

# **TICK T****CK...**

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## **PROPHECY & THE NEWS**



**What is heaven?**

**What does heaven look like?**

**What will life in heaven be like?**



# Why are we curious about the future?

He has made everything appropriate in its time.  
**He has also set eternity in their heart**, yet so  
that man will not find out the work which God  
has done from the beginning even to the end.  
Ecclesiastes 3:11



# How does the Bible describe Heaven?

- Heaven is referred to in Scripture more than 600 times.
- The Old Testament's key word for heaven in Hebrew is **shamayim** שָׁמַיִם. It is a plural noun and literally means "the heights."
- The New Testament key word in Greek is **ouranos** (οὐρανός), which literally means "that which is raised up."

- John MacArthur



Paul the Apostle wrote... “I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a man was caught up to the third heaven.” 2 Corinthians 12:2

## **The Bible talks about three heavens**

1. The first one is the atmospheric heaven, the space immediately above the earth, the blue sky.
  - “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.” Isaiah 55:9
  - Who covers the heavens with clouds, who provides rain for the earth, who makes grass to grow on the mountains. Psalm 147:8
2. The second heaven is the planetary area, the place of the sun, moon, and stars, the black sky.
  - Then God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years; and let them be for lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth”; and it was so. Genesis 1:14-15
3. The third heaven is the divine heaven. That’s where God dwells with His holy angels, and where He dwells with all the believer of all ages who have been redeemed.

- John MacArthur



# Did Jesus talk about Heaven?

## Statements from Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew

- “Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in **heaven**.” Matthew 5:16
- “make no oath at all, either by **heaven**, for it is the throne of God,” Matthew 5:34
- “so that you may be sons of your Father who is in **heaven**” Matthew 5:45a
- “Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in **heaven**.” Matthew 6:1
- “Pray: ‘Our Father who is in **heaven**, hallowed be Your name.’” Matthew 6:9
- “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in **heaven** give what is good to those who ask Him!” Matthew 7:11
- “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of **heaven**, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.” Matthew 7:21



# Did Jesus talk about Heaven?

## Statements from Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew

- “Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in **heaven**.” Matthew 10:32
- “For whoever does the will of My Father who is in **heaven**, he is My brother and sister and mother.” Matthew 12:50
- “Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in **heaven**.” Matthew 16:17
- “See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven continually see the face of My Father who is in **heaven**.” Matthew 18:10
- “So it is not the will of your Father who is in **heaven** that one of these little ones perish.” Matthew 18:14
- “Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in **heaven**.” Matthew 18:19
- “My **heavenly** Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart.” Matthew 18:35

- John MacArthur



# Consider these scriptures about Heaven

- Jesus taught, “Our Father who is in **heaven**, hallowed be Your name.” Matthew 6:9
- For Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a mere copy of the true one, but into **heaven** itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; Hebrews 9:24
- to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in **heaven**, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, Hebrews 12:23
- “Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in **heaven**.” Luke 10:20
- Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in **heaven** for you, 1 Peter 1:3-4
- For our citizenship is in **heaven**, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; Ephesians 3:20
- Jesus taught, “Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in **heaven** is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” Matthew 5:12

- John MacArthur



So, when you think about heaven, you're identifying the place where your Father is, your Savior is, your brothers and sisters are, your name is there, your inheritance is there, your citizenship is there, your reward is there, your Master is there, of course, being God and Christ, and your treasure is there as well. To sum it up: heaven is your home.

- John MacArthur



# **What does the NEW heaven look like?**

Revelation chapters 21-22



# What does the NEW heaven look like?

## Revelation 21:1-4

Apostle John's vision... Then I saw a **new heaven** and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, 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."

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# What does the NEW heaven look like?

## Revelation 21:5-8

And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true." Then He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son. But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."



# What does the NEW heaven look like?

## Revelation 21:9-14

Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, “Come here, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.” And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper. **It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; and names were written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel.** There were three gates on the east and three gates on the north and three gates on the south and three gates on the west. And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.”



# What does the New Jerusalem look like?

## Revelation 21:15-17

“The one who spoke with me had a gold measuring rod to measure the city, and its gates and its wall. The city is laid out as a square, and its length is as great as the width; and he measured the city with the rod, fifteen hundred miles; its length and width and height are equal. And he measured its wall, seventy-two yards (216 feet thick), according to human measurements, which are also angelic measurements.”

