

What Is Heaven Like?

John 14:1-6

¹ Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. ² In my Father's house are many mansions: if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a *place* for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a *place* for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also. ⁴ And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. ⁵ Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? ⁶ Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Heaven is a real, literal place!

Revelation 21:2 ² And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

The city of Heaven...

- Is UP! Jesus went up to Heaven, Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven, Paul was caught up to heaven (Acts 1:9 - 2 Kings 2:11 - 2 Cor.12:2,4)
- Is called God's holy dwelling place (2 Chr.30:27), where God's throne is (Psa.11:4 - Psa.103:19), where Jesus resides at the right hand of the throne of God (Heb. 8:1).
- Is a prepared place for God's children (Heb. 11:10 - Heb. 13:14)
- Is bright, clear as crystal. (Rev. 21-22)
- Has a wall around it 144 cubits high, or 220 feet high (Rev. 21-22)
- Around God's throne there is a rainbow (Rev. 4:3).
- The wall is made of shining jasper, the foundation of it is made of 12 layers of precious stones arranged in a colorful sequence. (Rev. 21-22)
- The wall has 12 gates in it, 3 on each of its four sides, each named after the twelve tribes of Israel.(Rev. 21-22)
- Each of the gates is a pearl. (Rev. 21-22)
- Heaven has streets throughout it, paved with pure, transparent, gold. (Rev. 21-22)
- The city is 12,000 furlongs, 1,500 miles, square. (Rev. 21-22)
- The city is 1,500 miles high, suggesting it is a mountain, or there is a mountain in the city.
- The mountain of Heaven is called Mount Zion (Heb. 12:22)
- The city has no night, but is in light continually, the light source being God Himself, not the sun or moon. (Rev. 21-22)
- The city has a river running throughout it with water clear as crystal that originates from the throne of God. (Rev. 21-22)
- There are trees lining the sides of the river and the streets of Heaven which grow 12 different kinds of fruit, one every month. (Rev. 21-22)
- (There are months in Heaven!)
- There are palm trees in Heaven (Rev. 7:9)
- There are many mansions, beautiful homes, in Heaven. (John 14:1-6)
- There are many pleasures awaiting us in Heaven (Psa.16:11).

- There are innumerable companies of angels in Heaven who minister to, or serve, God's children, who sing, and who praise God continually (Heb. 12:22-24)
- There is contentment and satisfaction in Heaven (Psa.17:15)

What are people like in Heaven? Will we recognize one another?

- The people who live in Heaven have the likeness of Jesus, or bodies like Jesus has (Psa. 17:15). Jesus went to Heaven with a physical body of flesh and bones, material substance (Luke 24:39 - John 20:27 - 1 John 1:1) and will come back exactly the same (Acts 1:11 - Zech. 12:10 - Zech. 14:4)
- Moses and Elijah appeared on the Mount of Transfiguration to talk with Jesus and the disciples visibly saw and heard them talking (Mark 9:4) Moses had died and his former body was buried by an angel, but appeared visibly to the disciples who recognized him immediately! (Deut. 34:5-6)
- People in Heaven automatically know one another perfectly (1 Cor.13:12) and never misjudge one another or misunderstand the desires and motives of one another's hearts.
- Steven, dying, saw Jesus, and said so. Many Christians have done the same as they were dying.
- There is speaking in Heaven, just as there is silence at times ((Rev. 8:1).
- People sit down and socialize with one another in Heaven (Matt. 8:11).
- People will sit on chairs and eat at tables in Heaven (Luke 22:29-30).
- The people of Heaven have a body that has hands, feet, eyes, ears, etc. and can see, hear, touch, taste, speak, sing, walk, sit, stand (Acts 7:55 - 2 Cor.5:1 - 2 Cor.12:2-4 - Rev. 5:9 - Rev. 7:9 -).
- The people of Heaven keep the distinction of their nationality, race, and heritage (Rev. 7:7-9).
- People in Heaven know what is going on here on earth. Samuel told Saul what would happen to him and why - 1 Sam. 28:16-19. The rich man in Hell was concerned about the affairs of the earth. Moses and Elijah met Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration and talked about Jesus death which He would accomplish soon - Luke 9:31. Those who are in Heaven during the tribulation know what is going on and are silent when the plagues begin - Rev. 6:9-11. There is joy among those who are present in Heaven with the angels when one soul is saved on earth - Luke 15:10. Those who trusted Christ on earth are said to witness those who are presently "running their race" of life on earth - Heb. 12:1-2.
- There is no marriage in Heaven, as we know it on earth, but something far better that we cannot now comprehend. (Luke 20:34-36).
- There are many rewards reserved for, and awaiting Christians in Heaven (Matt. 6:20 - Matt. 5:12 - Heb. 1 Pet. 1:4).
- Around God's throne there are 24 seats of honor where the 24 elders will sit in white clothing, with crowns of gold on their heads.
- People are preparing for the marriage of Jesus with His bride, the church. It will be a huge feast and celebration after which will be a honeymoon in Heaven for all the saints!
- The citizens of Heaven are those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life, who have believed and put their trust in the work of God's Son, the Lamb of God, on Calvary's cross on man's behalf.

- Nothing evil or dirty will be allowed in the city of Heaven, nor anyone who is not a citizen.
- In hell the rich man saw Abraham and saw Lazarus with him (Luke 16:23).

Heaven immediately follows death for a Christian

- The Bible uses the word "sleep" for the death of a Christian. (1 Thess.4:14 - Acts 7:60)
Only the body sleeps, the person living inside the body never dies, but lives inside another body that looks like his other, but is capable of living in Heaven. We will all have new glorified bodies that will somehow be better and have more capability than the temporary bodies saints dwell in right now in Heaven.
- The Bible uses the term, "gathered to his people" to describe the believers departure from earth and immediate arrival in Heaven where loved ones await our entrance. Genesis 25:8,22; 35:29; 49:33; Numbers 20:24; Deuteronomy 32:50
- The thief on the cross went immediately to be with Jesus in paradise (Heaven) the same day he died! Luke 23:45-46
- When Elijah left earth, he went immediately to Heaven. 2 Kings 2:11
- Paul said "...we are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord." 2 Cor.5:8
- For the Christian to die is gain, not disappointment! Philippians 1:21-23 "For to me to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain. ²² But if I live in the flesh, this *is* the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. ²³ For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better."
- The Christian gains the presence of Christ at death, sees his loved ones again, will be through with sin, have no more grief over sinful companions etc., will be comforted, will cease from laboring and enjoy the fruits of his labor on earth.
- Nowhere is purgatory mentioned in the Bible.
- The rich man and Lazarus went immediately to his own place, one to Heaven, and one to hell. Luke 16:19-31