

Three-year-old (almost four) Colton Burpo had a ruptured appendix. Through the course of events he died and went to heaven and came back to life.

1. Have you read the book “Heaven Is for Real?”

What did you think?

What did you like?

What didn't you like?

2. What is the main assertion of the book?

Todd Burpo writes, “[One] question people ask all the time is how Colton’s experience has changed us. [One] way Colton’s story has changed us is this: we are bolder. We live in a day and time when people question the existence of God. As a pastor, I was always comfortable talking about my faith, but now, in addition, I talk about what happened to my son. It’s the truth and I talk about it, no apologies.”¹

The book’s editor asked, “Colton, what do you want people to know from your story?” Without hesitation, he looked her in the eye and said, “I want them to know that heaven is for real.”²

The main assertion, theme and focus of the book is that since Colton Burpo saw heaven you can know and believe that heaven is for real.

3. YES! Heaven is for real!

Todd Burpo (Colton’s father) says now because of Colton’s experience, he is bolder.

To what or whom do we point people for certainty that heaven is for real?

4. Other people also have experiences of dying and living and they are very different than Colton’s.

Fourteen year-old Wendy Chousmation’s parents came home and found her dead and she came back to life but her experience was far different than Colton’s.

¹ “Heaven Is for Real”, pg 154.

² Ibid, pg. 155.

Wendy also went to heaven and said heaven is a boundless realm of social equality, androgyny and other religions. She said many other religions: Jews, Buddhists and druids were in heaven. This description of heaven is very different than Colton's.

Whose view of heaven do you like more?

What makes Colton's view and assurances of heaven different than Wendy's?

Who should we believe?

Heaven was different for Colton than for Wendy. Is heaven different for everyone?

Is salvation different for everyone?

5. If Wendy's and Colton's accounts don't agree, who shall we believe?

Please note, this is not to say that Colton didn't have an experience, but then we must also allow that Wendy had an experience.

6. Where shall we look for certainty?

Scripture focuses our attention on Jesus the One who actually comes from heaven. Jesus reveals the one true God: is Triune: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

What does John 1:18 tell us about who has actually seen God?

What does John 1:51 teach us about heaven?

Without question, heaven is for real. Next lesson will deal more with our certainty.