


A Kingdom of Gold



**AMAZING
ADVENTURE**

Bible Guides



When Spanish explorers landed in South America in the 1500s, they heard fantastic legends about an entire kingdom of gold. This mythical kingdom soon became known as El Dorado, and for hundreds of years, many adventurers disappeared searching for this gleaming empire. But although some explorers did find gold and other riches, the legend of El Dorado still remains a mystery.

How would you like to discover a kingdom of gold?

An Englishman named Howard Carter came very close. He was searching in Egypt for the missing tomb of the ancient Pharaoh Tutankhamen. King Tut, as he is better known, was a young king who lived about 1,300 years before Jesus was born.

After eight years of searching, in November 1922, Howard Carter's Egyptian workers uncovered a mysterious series of steps leading down to a sealed door.

Breaking through the sealed door, Carter then found a passageway filled with stone and rubble. After clearing the debris away, he found yet another sealed door — but this one was marked with the royal name of Tutankhamen!

What would be inside? After all, this door had not been disturbed for more than 3,300 years!

With trembling hands, Carter made a small hole, inserted a candle, and peered inside. As his eyes grew accustomed to the dim light, he saw statues of strange animals, extraordinary and beautiful objects, and gold ... *everywhere the glint of gold!*

After a long silence, those standing behind him anxiously asked if he could see anything. "Yes," said Carter. "Wonderful things!"

The other rich kings of Egypt had most of the treasure robbed from their graves, but King Tut's tomb was still filled with riches! They even found King Tut's mummy buried in a golden room under four golden shrines, with a priceless golden mask like his face.

There were also golden chairs, couches, jewelry, daggers, and many other precious objects buried with him.

Yet young King Tut was not a well-known or particularly wealthy pharaoh. Can you imagine then how rich the pharaohs were who built the pyramids? They must have lived in kingdoms of gold!

The treasures Carter found were some of the greatest discoveries in modern history, but he didn't get to keep them. They went to the Egyptian government. Still, Carter said that the day he found the treasure was the most wonderful day he ever had.

Did you know that your most wonderful day is yet in the future? It will be the day you explore a city of gold more spectacular than anything ever discovered. That day will be your first day in heaven!

Let's plunge into God's Word to begin our amazing adventure and discover this very real kingdom of gold that God has prepared for His children.

Of course, we should pray first, asking God to guide our search. "Dear Lord, I want to learn about your kingdom of gold. Please show me about it in your Word. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen."



What is God's kingdom like? Is it really a golden city?

ANSWER: "God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them" (Hebrews 11:16). "Its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass ... and the street of the city was of pure gold, like transparent glass" (Revelation 21:18, 21).

FAST FACT

Yes! God's kingdom does have a city made of "pure g _____ like transparent g _____." This city is built for us and will become the home of the saved. Imagine living in a city where the streets are made not of asphalt — but of gleaming pure gold!

Let's look at some other amazing features of this golden city!

A) The walls around God's city will never get old, crack, or fall. Why? Your house probably has a cement foundation, but God's golden city has 12 foundations all made of rare precious stones! The colors of these gem-like stones will make the city appear as if it is floating on a glass rainbow. (See Revelation 21:19, 20!)



Among all the precious metals, pure gold is the easiest to shape. A skilled goldsmith can hammer gold into a thin translucent wafer only five millionths of an inch thick. This means one ounce of gold can be pounded into a thin sheet wide enough to cover a tennis court!

Code:

A = U
B = P
C = K
D = F
E = L
F = O
G = Q
H = R
I = E
J = H
K = B
L = D
M = T
N = Y
O = A
P = C
Q = J
R = W
S = G
T = M
U = I
V = Z
W = X
X = N
Y = S
Z = V

Below, find a list of things we can expect to find in heaven. Oh, but they're in code! To solve the code, look at the column of letters on the top right of this activity. Find the letter of the code word in the LEFT column and replace it with the letter in the RIGHT column to find out how beautiful heaven will be.

(Hint: the answers are found in various Bible texts on these pages).