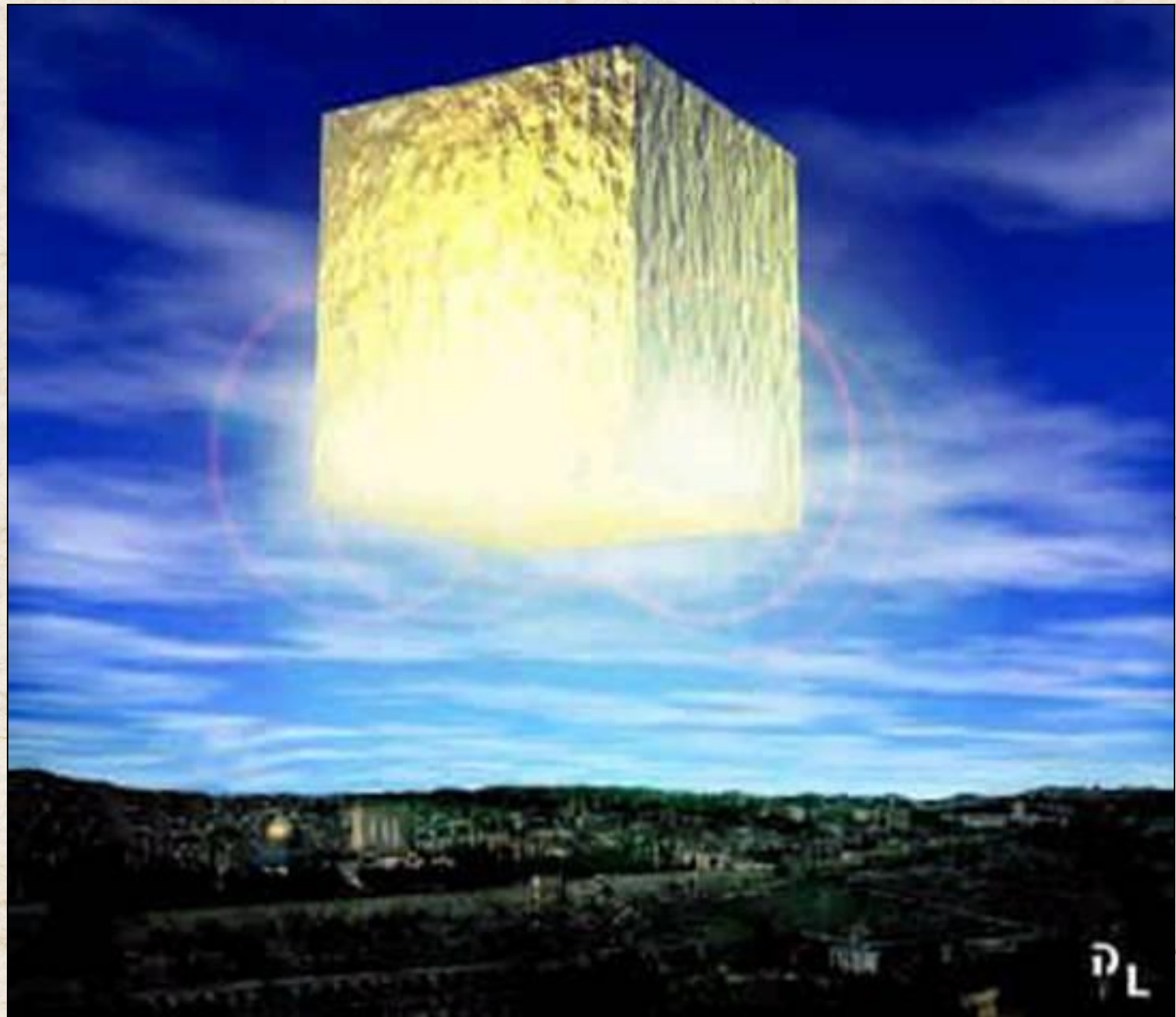


## Revelation 21:2

**“I saw the Holy City,  
the new Jerusalem,  
coming down out of  
heaven from God”**

Source: [www.truthnet.org](http://www.truthnet.org)

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# How far is 1,500 miles?



