

No Dark Clouds - Educational Study Guides

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SG2

Heaven – What is it Really Like?

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“Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.” John 14:1–3

Heaven is the dwelling place of God, as well as myriads upon myriads of angels, and a host of countless other heavenly creatures. Sitting at the right-hand of the Father on the Throne is Jesus, who is interceding on behalf of those who are His followers. Our world is but a small glimpse (or hazy mirror) of what Heaven is truly like (1 Corinthians 2:9; 13:12). Because of our limitations as humans we cannot (even with our wildest imaginations) fathom the depth of Heaven’s beauty, glory, riches, emotions, relationships, and magnificence. The music, praise, aromas, colors, landscapes, among many other things are currently beyond our fullest comprehension.

The root meanings for the Biblical Greek word for Heaven (*ouranus*) literally means “to cover” and “to encompass.” Simply stated then, Heaven encompasses the intimate, personal presence of God; and will be an eternal, perfect, indescribable place bestowed upon us because we are “covered” by the blood shed on the cross by Christ.

An important note to consider when discussing Heaven – is the resurrected Christ. Jesus was recognizable by His followers; He ate and cooked food; He instantly vanished from one place to another; He went through walls and into the presence of His Disciples; yet He also was flesh and bone and touched by the Disciples; He “rose” in the air; and He will be riding a horse when He returns to the earth.

In Heaven there is no sickness, pain, death, cancer, blindness, turmoil, depression, anger, war, arguments, hate, lying, stealing, nightmares, accidents, divorce, sin, growing old, fear, loneliness, anxiety, hopelessness, boredom, traffic tickets, debts, and every other form of uncertainty and human weakness. In Heaven, there will be no banks or money. Even the streets you walk upon are paved with perfect gold. However, the Bible does give us a partial glimpse of what is in Heaven.

Heaven is not a vague spiritual idea or a symbolic state of mind. Scripture presents it as a real place, filled with real activity, real relationships, and real joy. Jesus spoke of it with certainty and confidence, not as a possibility but as a promise. When He said, “I go to prepare a place for you,” He was speaking as a carpenter, a builder, and a Bridegroom preparing a home for His people. Heaven is intentional, personal, and designed with love.

The Bible describes Heaven as God’s throne, the center of His rule and glory. It is the place where His will is perfectly done, where worship never ceases, and where every being is fully alive in His presence. The angels who fill Heaven are not distant or cold; they are joyful servants who celebrate every act of God and every soul redeemed by Christ.

When Scripture says we see only “in a mirror dimly,” it reminds us that even our most beautiful experiences on earth — the best music, the most breathtaking landscapes, the deepest friendships — are only shadows of what awaits us. Heaven is not less real than earth; it is more real, more solid, more vibrant, more alive.

The resurrected Christ gives us the clearest picture of what life in Heaven will be like. His resurrection body was physical yet glorified, familiar yet transformed. He ate fish with His disciples, walked with them, spoke with them, and invited them to touch Him. Yet He also moved in ways beyond earthly limitations. His resurrection shows us that Heaven is not the end of our humanity but the restoration of it — perfected, healed, and made whole.

In Heaven:

- Angels accompany the “new arrivers” into God’s presence (Luke 16:19–31)
- God’s people will receive an inheritance and treasures (Ephesians 1:18; John 1:12; Matthew 19:21; Luke 12:33; 18:22)
- We are going to reign with Christ as Children of the King and serve Him simultaneously (Revelation 22:3; 2 Timothy 2:12; Romans 5:17)
- Our bodies will be imperishable and immortal (1 Corinthians 15:52)
- We will have an everlasting home and our citizenship will be there (2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 3:20)
- Christ Himself will fill us with joy and eternal pleasures (Psalm 16:11)
- Christ Himself will reward His children with crowns (2 Timothy 4:8; James 1:12; 1 Peter 5:4)
- There will be an enormous City that is 1500 miles across, 1500 miles wide, and 1500 miles high (Hebrews 11:6; Revelation 21:10–27)

Each of these truths reveals something profound about God’s heart. Heaven is not simply a place we “end up” after death; it is the fulfillment of God’s eternal plan to dwell with His people. The inheritance we receive is not merely material — it is relational, emotional, and spiritual. We inherit God Himself, and everything that comes with belonging to Him.