1. Pumn ed sefl _____
2. Roff ed qoybih _____
3. Ymhiimy ed sefl _____
4. Shiom oxl jusj roff _____
5. Fotk uy mji fusjm _____



B) How big is God's city? It's big enough for everyone who wants to be there! Revelation 21:16 says that the city is shaped like a square and is about 375 miles long on each side. This one city is bigger than the entire state of Oregon!



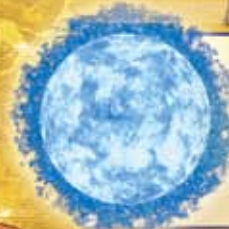
FAST FACT

The largest pearl in the world is valued at nearly \$60 million. It was extracted from a giant clam off the coast of Palawan in 1934 and measures 9 1/2 inches in diameter and weighs more than 14 pounds!

C) In the "great and high wall" around the city are 12 gates, three on each side of the city. Each glittering gate is made of a single pearl (Revelation 21:21). No one in all of history has ever seen a pearl that huge!

D) "The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light" (Revelation 21:23). The glory shining from King Jesus will beam and radiate through the whole city. Imagine, more than 13,000 square miles of city illuminated by God's glory reflecting off the jasper walls, golden streets, and precious stone foundations!

FAST FACT



The biggest stars in the Milky Way Galaxy are up to 100 times larger than our sun, which is 300 million times bigger than the earth! These stars are amazingly bright, shining as intensely as a million of our suns put together. They are so hot that they appear blue in color, giving them the name "blue supergiants."

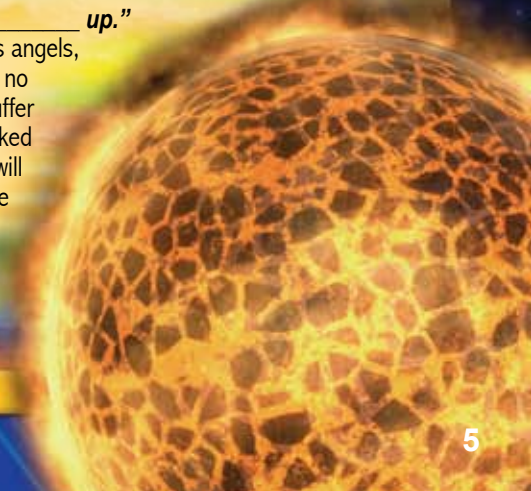


What will happen to all the sin and evil on this earth?

ANSWER: "The heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it shall be burned up" (2 Peter 3:10). "All who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up" (Malachi 4:1).

The Bible says this old earth will be "_____ up." All sin and sinners, including Satan and his angels, will be completely destroyed. There will be no eternal burning hell in which the wicked suffer forever, because the Bible teaches the wicked "shall be no more" (Psalm 37:10). God will use this fire to purify the earth. That will be the end of all evil.

Just imagine: no more sorrow, suffering, sickness, and death — isn't that good news? (Revelation 21:4).



FAST FACT
The heaviest building ever moved is the Fu Gang Building in China. It was successfully moved on November 10, 2004. The building weighs 33.3 million pounds and is more than 9 stories high! It took 11 days to move the building just 115 feet.

3 What does God promise to do then?

ANSWER: *"We, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells" (2 Peter 3:13). "The first heaven and the first earth had passed away" (Revelation 21:1).*

Don't you want to be there to see Jesus create a perfect new sky, earth, and everything in them?

What will it be like to stand next to Jesus as He creates the "new earth"? Imagine Him saying, *"Let the earth bring forth grass ... and the fruit tree. ... Let birds fly above the earth ... let the earth bring forth the living creature" (Genesis 1:11, 20, 24).* Then suddenly grass, trees, birds, and countless kinds of majestic animals appear before your very eyes. He might even make a new type of animal just for you! Wouldn't that be something?

4 Will this golden city be in heaven or earth?

ANSWER: *"I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God" (Revelation 21:2). "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth" (Matthew 5:5).*

The answer is really both. The city, called "New Jerusalem," starts out in heaven, and we will see it and live there when Jesus takes the righteous to heaven after His second coming. He told His disciples, *"Let not your heart be troubled. ... 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. And 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).*

Then, after we spend 1,000 years in heaven, Jesus will bring the city *"down out of heaven" to this recreated world. The New Jerusalem will be the dwelling place of God, His children, and the new capital city of the entire universe! (Revelation 21:1-30).*

Malachi 4:1 says that several things will be destroyed on "the day which is coming." First, look at the verse (on page 5) and list all those things.