The driving distance from Dallas to New York City is 1,548 miles



# What does the New Jerusalem look like?

## Revelation 21:18-21

“The material of the wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. The foundation stones of the city wall were adorned with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation stone 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; the twelfth, amethyst. And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; **each one of the gates was a single pearl**. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.”

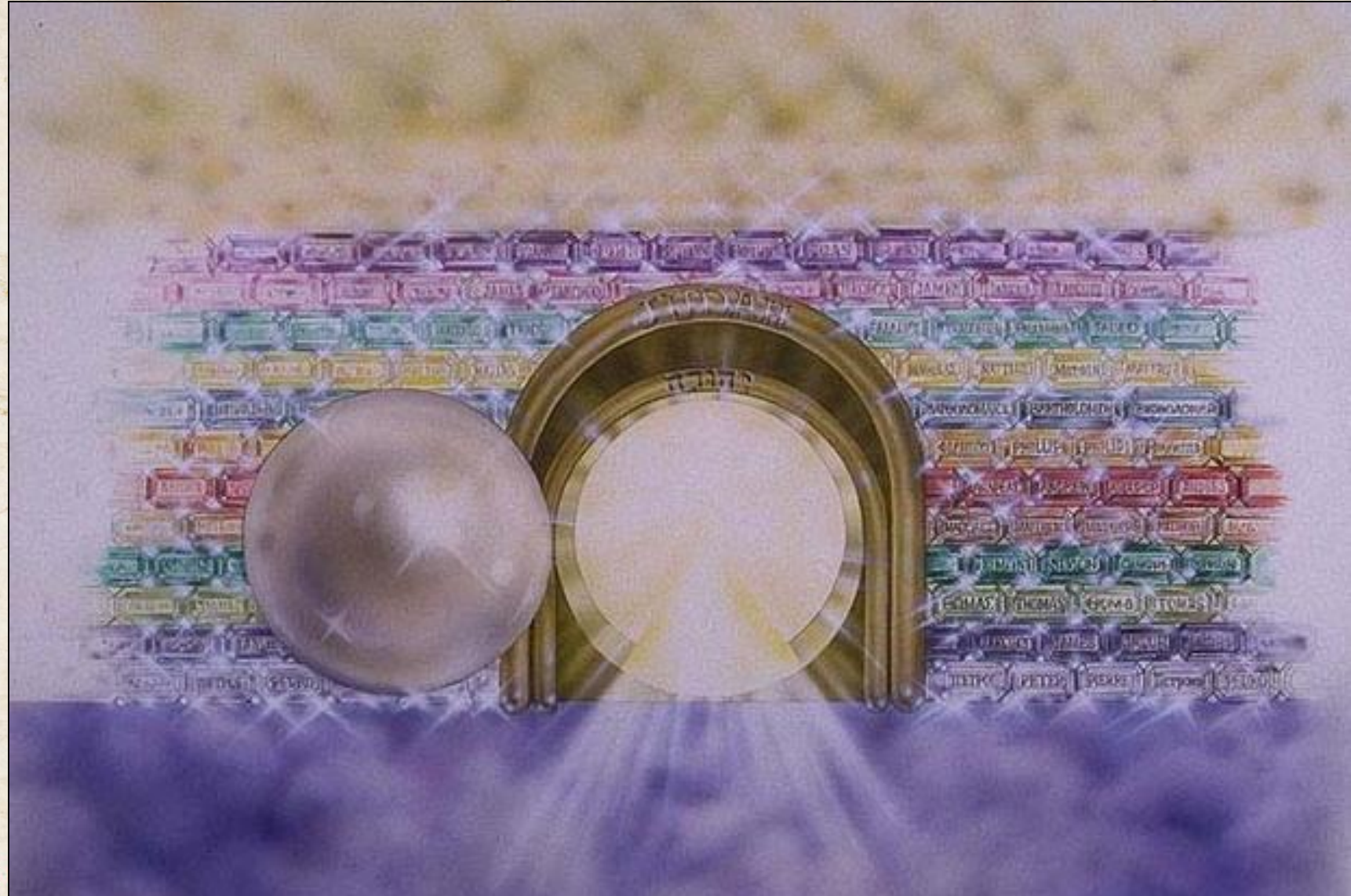


Source:  
[www.revelationillustrated.com](http://www.revelationillustrated.com)

# Walls of Heaven

## The foundations of the city

### Revelation 21:12-14 and Revelation 21:19-20



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**“And the street of the city was pure gold” Revelation 21:21**





## What is the New Jerusalem?

The New Jerusalem, which is also called the Tabernacle of God, the Holy City, the City of God, the Celestial City, the City Foursquare, and Heavenly Jerusalem, is literally heaven on earth. It is referred to in the Bible in several places (Galatians 4:26; Hebrews 11:10; 12:22–24; and 13:14), but fully described in Revelation 21.

