



What will heaven be like? We have all heard the song, "I Can Only Imagine." That, I believe, is the honest truth. I can only imagine. The writer of the song goes into wonderful depictions of what he thinks heaven may look like. However, the truth is that no one truly knows. No one except God.

We get glimpses of what heaven may look like through the scriptures. However, we can never get the full picture of really what it looks like and what we will be doing when we get to heaven. Ultimately, as of now, what we call "heaven" is literally a "staging area" for when the fullness of the "New Jerusalem" will come to pass. That "fullness" is presented to us in the book of Revelation in chapters 19-22.

You see, from what I can tell from the scriptures, God has given to us, those who believe and have Jesus as their personal Savior and Lord, a place called "heaven" that we will go to when we pass from this life. Yes, God, the Father, will definitely be there. Jesus will be there sitting on the right hand of the Father. The Holy Spirit, however, will be upon this earth, living in and guiding the lives of the true believers on this earth. We must never forget that the Holy Spirit is with us - now.

The scriptures are clear. Jesus said to His disciples 40 days after His resurrection, that He must leave and that the Holy Spirit will then come 10 days later on that day known to us as Pentecost. (Acts 1:4-8) Jesus told His disciples that He must leave so that the Holy Spirit would come so that they would be filled with power to go forth and tell the world (be His witnesses) about the Good News of salvation through Jesus. We must remember that the "authority" every believer has is in the Name of Jesus. The "power" that every believer now has is in and through the Holy Spirit.

However, the ultimate desire and the ultimate vision that we each have as children of God is that we will be with Him when we pass from this life into eternal life. The place that is presently in place that every true believer will enter into is that place that we know as "heaven." It will be a wonderful place. Our spirit and soul will be there and we will experience the fullness of God's love.

The scriptures give us a little bit of insight to that place where we will be going when we leave this earth. Below are a few scriptural insights on this. I am sure there are more but you will “catch my drift” in what heaven will be like.

Heaven has Mansions Where We Will Dwell with Jesus- *“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 14:2-3)

Before His death, Jesus comforted his disciples with the promise that he would go and provide a place for them. The most beautiful part was His assurance that He would return for them and receive them unto Himself. No matter how spectacular the mansions in our Father’s house, dwelling with Jesus will be the most beautiful habitation of all.

All Nations and All People Will Worship- *“After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’”* (Revelation 7:9-10)

We must remember that in Revelation it is speaking about things that will take place in heaven. What this is saying is that there will be a heavenly procession which was symbolized when Jesus was upon this earth when He made His triumphal entry into the earthly city of Jerusalem.

However, in the Book of Revelation we will see the true aspect of what that time of the earthly Jerusalem represented when Jesus entered the city. At this time, in “heaven,” all the true believers, you and I, will be clothed in the white garments of righteousness and we will declare what has taken place, *“Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”* Yes, salvation **has** come to us!!! We are saved!!!

Heaven Will Be Filled with Peace, Joy, and Praise- *“Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will*

dwell among them. They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes” (Revelation 7:15-17).

Those who have passed from this life will remain before the throne of God forever. With pure joy and adoration, we will worship and serve our God night and day. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, will lead us to the fountains of living waters, never to thirst again. Every tear will be wiped away by the merciful hand of God and we will rest in the shade of His presence.

Jesus Will come, Clothed in White and on a White Horse - “Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses” (Revelation 19:11-14).

This is when Jesus returns to this earth to take up His place upon the throne in Jerusalem and rule and reign on this earth for 1000 years. There will be no mistake about who Jesus is or what He has done. His robe, dipped in blood, will be a testament to His perfect sacrifice on the cross. And every knee will bow, every tongue will confess, that Jesus Christ is Lord.

However, this is not the end. There is more. Much more!!!

As we just have discussed in Revelation 19, we see that Jesus comes to rule on this earth for 1000 years. At the conclusion of that 1000 years, we read in Revelation 20:7-10, that satan shall be released from that bottomless pit and he will be allowed to come forth and deceive those that do not really want God. They will come and surround the saints that are left on this earth. These saints are those that were on the earth for that 1000 year period, whether they came out of the tribulation and then chose to believe or they are born during that time and chose to believe and follow Jesus. We are not told specifically.