1. H _ _ _ _ _
2. E _ _ _ _ _
3. E _ _ _ _
4. W _ _ _ _
5. All who do _ _ _ _ _

Then cross out **ONLY** the words above from the series of letters below.

Heavensnelementseeearthworkseallawhordotwickedlyh
What's left? _ _ _ _ _

5 What is the most wonderful thing about God's new kingdom?

ANSWER: *"I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle [house] of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God' " (Revelation 21:3). "The throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it. ... They shall see His face" (Revelation 22:3, 4).*

God Himself will live _____ us! His throne will be among us forever! Because of sin, we have been separated from God, but by accepting Jesus as our Savior, we can be forgiven and, one day, we will see God face to face.

Imagine it! The same Jesus who walked with the apostles will now *live with us*. He won't just be a spirit, and neither will we. In heaven, we will have real bodies (Philippians 3:20, 21). After His resurrection, Jesus said, *"Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have" (Luke 24:39).* God's golden kingdom is a real place filled with flesh-and-bone people, and we will live with Him. What a joyful time it will be!



What other wonderful things does God have planned in His new kingdom?

ANSWERS: **A) Great scenery changes and food!**

**“A new heaven and a new earth. ... Also there was no more sea” (Revelation 21:1).
“The desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose” (Isaiah 35:1).**

The new world will not be separated by massive oceans. There will be no more deserts, but every place will be like flower gardens that will never stop blooming. It will be beautiful everywhere.

“In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits ... yielding its fruit every month” (Revelation 22:2). “Take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever” (Genesis 3:22).

The beautiful **“tree of _____,”** which Adam and Eve lost when they left Eden, will be there. This fantastic tree grows on both sides of the river and joins into one over the river. It has a different kind of fruit each month. Don't you wish you had a tree like that in your backyard now?

B) Nothing to hurt anyone. **“The streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets” (Zechariah 8:5).**

It will be safe to play in the streets of this city. There is no danger. And there will be lots of friends to play with.

“The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox” (Isaiah 65:25). “A little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze ... the nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole. ... They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain” (Isaiah 11:6-9).

Wow! God wants us to know how perfectly different His new earth will be from this one. You can lead a lion like a puppy. You won't even be afraid to crawl by a snake's hole to play. Nothing will **“hurt nor d_____”** anyone there.

“Violence shall no longer be heard in your land. Neither ... destruction within your borders” (Isaiah 60:18). There will be no crime or destructive storms ruining homes and taking lives like we see today.

FAST FACT

Little Tyke, an African lioness, was adopted from a zoo by George and Margaret Westbeau and raised on their California ranch. She lived her entire life without ever eating meat. In fact, her owners tried very hard to encourage their unusual pet to develop a taste for meat, but Little Tyke would not touch it or even chew a bone. She did extremely well on a daily diet of cooked grain, raw eggs, and milk. By four years of age, Little Tyke weighed 352 pounds. Visitors to the 100-acre ranch were amazed to see a full-grown lion wandering peacefully among the sheep and cattle, even grazing on the tall grass in the field. The Bible says that one day, every lion will be vegetarian.

If Tyke the lion could talk, she would probably say some unusual things. Below, find what one of them might be. Oh! But some of the letters are jumbled. When a word seems wrong, see if you can rearrange the letters so that it makes sense!

“It's time for chlun! I think I'll have some ceir! Do any cows care to noijs me? After all, you're my drefins and I'll never tea you.”

