

# What is Heaven Really like?

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His servants will worship Him. They will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

“Heaven” or other reference to life after death – 500 times in scripture.

“We all want to go on forever, don’t we? We fear the unknown. Everybody goes to that wall, yet nobody knows what’s on the other side. That’s why we fear death.” –Jack Nicholson Interview

3<sup>rd</sup> graders – what is Heaven like?

“The happiest part of my dead life.”

“I will have bigger eyes in heaven. Why? Because everything will be bigger and better.”

## 1. A new city.

“the *holy city*” (Rev. 21:2)

“A new Heaven and new earth” (21:19)

New = in quality not in time. “I am making all things new.” (21:5a)

“...we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.” (2 Peter 3:13)

“the new Jerusalem”

4 square (21:16) – perfect cube; 2 million sq. miles; 1500 miles every way, across and up.

20 billion people? 75 acres per person.

12 gates of pearl – made of a single pearl.

“the street of the city was pure gold, transparent as glass.” (21:21)

“The river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city.” (22:1)

Superior to...

- The 4 rivers in the Garden of Eden.
- River running in Kidron Valley outside of Old Jerusalem.

“There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God...” (Ps. 46:4)

“For my people have committed two evils: for they have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.”  
(Jer. 2:13)

Jesus said in John 4:10 – “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who is saying it to you, ‘Give me a drink, you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.’”

“and also on either side of the river, the tree of life with its 12 kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month.” ( Rev. 22:1)

## **2. New light.**

“And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it. For the glory of God gives it light.” (Rev. 21:23)

“Glory” – God’s glow!

“God is light” (1 John 1:5)

“...and its lamp is the Lamb” (Rev. 21:23)

Contrast:

the crucifixion – darkness – His reign – light!

“By its light will the nations walk and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it.” (21:24)

“And its gates will never be shut by day and there will be no night there.” (21:25)

“And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light...” (22:5)

**NO MORE SPIRITUAL DARKNESS!**

- Arguments will cease!
- Fears will be no more!
- Anxieties released!
- Guilt of past sins cleansed!
- No more lies, deceptions, or half-truths!
- No more broken promises!

## **3. A new purpose.**

“No longer will there be anything accursed...His servants will worship Him.” (Rev. 22:3)

“they will reign forever and ever.” (22:5b)

“Worship Him forever!” (The totality of my life, my mind, my body, my voice, my choices are offered up to Him for His glory!)

“The one who conquers I will grant him to sit with Me on My throne, as I also conquered and sat down with My Father on His throne.” (Rev. 3:21)

“you have made them a kingdom and priest to our God and they shall reign on the earth” (Rev. 5:10)

“you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom and sit on thrones judging the 12 tribes of Israel.” (Luke 22:30)

#### **4. New relationships.**

##### **- With one another – (unity with diversity).**

“you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.” (Rev. 5:9)

“a multitude that no one could number” (Rev. 7:9)

205 nations in the world.

6500 languages in the world.

Approx. 7 billion people in the world.

“and you made them a kingdom and priests to our God” (7:10)

“From every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the Lord and before the Lamb.” (7:9)

##### **- With the Lord.**

“Behold the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people and God Himself will be with them as their God.” (Rev. 21:3)

“...I will be their God and they shall be my people...know the Lord, for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord...for I will forgive their iniquity and I will remember their sin no more.” (Jer. 31:33-34)

“Immanuel” = “God with us” (Matt. 1:23)

“For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd and He will guide them to springs of living water” (Rev. 7:17)