1/2}} = \frac{1}{2} x_0^{-1/2} \end{aligned}$$