C) You will grow tall! **“You shall go out and grow ... like stall-fed calves” (Malachi 4:2).**

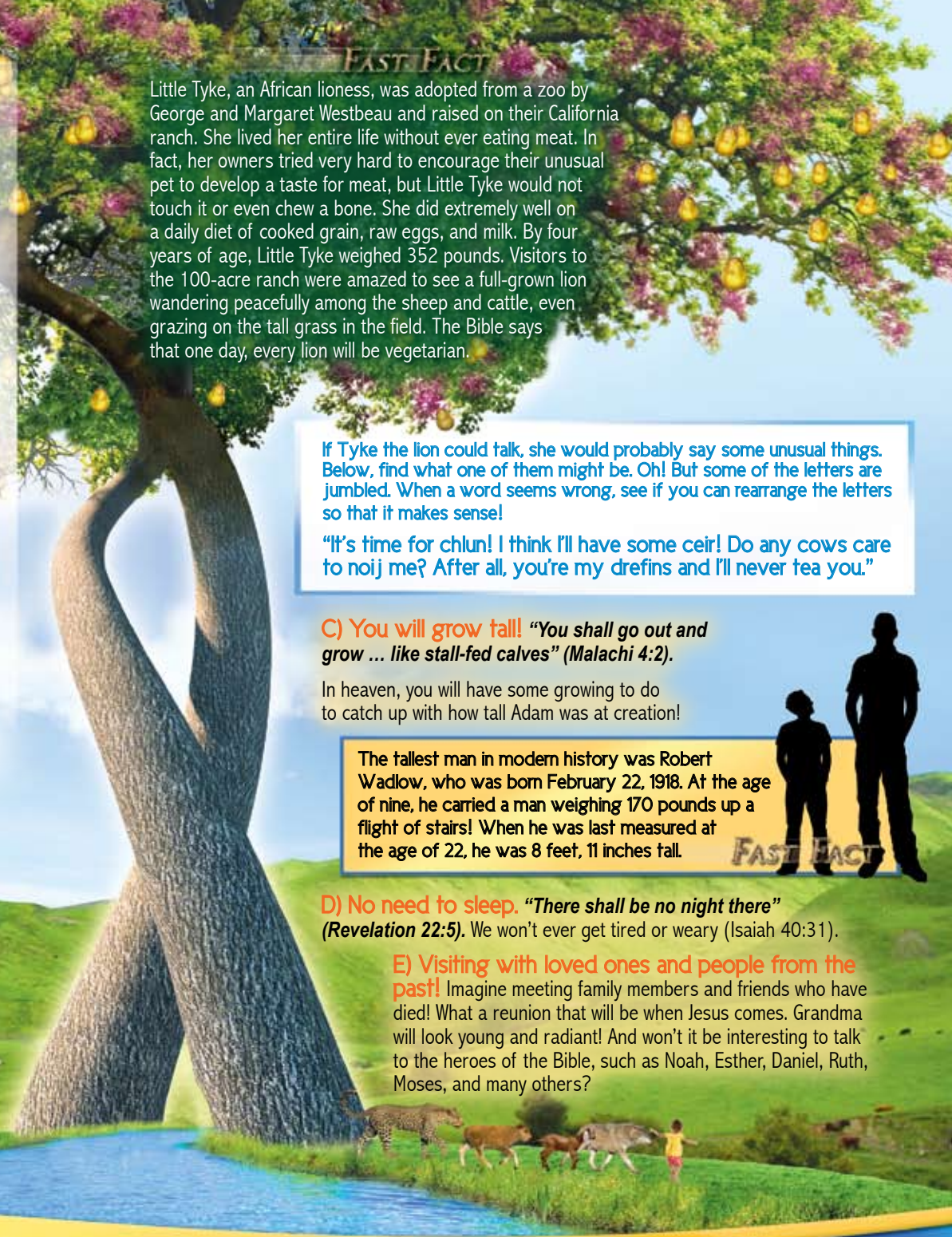
In heaven, you will have some growing to do to catch up with how tall Adam was at creation!

The tallest man in modern history was Robert Wadlow, who was born February 22, 1918. At the age of nine, he carried a man weighing 170 pounds up a flight of stairs! When he was last measured at the age of 22, he was 8 feet, 11 inches tall.

FAST FACT

D) No need to sleep. **“There shall be no night there” (Revelation 22:5).** We won't ever get tired or weary (Isaiah 40:31).