In Revelation 21, the recorded history of man is at its end. All of the ages have come and gone. Christ has gathered His church in the Rapture (1 Thessalonians 4:15–17). The Tribulation has passed (Revelation 6–18). The battle of Armageddon has been fought and won by our Lord Jesus Christ (Revelation 19:17–21). Satan has been chained for the 1,000-year reign of Christ on earth (Revelation 20:1–3). A new, glorious temple has been established in Jerusalem (Ezekiel 40–48). The final rebellion against God has been quashed, and Satan has received his just punishment, an eternity in the lake of fire (Revelation 20:7–10.) The Great White Throne Judgment has taken place, and mankind has been judged (Revelation 20:11–15).

In Revelation 21:1 God does a complete make-over of heaven and earth (Isaiah 65:17; 2 Peter 3:12–13). The new heaven and new earth are what some call the “eternal state” and will be “where righteousness dwells” (2 Peter 3:13). After the re-creation, God reveals the New Jerusalem. John sees a glimpse of it in his vision: “The Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband” (Revelation 21:2). This is the city that Abraham looked for in faith (Hebrews 11:10). It is the place where God will dwell with His people forever (Revelation 21:3). Inhabitants of this celestial city will have all tears wiped away (Revelation 21:4).



# What is the New Jerusalem?

The New Jerusalem will be fantastically huge. John records that the city is nearly 1,500 miles long, and it is as wide and as high as it is long—a perfect cube (Revelation 21:15–17). The city will also be dazzling in every way. It is lighted by the glory of God (verse 23). Its twelve foundations, bearing the names of the twelve apostles, are “decorated with every kind of precious stone” (verse 19). It has twelve gates, each a single pearl, bearing the names of the twelve tribes of Israel (verses 12 and 21). The street will be made of pure gold (verse 21).

The New Jerusalem will be a place of unimagined blessing. The curse of the old earth will be gone (Revelation 22:3). In the city are the tree of life “for the healing of the nations” and the river of life (verses 1–2). It is the place that Paul spoke of: “In the coming ages [God] might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus” (Ephesians 2:7). The New Jerusalem is the ultimate fulfillment of all God’s promises. The New Jerusalem is God’s goodness made fully manifest.

Who are the residents of the New Jerusalem? The Father and the Lamb are there (Revelation 21:22). Angels are at the gates (verse 12). But the city will be filled with God’s redeemed children. The New Jerusalem is the righteous counter to the evil Babylon (Revelation 17), destroyed by God’s judgment (Revelation 18). The wicked had their city, and God has His. To which city do you belong? Babylon the Great or the New Jerusalem? If you believe that Jesus, the Son of God, died and rose again and have asked God to save you by His grace, then you are a citizen of the New Jerusalem. “God raised [you] up with Christ and seated [you] with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus” (Ephesians 2:6). You have “an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade” (1 Peter 1:4). If you have not yet trusted Christ as your Savior, then we urge you to receive Him. The invitation is extended: “The Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come!’ And let the one who hears say, ‘Come!’ Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life” (Revelation 22:17).

<https://www.gotquestions.org/amp/new-jerusalem.html>



# What does the New Jerusalem look like?

## Revelation 21:22-22:2

“I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. In the daytime (for there will be no night there) its gates will never be closed; and they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it; and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but **only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life**. Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.”



# City of Gold

Through the gate of the eternal city  
Revelation 21:21-27 and Revelation 22:1-6

Source:  
[www.revelationillustrated.com](http://www.revelationillustrated.com)

“a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the tree of life”  
Revelation 22:1-2

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# What will life in heaven be like?

