

What is heaven? And what will we do there?

Heaven is God's Kingdom, His realm.

It is a place of infinite love, peace, righteousness and harmony.

Here, we only get tiny snippets of these attributes which means when we get there, we'll be overwhelmed by how wondrous and awesome God's Kingdom is.

The most important thing to know about heaven is not what you'll be doing, but what you will be *experiencing*.

As we've shed our current body of death, filled with disease, pain, sin, thirst, hunger, etc., we will be filled with the complete manifestation of God's infinite love, peace and happiness.

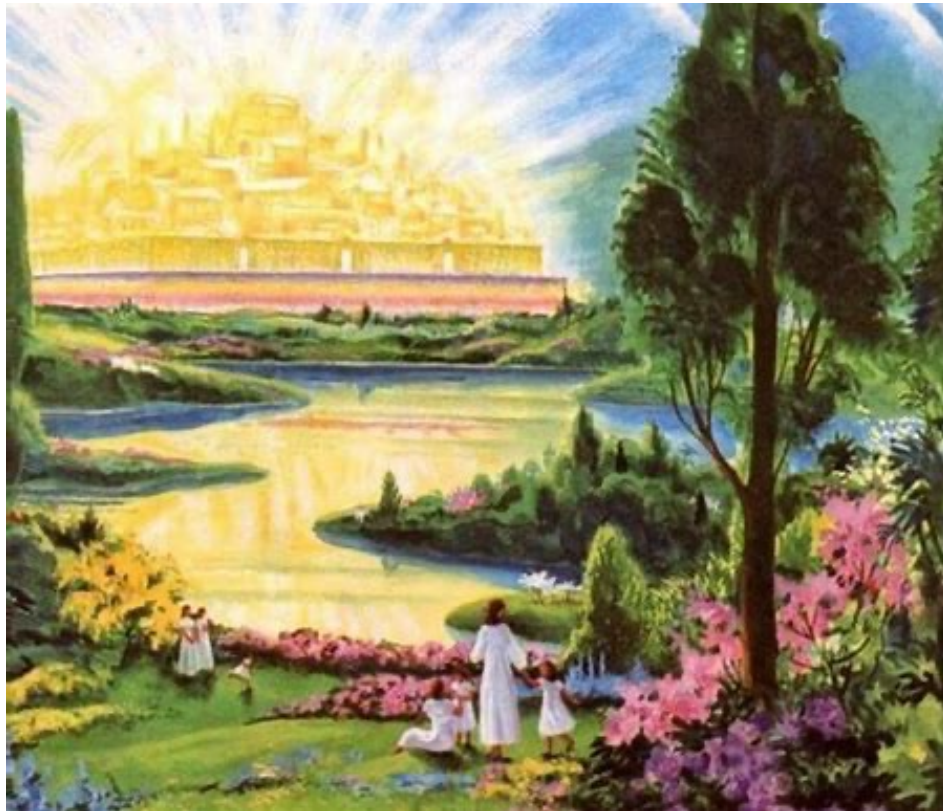
Have you ever felt happy in this life?

The joy you'll feel in heaven will make the happiest moment here seem dull and tinged with sadness because this world is so dark and laden with sin.

Have you ever felt loved in this life? It's a great feeling but nothing compared to being enveloped completely in God's infinite love.

That's why Paul wrote, "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared to the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Romans 8:18)

And Paul had to do a lot of suffering, including imprisonment, being shipwrecked, whipped, beaten, and nearly stoned to death.



Those in heaven experience a state of sheer, eternal peace, love, and fulfillment. For those reasons and more, we will want to thank and worship the eternal, living God (Revelation 7:9-17; Revelation).

We will be overwhelmed by God Himself, the all-powerful, all-knowing, all-merciful creator of the universe.

If we get awe struck by such relatively tiny things here on Earth, such as a beautiful snow-capped mountain, how much more when we are allowed to behold He who speaks things into existence.

Worship will spring forth as we marvel at the spectacular beauty of His realm, and the unmerited favor He lavishes on us.