E) Visiting with loved ones and people from the past! Imagine meeting family members and friends who have died! What a reunion that will be when Jesus comes. Grandma will look young and radiant! And won't it be interesting to talk to the heroes of the Bible, such as Noah, Esther, Daniel, Ruth, Moses, and many others?



7

What are some of the other blessings in heaven?

ANSWER: We *“will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him”* (James 1:12). And we will be *“clothed with white robes”* (Revelation 7:9).

Jesus will put on our head a golden _____ of life. We will get a pure white _____, which represents our cleansing from sin.



“The eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the lame [disabled] shall leap ... the dumb [shall] sing” (Isaiah 35:5, 6).

All disabilities will be healed in God’s great kingdom. And yet there is so much more! The Bible says we can’t even imagine all the great wonders God has for us in the new earth!

“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him” (1 Corinthians 2:9).

How do you get from the “flops” of a sinful world to the crown we will receive in heaven? Change one letter in each word as you move down the list.

F	L	O	P	S	Hint:
					The river _____ through the meadow.
					How many times have you _____ on an airplane?
					We could tell that the wind had _____ very hard.
					We saw a _____ juggling balls on the street corner.
C	R	O	W	N	

Write your own name on your crown below.



Find ACROSS the hidden treasures that *will be* in God’s kingdom. Find DOWN what *will not be* in God’s kingdom. (For a bonus, find diagonally Bible heroes that *will be* in heaven.)

- | | | |
|---------------|-------------|-----------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN | DIAGONAL |
| Crystal | Death | David |
| Gold | Crying | Noah |
| Jasper | Tears | Paul |
| Sapphire | Sorrow | Moses |
| Emerald | Liars | Ruth |
| Pearls | Pain | Esther |
| Crowns | Devil | |



FAST FACT

In 1532, the Spanish conquistador Francisco Pizarro captured Atahualpa, the king of the great Inca Empire. Pizarro held his prisoner in the mountains of Peru for eight months, while collecting the largest ransom in history. The ransom was to fill a room 22 feet long by 17 feet wide and 8 feet high with gold, and two other rooms with silver — literally a king’s ransom! After the ransom was delivered, Pizarro broke his promise and executed the king. Eventually, Pizarro was killed by his own men. Pizarro wanted his treasure here on earth, and he lost everything.

S A P A M L M O O M T E V E C
 E C R O W N S D Y V O O O G R
 E A I C R Y S T A L P S O M Y
 E S H I Q N S N E V A E E L I
 D T T E R S A P P H I R E S N
 E H H H I O L N A M N D A I G
 A A T E E R R I J A S P E R T
 T G E W N R G B R E T R P L Y
 H D O G F O P E A R L S U N
 E Q Y A V W A T A E L W R T Z
 S G O L D A E H T U I D O N H
 E P T A E S E M E R A L D R O
 B E A I V N I N A T R W R M D
 F H B U I Z T H R I S Y I A V
 S W T P L L T T S C R O B X E

8

What will not be in heaven and the new earth?

ANSWERS: A) *“God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain”* (Revelation 21:4).

There’s nothing to make us sad in heaven and God’s new earth. No one will even say they are sick (Isaiah 33:24).

B) *“There shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie”* (Revelation 21:27).

In heaven, there will be no alcohol, cigarettes, sinful books, impure movies, wicked computer games, or worldly music. Nothing that defiles our bodies and minds will be permitted. Only that which is pure and holy will be allowed. In heaven, there won’t be anything to prevent us from becoming everything that God wants us to be. If we are planning on living in heaven’s holy atmosphere, we must prepare today by living our lives for Jesus.





Does Jesus want me there? How can I be ready?

ANSWER: "I go to prepare a place for you" (John 14:2). "Come ... inherit the kingdom prepared for you" (Matthew 25:34). "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in" (Revelation 3:20). "Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city" (Revelation 22:14).

Jesus is preparing this wonderful kingdom for you. With all His heart, He wants you there. But you must first let Him be king of your heart. Then you can discover God's kingdom today and have treasure in heaven. Jesus said, "Indeed, the kingdom of God is within you" (Luke 17:21).