Dr. J. Dwight Pentecost

## A life of fellowship with God

- For now we see in a mirror dimly, but **then face to face**; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known. 1 Corinthians 13:12
- Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because **we will see Him just as He is**. 1 John 3:2
- Jesus said, “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 14:3
- 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; **they will see His face**, and His name will be on their foreheads. Revelation 22:3-4



# What will life in heaven be like?

Dr. J. Dwight Pentecost

- **A life of full knowledge**

- For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but **then I will know fully** just as I also have been fully known. 1 Corinthians 13:12

- **A life of holiness**

- and **nothing unclean**, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life. Revelation 21:27



# What will life in heaven be like?

Dr. J. Dwight Pentecost

- **A life of glory**

- For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of **glory far beyond all comparison**, 2 Corinthians 4:17
- When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be **revealed with Him in glory**. Colossians 3:4

- **A life of rest**

- And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, “Write, ‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!’ ” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “**so that they may rest from their labors**, for their deeds follow with them.” Revelation 14:13



# What will life in heaven be like?

Dr. J. Dwight Pentecost

## A life of worship

- After these things I heard something like a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, “**Hallelujah**! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God” Revelation 19:1
- After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.” And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, “Amen, **blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be to our God forever** and ever. Amen.”

Revelation 7:9-12



# What will life in heaven be like?

Dr. J. Dwight Pentecost

- **A life of joy**

- “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

- **A life of service**

- “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

- **A life of abundance**

- Then He said to me, “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. **I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost.**” Revelation 21:6



# Important Q&As about Heaven

With THANKS to Got Questions Ministries



<https://www.gotquestions.org>

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# Where is heaven? What is the location of heaven?

Heaven is most certainly a real place. The Bible very definitely speaks of heaven's existence—and access to heaven through faith in Jesus Christ—but there are no verses that give us a geographical location. The short answer to this question is, “heaven is where God is.”

Other verses indicating heaven to be “above” the earth” are numerous. At the Tower of Babel, God says, “Come, let us go down” (Genesis 11:7) Heaven is described as “high above the earth” in Psalm 103:11, and the place from which the Lord “looks down” in Psalm 14:2. Jesus is described as having “ascended into heaven” and “descended from heaven” in John 3:13. In Acts 1:9–11 Jesus is described as being taken “up” into heaven, and when God takes John to heaven in Revelation 4:1, He says, “Come up here.” These passages have led to the conclusion that heaven is beyond the earth's airspace and beyond the stars.

However, since God is spirit, “heaven” cannot signify a place remote from us which He inhabits. He is always near us when we call on Him (James 4:8), and we are encouraged to “draw near” to Him (Hebrews 10:1, 22). Granted, the “heaven” where saints and angels dwell has to be thought of as a sort of locality, because saints and angels, as God's creatures, exist in space and time. But when the Creator is said to be “in heaven,” the thought is that He exists on a different plane from us, rather than in a different place.

That God in heaven is always near to His children on earth is something the Bible expresses throughout. The New Testament mentions heaven with considerable frequency. Yet, even with this frequency, detailed description of its location is missing. Perhaps God has intentionally covered its location in mystery, for it is more important for us to focus on the God of heaven than the description or location of His dwelling. It is more important to know the “why” and the “who” than the “where.” The New Testament focuses on the purpose of heaven and who is there instead of telling us exactly what it is like or where it is.



# Can people in heaven look down and see us?

The idea that people are looking down from heaven to see what we're doing is common in popular culture. But, as much as we might like the notion that we're being watched by our departed loved ones, that's not what Hebrews 12:1 is teaching. The "witnesses" are the people whom God commends for their faith in chapter 11, and there is a large crowd of them in heaven. The question is, in what way are they "witnesses"?

The proper interpretation of Hebrews 12:1 is that the men and women forming the "great cloud of witnesses" are witness to the value of living life by faith. Their Old Testament stories give testimony to the blessings of choosing faith over fear. To paraphrase the start of Hebrews 12:1, "Since we have so many tried-and-true examples of proven faith . . ." So, it's not that people are in heaven watching us (as if our lives on earth are so interesting or they have nothing better to do!), but that those who have gone before us have set a lasting example for us. The record of their lives bears witness to faith and God and truth.

Hebrews 12:1 continues, "Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." Because of the faith and endurance of believers who went before us, we are inspired to stay the course in our own race of faith. We follow the examples of Abraham and Moses and Rahab and Gideon and etc.

