

CITY OF LIFE

A city takes on the nature of the people living there. God's city is filled with people who live in the fullness of his presence. In the Bible, God has revealed to us his nature and character, therefore we can know what heaven will be like. **God is holy**....so we can see how nothing impure could ever remain in his city. **God is light**.....in him there is no darkness - 1 John 1:5.

Now we come to another quality that makes heaven so special. **God's life.**

Heaven is full of life.....God's Life. The Greeks used the word zoe to refer to all animate life. In the Bible, zoe refers to the life in God, it means **absolute life**, life in its **fullness**. - Strong's Greek Lexicon

Jesus told us that he came to bring **abundant, overflowing life**. - John 10:10.
That word abundant (perissos in Greek) means:

superabundant in quantity and superior in quality

This is the same word used in Ephesians 3:20 which says God is able to do **exceedingly more** than we could ask or imagine according to His power that is at work within us. The root word of abundant in Greek = beyond. The atmosphere of life in heaven is so beyond what we can even imagine! What is amazing though is that this very life nature comes into us when Jesus comes into our life.

What makes the life in heaven unique is that it is absolute life. What does absolute mean?

Absolute: 1. complete, entire
2. not mixed with anything else, pure
3. free from imperfection, perfect - Thorndike / Barnhart Dictionary

One way to explain this is to think of the term absolute cold. I grew up on a dairy farm and had to do some of my chores in the bitter cold. As a boy, I liked to go sledding down the hills with my brother and two neighbor boys. More than once I nearly had frostbitten fingers. We usually had several days each winter when the temperature got below 0 and sometimes even -10 degrees Fahrenheit. Sometimes the water pipes in our heifer barn would freeze. I would have said that it was absolutely cold! Those who live in the northern mid-west in America endure even harsher temperatures of -30 to -40 degrees F., but even that is not absolute cold. Then what is?

Absolute Cold or Absolute Zero: The lowest possible temperature where nothing could be colder and no heat energy remains.

It is -459.67 degrees F ie. -273.15 degrees C. Now that is pure cold! In this life there are not many things that are totally pure but **in the heavenly city, everything is absolutely pure!**

In our message 'City of Light' we saw how heaven is filled with light..... **ABSOLUTE LIGHT**. The light is so pure and pervasive that there is no room for any darkness or shadows! Everyone and everything is fully transparent. (something God wants in our lives now)

Heaven is also filled with **ABSOLUTE LIFE**. There is no dust, disease, decay, death, pain, pollution, sorrow etc. Everyone and everything exudes God's life with all of its energy. The music is more harmonious and the water is full of life. I have not read the book 'Imagine Heaven' by John Burke, but as a Christian he studied about 1000 near death experiences and found five common elements:

1. People felt more **alive** than ever before
2. They saw loved ones
3. They experienced profound beauty, the five senses seemed to expand to 50 in number
4. They experienced beautiful colors, more **vibrant** and **beyond** our spectrum
5. They saw a man of light

As I mentioned before in another message, all things need to be screened through the lens of the Bible. Not all beings of light are from God. Satan disguises himself as an angel of light and deceives people. **Some of the common lies today:**

1. Death is a friend - Genesis 3:4, 1 Corinthians 15:26
2. Ultimate reconciliation of all things and people. All people go to heaven (a distortion of Colossians 1:19-20) Matthew 25:31-46, John 3:36, Revelation 21:8
3. All roads lead to God, we are all divine etc. - John 14:6
4. Reincarnation - Hebrews 9:27

About 25 years ago Betty Eadie had a popular book called; Embraced by the Light in which she promotes many Mormon and New Age pagan ideas which are basically the ancient occult. One of the deadly things about such books is that people adopt false assurance about their spiritual well being. Johanna Michaelson participated in psychic healing and saw amazing things. She had regular contact with one she thought was Jesus until one time the mask came off. She tells her story in the book, **The Beautiful Side of Evil** 1982, 2006.] The Jesus she encountered was another Jesus as Paul warned us about. - 2 Corinthians 11:3-4 In another message called, The Verse for the Universe, we share several scriptures about eternal life and how Jesus is that life. Here is one.

I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father, except through me. - John 14:6

While working in London among people from all the major world religions, that verse was one challenging message. Every religion believes that they have the right path or way to God. But note, **Jesus did not say.....I am a way, a truth, and a life. He used the word THE Way.** Jesus is the only way to God and to heaven. A friend of mine in London used the phrase 'don't blame me, blame Jesus' when people resisted the John 14:6 message. **One thing I noticed with all other religions was that they never had**

assurance of salvation. When it comes to salvation, other religions have one word.... **DO. Do good works, do this sacrifice, do this pilgrimage, do this penance etc.** The boxer Mohammed Ali was once asked why he signed so many autographs. It made me sad when I heard his answer: 'I will have a better chance of getting into heaven.'

For Christianity, the key salvation word is.... **DONE.** At the cross, Jesus uttered the words..... **IT IS FINISHED.** It was the word 'tetelestai', which means 'paid in full' (a word still used in Greece when a bill is paid). God required a perfect blood sacrifice to pay for all sins. It could not be an animal but had to be a perfect man, because it was mankind that had sinned against God. - Job 9:33, 1 Timothy 2:5. This is why Jesus had to be born of a virgin and live a sinless life.

Jesus experienced hell (separation from God) on the cross when he cried out to God with these words: 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' Psalm 22:1 (prophecy given 1000 years before Jesus died) Most of **Psalm 22** describes the hellish experience of Jesus on the cross, but near the end of the Psalm we see the reason for it all.....

All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord, and all the nations and families of the nations will bow down before him.... 22:27

Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord, they will proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn - for he has done it. Psalm 22:30-31

On the cross, Jesus was so beaten and weak that he could only utter the first words of Psalm 22, but he knew the rest of that prophecy. He was thinking about you and me. 'For the joy set before Him, He endured the cross.' -Hebrews 12:2. He knew that he was the blood covenant lamb of God who was the door to heaven and eternal life. The last words of Psalm 22 in the Hebrew can be translated either....**He has done it or It is finished.** Jesus was fulfilling that prophecy as he uttered his final words on the cross. He knew that he had done it! He had become THE WAY back to THE LIFE with God that had been lost in Eden.

I am the door, whoever enters through me will be saved. - John 10:9

The Israelites were familiar with such language. They were told to place the blood of a lamb on the door of their house so the Lord's wrath would Passover them. The blood would drip down on the **threshold** so they would **cross over** it when they **entered the house** because it was a **sacred blood covenant.** - Exodus 12. It is interesting to note that the word threshold reminds us of someone who died 2000 years ago.

Threshold: **Crossbeam** (Hebrew) **Carpenter** (Arabic)

Brown-Driver- Briggs Lexicon

I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me, has **eternal life** and will not be condemned; he has **crossed over** from death to **life.** - Jesus - John 5:24

Welcome to Father's house.....the city of life! jesusreigns.net