If you let Jesus have your heart, He will clean you from all sin. He will help you follow His life and "DO His commandments." You will be ready to "ENTER through the gates into the city" that Jesus has prepared for those who love Him.

Here is a poem that describes your first day in heaven.
Fill in the blanks from the word list below.

everywhere care Tree skies Amen again eyes
peacefully well waste zoo praise embrace free tear

My first day in heaven—oh, what will I do?

More animals there than a big city _____

But there won't be bars there, the creatures run _____

The lion lies down with the lamb _____

My first day in heaven—oh, what will I hear?

The sound of an angel wing drying a _____

Loud shouts of rejoicing as loved ones _____

And most of all thunderous, worshipful _____

My first day in heaven—oh, what will I see?

Grass greener than emeralds, the fruit-laden _____

Clear waters, bright flowers, gold streets, and pure _____

And face after face with God's love in their _____

My first day in heaven—oh, what will I smell?

The soft, healing breezes that make me so _____

Rich perfume from blossoms that hang _____

The food God prepared with such infinite _____

My first day in heaven—oh, what will I taste?

The banqueting table will not go to _____

With Jesus I'll drink of the new wine _____

I'll gobble up all that God give me. _____



Your First Day in Heaven!

Just imagine your first day in heaven. Think about walking on the shining streets of gold and singing with the angels. You've spoken to Noah, David, Esther, and even your guardian angel. It's been the most exciting day of your life.

Now you fly over the gleaming buildings into the New Jerusalem, landing in the garden of Eden. Inside, you see glowing green grass, fruit-laden trees, and gorgeous flowers. A beautiful little bird lands on your shoulder and sings the sweetest song. None of the animals are afraid. You can't believe your eyes ... *everything* is so much brighter and better than you had imagined! You stop by a pond to watch the colorful fish swimming in crystal clear water. A new joy fills your heart — you are happier than you have ever been.



Then you feel a gentle hand on your shoulder; you turn and look into the face of Jesus! He is smiling at you. "My child," He says, "Welcome home. I'm so happy you are here." With tears of joy, you put your arms around King Jesus and all you can say is "Thank you, Jesus. Thank you."

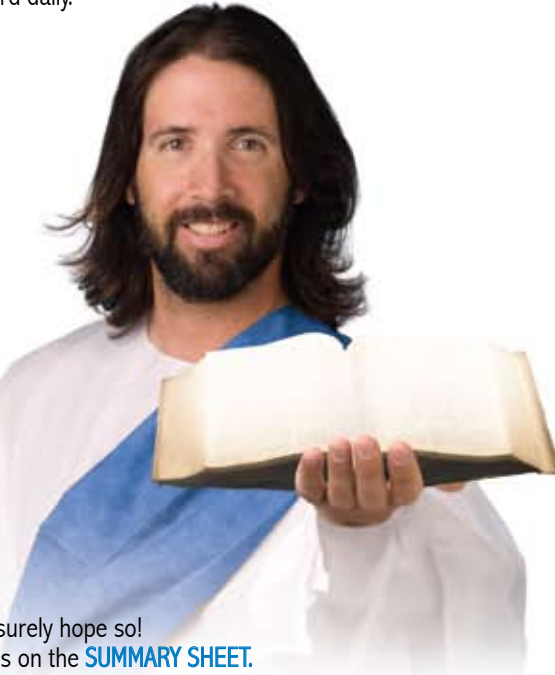
Yes. Heaven is a real place! Jesus loves you and died for your sins so that you can be forgiven and live with Him forever. He has a place just for you, and He will miss you if you are not with Him.



Will you invite Jesus into your heart today and start preparing to live with Him forever?

How do I get ready for God's kingdom?

1. Give your life to Jesus and read His Word daily.
2. Think about Jesus and try to copy Him through the day.
3. Ask God's help when making choices so that they will honor Him.
4. Turn away from worldly entertainments, books, music, clothes, and even friends who draw you away from Christ. If someone or something makes you lose a hunger for the Bible, they probably aren't helping you prepare for heaven. Apply Philippians 4:8 and Psalm 101:3 to your activity.
5. Share what you've read in the Bible with a friend. It will make it even more real to you.