Some people point to the rich man's mention of his brothers in Luke 16:28 as proof that departed souls (in Hades, at least) can see events on earth. However, the passage never says that the rich man could *see* his brothers; he knew he had brothers, and he knew they were unbelievers. Also, some people use Revelation 6:10 as a proof text: the tribulation martyrs call for God to avenge their deaths. Again, this passage says nothing about the martyrs *seeing* people on earth; it simply says that they knew they deserved justice and desired the Lord to take action.

The Bible doesn't specifically say that people in heaven *cannot* look down on us, so we can't be dogmatic. However, it is unlikely that they can. People in heaven are likely preoccupied with other things such as worshipping God and enjoying the glories of heaven.



# Will we remember our earthly lives when we are in Heaven?

Isaiah 65:17 says, “For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.” Some interpret this as saying that we will have no memory of our earthly lives in heaven. However, in Isaiah 65:16, the Bible says, “For the past troubles will be forgotten and hidden from my eyes.” It is likely only our “past troubles” will be forgotten, not all of our memories. Our memories will eventually be cleansed, redeemed, healed, and restored, not erased. There is no reason why we could not possess many memories from our earthly lives. The memories that will be cleansed are the ones that involve sin, pain, and sadness. Revelation 21:4 declares, “He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for old things have passed away.”

The fact that the former things will not come to mind does not mean that our memories will be wiped clean. The prophecy could be suggesting the wondrous quality of our new environment. The new earth will be so spectacular, so mind-blowing, that everyone will quite forget the drudgery and sin of the current earth. A child who is scared of the shadows in his room at night completely forgets his nocturnal fear the next day on the playground. It’s not that the memories have been wiped out, only that, in the sunshine, they don’t come to mind.

It’s important to make a distinction between the eternal state and the current heaven. When a believer dies, he or she goes to heaven, but that is not our final destination. The Bible speaks of “a new heaven and a new earth” as our eternal, permanent home. Both passages quoted above (Isaiah 65:17 and Revelation 21:1) refer to the eternal state, not the current heaven. The promise of wiping away every tear does not come until after the tribulation, after the final judgment, and after the re-creation of the universe.

In his apocalyptic vision, John sees sorrow in heaven: “I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. They called out in a loud voice, ‘How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?’” (Revelation 6:9–10). John is obviously in heaven (Revelation 4:1–2), and he sees and hears those who obviously remember the injustice done to them. Their loud calls for vengeance indicate that, in the current heaven, we will remember our lives on earth, including the bad things. The current heaven of Revelation 6 is temporary, though, giving way to the eternal state in Revelation 21.

The story of Lazarus and the rich man (Luke 16:19–31) is further proof that the dead remember their earthly lives. The rich man in hell asks Abraham to send Lazarus back to earth to warn the rich man’s brothers of the fate awaiting the unrighteous (verses 27–28). The rich man obviously remembers his relatives. He also remembers his own life of self-serving and sinful comfort (verse 25). The memories of the rich man in hell become part of his misery. The story does not mention whether or not Lazarus has memories, but Abraham has definite knowledge of goings-on on earth (verse 25). It’s not until we reach the eternal state that the righteous will leave all sorrow behind.



# What will we look like in Heaven?

In 1 Corinthians 15, Paul talks about the resurrection and the resurrected body. He states that our heavenly bodies will be different from our natural bodies, with some stark contrasts. Whereas our earthly bodies are characterized by mortality (being susceptible to death), our resurrected bodies will be characterized by immortality (not susceptible to death). Likewise, while our earthly bodies are susceptible to decay (corruption), they will become incorruptible (1 Corinthians 15:53). Where our natural bodies are prone to weakness, our resurrected bodies will be characterized by strength (verse 43).

Another comparison is that now we have a natural body, but then we will have a spiritual body. Verse 49 states that we will have a body like Jesus' resurrected body (see also 1 John 3:2). And Jesus, after His resurrection, told them to touch Him and to watch Him eat, demonstrating that He was not merely a spirit (Luke 24:37-43). Rather, it's more likely that just as a natural body is fitted for this present life in our physical universe, the spiritual body will be that which will best suits us for the eternal existence we are destined for in our eternal abode. Jesus' resurrected body was capable of entering locked rooms at will (John 20:19). Our earthly body limits us in ways (and/or dimensions) that our spiritual body will not.