The devil and his forces will surround them to kill them. However, we read that “fire” will come down from God out of heaven, and devour those forces of darkness. They will then be thrown into the “lake of fire” and they will be tormented day and night, for ever and ever. They will be there along with the beast and the false prophet and all those who had followed the devil and rejected God from the beginning. (Revelation 20:11-15)

However... there is more!!! This is the best part of the whole scenario!!! If we continue to read in Revelation 21:1-3, we see that there will be a “*new heaven and a new earth.*” The old heaven and earth “*were passed away.*” This new heaven and new earth that will come forth is called the “New Jerusalem.” This will be a brand new place where the true believer and God will now dwell together for eternity. There will be nothing separating God, the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit from those who truly are God’s children – the joint heirs with Jesus.

This will be a new dwelling place where God will be the light for there will be no sun or moon. God is Light and He will be our light!!! God’s covenant will be totally fulfilled as we hear Him declare in Revelation 21:3,4 “*...Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and **God himself shall be with them, and be their God...** 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.*” Praise God!!! This is the fulfillment of the covenant that we have with our God.

We are told that in this “New Jerusalem” there will be precious gemstones that will adorn this new Jerusalem- “*Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb’s wife.’ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal*” (Revelation 21:9-11).

“The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst” (Revelation 21:19-20).

In heaven, the “light” or the illumination of the great city of Jerusalem will be like a glorious stone, shining pure like crystal. Its radiance will outshine any precious gem on earth today and its value will be immeasurable. Covered in and with the glory of God, this holy “New Jerusalem” will descend with brilliance. Hey, God IS Light!!!

In this New Jerusalem there will be gates made of pearl and the streets will be made of “transparent gold.” *“The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass”* (Revelation 21:21).

We can never even imagine what this will look like for we have nothing on this earth that can compare to it. When John was seeing this and then writing of it, he could only use things that he knew of on this earth. Just think, the gates of heaven, each of them, are as ONE pearl. Streets of gold, so pure that they are “transparent.” John could not even imagine anything like it!!! Revelation 21 goes on to tell us that in heaven there will be no more sun or moon. The glory of God and the light of the Lamb will be its illumination. (Revelation 21:23-25) WOW!!!

In this New Jerusalem there will be the “tree of life.” - *“In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.”* (Revelation 22:2)

This is for the true believers to be able to partake of forever and ever. It will be a “fruit tree” that will line the main street of this New Jerusalem. It will be a tree of eternal life that we will be able to partake of. It says that there will be a different fruit for each month. I really do not know what that means or how it can be but I know one thing, when I get there I will find out.

Revelation 22:4-5 tells us that God, the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, will be our “eternal Light.” We shall see and look upon His face and His name shall be upon our foreheads. This is symbolic of the priests who wore the turbans upon their head in the Old Testament. The High Priest would have God’s name upon his head dress.

In Revelation 22:4-5 it is saying that God’s people will all be God’s High Priests and that we all will have His name upon our foreheads. We will offer unto Him His true worship and praise. *“They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. There shall be no night*

there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever” (Revelation 22:4-5).

Yes, forever and ever, we will be joint heirs of this New Jerusalem along with Jesus, our Messiah, the Christ. We will have a true relationship with our God. Every beautiful description of heaven will come to fruition and far exceed our greatest expectations. Yes, heaven is a beautiful place. However, the New Jerusalem, the “new heaven,” is even greater and even more beautiful. We can never even imagine. We can try but it will not even come close.

I know that there is so much more that can be said on this. However, the most important thing to remember is how to get to this “heaven” and ultimately, the “New Jerusalem.” A person can only get there through placing their total faith and trust in what Jesus did over 2000 years ago and trust in who He is today. Jesus is “...*the way, the truth and the life.*” Jesus is the only way to the Father and to this “eternal life.” I pray that everyone who is reading this essay has made Jesus their personal Savior and Lord of their life.

Jesus tells us at the conclusion of the Book of Revelation, “*Surely I come quickly.*”

To this we all can be in total agreement and declare, “*Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!*”

(Revelation 22:20)