The idea that we will “reign with Christ” may feel overwhelming, but Scripture presents it as a natural extension of being God’s children. We will not be passive observers in Heaven; we will have purpose, responsibility, and joy in serving the King. Our work will not be tiring or frustrating — it will be fulfilling, creative, and life-giving.

Our resurrection bodies will be free from every limitation we know now. No more fatigue, no more sickness, no more decline. We will be fully ourselves, yet without the brokenness that weighs us down on earth. Our minds will be clear, our emotions whole, our relationships pure.

The New Jerusalem — the massive city described in Revelation — reminds us that Heaven is not a lonely place. It is a community, a family, a gathering of God’s people from every nation and generation. Its size alone tells us that God intends Heaven to be filled.

Recognizing Loved Ones and Meeting the Saints

A very comforting thought is that when we get to Heaven not only will we recognize and remember family members, friends, and other acquaintances; we will also recognize (and get to know) Bible characters in Heaven you have read about, as well as other “saints” who have gone before you into God’s presence throughout human history (Matthew 17:1–9). And the best part about Heaven will be seeing, conversing, and enjoying Jesus Christ face-to-face.

This truth matters deeply for anyone who has ever grieved. Heaven does not erase our earthly relationships; it redeems them. The love we shared on earth is not lost — it is completed. The friendships we began here will continue there, without misunderstanding, distance, or pain.

Imagine speaking with Moses about the Red Sea, or with Esther about courage, or with Mary about the night Jesus was born. Imagine hearing the stories of believers from every century, every culture, every background — all woven together by the grace of God.

But above all, imagine looking into the eyes of Jesus. The One who saved you. The One who carried you. The One who never left you. Heaven is Heaven because He is there.

Scripture Nuggets

“And it will be said in that day, ‘Behold, this is our God for whom we have waited that He might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; Let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation.’” — Isaiah 25:9

“And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His Kingdom will have no end.” — Luke 1:33

“Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him.” — 1 Corinthians 2:9

“But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in and steal.” — Matthew 6:20

“And He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.” — Revelation 21:4

“In the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day; and not only me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.”
— 2 Timothy 4:8

“And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.” — Psalm 23:6

“There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it; and His bond-servants will serve Him.” — Revelation 22:3

Fill-in-the-Blank Worksheet (12 Questions)

1. Jesus said, “In My Father’s house are many _____.” (John 14:2)
2. Heaven is the _____ place of God and myriads of angels.
3. According to Scripture, our world is only a small glimpse or “hazy _____” of what Heaven is truly like.
4. The Greek word for Heaven, *ouranus*, means “to _____” and “to _____.”
5. Heaven encompasses the intimate, personal _____ of God.
6. We receive Heaven because we are “_____” by the blood of Christ.
7. After His resurrection, Jesus was both recognizable and had _____ and _____, yet He could also appear and disappear.
8. In Heaven there is no sickness, pain, death, fear, loneliness, or any form of human _____.
9. Angels accompany the “new arrivers” into God’s presence, as seen in _____ 16:19–31.
10. God’s people will receive an _____ and heavenly _____.
11. Our resurrection bodies will be _____ and _____. (1 Corinthians 15:52)
12. The heavenly City described in Revelation is _____ miles long, _____ miles wide, and _____ miles high.

Answer Key

1. dwelling places
2. dwelling
3. mirror
4. cover, encompass
5. presence
6. covered
7. flesh, bone
8. weakness
9. Luke
10. inheritance, treasures
11. imperishable, immortal
12. 1500, 1500, 1500