Did you enjoy this exciting lesson? We surely hope so!
Now take a moment to do the questions on the **SUMMARY SHEET**.

Notes

SUMMARY SHEET

Please read the Bible Guide before answering the questions. Fill in the circles of ALL that are correct for the multiple choice questions. Hint: The number of correct answers for each question is in red.

1. **In God's city of gold, there are: (4)**
 - a) eight foundations of rock and concrete
 - b) golden streets
 - c) jasper walls surrounding it
 - d) twelve foundations of precious stones
 - e) four gates of marble
 - f) twelve gates, each of one huge pearl
2. **God's city will: (1)**
 - a) be floating out in space
 - b) come down from heaven to this earth
 - c) be up in heaven forever
3. **The sin and sinners on this world: (1)**
 - a) will live forever outside the city
 - b) will be burned to ashes and never live again
 - c) will be burning forever for us to see
4. **This earth will be: (3)**
 - a) created all new and perfect for God's people
 - b) a desolate, ruined place forever
 - c) cleansed from all sin
 - d) the center of God's government
5. **What will give the city light? (1)**
 - a) Jesus, the Lamb of God
 - b) giant overhead lamps in every room
 - c) the sun
6. **The most awesome thing about heaven and the new earth is: (1)**
(pick only the best one)
 - a) how rich we will be
 - b) tame big "wild" cats that won't hurt us
 - c) God the Father and Jesus will live with us
 - d) we won't have to ride the bus to school
 - e) we won't have to go to bed
 - f) twelve kinds of fruit on one tree
7. **Mark "T" for True or "F" for False on these statements about heaven and the new earth: (8 are true)**
 - ___ a) Animals and people will be friendly and peaceful.
 - ___ b) God will make new grass, trees, animals, and birds.
 - ___ c) Wolves will only eat lamb, not calves or people.



- ___ d) Jesus will live with us every day.
- ___ e) Snakes will never hurt anyone.
- ___ f) The tree of life will heal those who get bitten by animals.
- ___ g) There will be a special section for smokers and nonsmokers.
- ___ h) Animals, like lions, will eat grass, instead of other animals.
- ___ i) Nothing impure will be there.
- ___ j) We will stay the same height we are here on earth.
- ___ k) No one will be blind, deaf, or disabled there.
- ___ l) Jesus will give us each a sparkling crown and white robe.

YOUR COMMENTS:

8. What new things have you discovered in this lesson?

9. Do you want to prepare to live with Jesus in the beautiful city He is preparing for you?

7. Mark T for True and F for False on these statements about heaven and the new earth:

T - a) Animals and people will be friendly and peaceful.
 T - b) God will make new grass, trees, animals, and birds.
 F - c) Wolves will only eat lambs, not calves or people.
 T - d) Jesus will live with us every day.
 T - e) Snakes will never hurt anyone.
 F - f) The tree of life will heal those who get bitten by animals.
 F - g) There will be a special section for smokers and nonsmokers.
 T - h) Animals, like lions, will eat grass, instead of other animals.
 T - i) Nothing impure will be there.
 F - j) We will stay the same height we are here on earth.
 T - k) No one will be blind, deaf, or disabled there.
 T - l) Jesus will give us each a sparkling crown and white robe.

4. This earth will be:

a) created all new and perfect for God's people
 d) the center of God's government
 c) cleansed from all sin
 5. What will give the city light?
 a) Jesus, the Lamb of God
 6. The most awesome thing about heaven and the new earth is:
 a) how rich we will be
 b) lame big "wild" cats that won't hurt us
 c) God the Father and Jesus will live with us
 d) we won't have to ride the bus to school
 e) we won't have to go to bed
 f) twelve kinds of fruit on one tree

ANSWER:

1. In God's city of gold, there are:
 b) golden streets
 c) jasper walls surrounding it
 f) twelve gates, each of one huge pearl
 2. God's city will:
 b) come down from heaven to this earth
 3. The sin and sinners on this world:
 b) will be burned to ashes and never live again



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