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Heaven – What is it Really Like?

“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.

In Heaven:

- Angels accompany the ‘new arriviers’ 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 Cor 5:8; Philippians 3:20)
- Christ Himself will fill us with joy and eternal pleasures (Psalms 16:11)
- Christ Himself will reward His children with crowns (2 Tim 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)

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.

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 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 Cor 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.” (Psalms 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)