Along with worship, the Bible says that we will rule with Christ (II Timothy 2:12; Revelation 3:26, 27; 20:4) over fallen realms within His eternal universe. And for those who love the pure righteousness of Christ, it'll be fantastic.

It won't be tiresome as it can sometimes be here on earth because we will no longer inhabit our present bodies which are given to tiredness, pain, sickness, thirst, hunger, decay and death.

The Bible says we will be granted glorified, eternal bodies which are not susceptible to the physical strain and pain of this life, and are no longer constrained by time/space and the law of gravity (Philippians 3:21; I Corinthians 15:42-53).

Empowered by God, we will no longer be subjected to the weakness of sin.

The Bible says our glorified bodies will not be nebulous, but have clear, concise human form (Luke 24:39,40) and we'll likely be able to enjoy food, though we won't need it (Luke 24:41-43).

Like Moses and Elijah, we'll be able to bask in God's infinite love (Matthew 17:2,3; Philippians 3:10)..

We'll be glorified with Christ (Romans 8:30), and that glory will be extended to the bodies we'll inhabit.

As we are filled with God's infinite love, peace and righteousness, it'll be joy beyond description in carrying out universal reconciliation under Christ's leadership (I Corinthians 2:9).

Ever feel happy carrying out something here on earth, such as helping someone out? It will be like that times a million when we are already in God's pure presence.

We will be reunited with loved ones, which will make an unspeakably wondrous experience even more so (1 Thessalonians 4:18).

We'll also be shown the endless wonders of God's eternal, infinite kingdom (Ephesians 2:6,7). It will make the most spectacular trip here on earth seem dull and listless by comparison.

Everyone on earth, about eight billion of us, longs for what is in heaven _ infinite joy, peace, love.

Unfortunately, most of us seek to find this in drugs, alcohol, materialism, adultery, status symbols, power. As Jesus says, "Many are called, but few are chosen" (Matthew 22:14).

These indulgences give us moments of fleshly delights, but then quickly wear off, leaving us to scramble around trying to, again, find snippets of the characteristics which define heaven _ happiness, peace and love.

Whether it be drugs, status symbols, sex, travel, career, it may bring a fleeting feeling of satisfaction, but strongly pales in comparison to the infinite ecstasy of simply being in God's awesome presence.

The never-ending quest to fill the void by seeking to satisfy the flesh often leads to tragic results. As nothing else offered by this fallen world can fill the void in our hearts that only God can fill, the futile pursuit of an earthly, fleshly heaven often causes lives to spiral downward, leading to disastrous results, such as loss of family and friends, loss of employment, mental illness, etc.

The great wonder of heaven is that the embodiment of love, peace, happiness is God, who will grant all of that freely.

And, once we're there, we will have no desire to return to this dark, troubled, painful, unjust world.

There will be no more sorrow, pain, hunger, thirst, death, decay. There will also be no more loneliness, lies, sadness, hate, envy, strife, and all the other characteristics that make this world such a sad and hopeless place.

As it is written, "The tabernacle of God is with men, and He shall dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God.

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain, for the former things are passed away" (Revelation 21:3,4).

Revelation chapters 21 and 22 speak volumes of the wondrous glory that is heaven.

The sufferings of this life will make heaven only sweeter.

You can't appreciate health until you've been sick.

You can't appreciate a true friend until you've been betrayed.

You can't appreciate peace until you've known anxiety and torment.

After experiencing the pain and suffering of this world, the glory of heaven will be wondrous beyond words.

But not everyone will enter heaven; in fact, most will miss out, choosing to live for this world instead of living for Christ.

That's why Jesus says, "Enter ye in at the strait gate, for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to temptation, and many there be that go in thereat. Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way which leadeth to life, and few there be that find it" (Matthew 7:13,14).

By carrying our sins on the cross, Jesus has done everything for us to be able to enter His kingdom.

He won't force us, though; we have to make the choice to serve Him in this short, fleeting life.

Please don't miss out.