1 Corinthians 15:43 also describes the transformation from "sown in dishonor" to "raised in glory." Philippians 3:21 says that Jesus "will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body." Our decaying bodies are described with the word "dishonor" because they bear the mark of the results of sin. We can all picture the lungs of one who has ruined his health through smoking, or a brain that is no longer able to form complete thoughts because of drug abuse. In the same way, the decaying physical body is the direct result of man's sinfulness. Had there been no sin, there would be no decay and death (1 Corinthians 15:56). But God, through Christ's transforming power, is able to raise up His children in Christ with new glorious bodies, being completely free from the ravages of sin and possessing the glory of Christ instead.

We are not told exactly what we will look like in the next life, what age we will appear to be, or if we will look thin or fat. But, while many believe we will bear some resemblance to what we look like now, we do know that in whatever ways our appearance or health has been altered as a result of sin, these traits will not be carried over into our appearance in the next life. More importantly, the sin nature, inherited from Adam (Romans 5:12) will no longer be with us, for we will be made after the holiness of Christ (1 John 3:2).



# What will we be doing in Heaven?

In Luke 23:43, Jesus declared, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with me in paradise." The word Jesus used for "paradise" is *paradeisos* which means "a park, that is, (specifically) an Eden (place of future happiness, paradise)". *Paradeisos* is the Greek word taken from the Hebrew word *pardes* which means "a park: - forest, orchard." Jesus said, "Today you shall be with me "en *paradeisos*," not "en *nephele*" which is Greek for "in clouds." The point is that Jesus picked and used the word for "a park." Not just any park but "the paradise of God" or park of God (Revelation 2:7) which for us will be a place of future happiness.

Jesus said, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve" (Matthew 4:10). It's interesting to note that Jesus did not say "praise and serve." Praise in the Bible shows it's a verbal thing and is for the most part singing. Worship, however, is from the heart. Worship manifests itself in praise. Serving God is worship, and Scripture is clear we will serve God in heaven. "His servants will serve Him" (Revelation 22:3).

We are unable to fully serve God in this life due to sin, but in heaven "every curse will no longer be" (Revelation 22:3). We will not be under the curse of sin any longer, so everything we do will be worship in heaven. We will never be motivated by anything other than our love for God. Everything we do will be out of our love for God, untainted by our sin nature.

So what will we do? One task will be to learn. "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became His counselor?" (Romans 11:34), "in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Colossians 2:3). God is the "the high and lofty One who inhabits eternity" (Isaiah 57:15). God is bigger than forever, and it will take eternity "to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth and length and depth and height, and to know the love of Christ" (Ephesians 3:18-19). In other words, we will never stop learning.

God's Word says we won't have to be in His paradise alone. "I shall fully know even as I also am fully known" (1 Corinthians 13:12). This would seem to indicate that we will not only know our friends and family, we will "fully know" them. There is no need for secrets in heaven. There is nothing to be ashamed of. There is nothing to hide. We will have eternity to interact with "a great multitude, which no man could number, out of all nations and kindreds and people and tongues" (Revelation 7:9). No wonder heaven will be a place of infinite learning. Just getting to know everyone will take eternity!

Any further anticipation about what we shall do in God's eternal park, heaven, will be far surpassed when "the King shall say to those on His right hand, 'Come, blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world'" (Matthew 25:34). Whatever we will be doing, we can be sure it will be wonderful beyond our imaginations!

<https://www.gotquestions.org/amp/doing-in-Heaven.html>



# Will we be able to see and know our friends and family members in Heaven? Will we know each other in Heaven?

Many people say that the first thing they want to do when they arrive in heaven is see all their friends and loved ones who have passed on before them. In eternity, there will be plenty of time to see, know, and spend time with our friends and family members.

However, that will not be our primary focus in heaven. We will be far more occupied with worshipping God and enjoying the wonders of heaven. Our reunions with loved ones are more likely to be filled with recounting the grace and glory of God in our lives, His wondrous love, and His mighty works. We will rejoice all the more because we can praise and worship the Lord in the company of other believers, especially those we loved on earth.



## What does the Bible say about whether we will be able to recognize people in the afterlife?

King Saul recognized Samuel when the witch of Endor summoned Samuel from the realm of the dead (1 Samuel 28:8-17). When David's infant son died, David declared, "I will go to him, but he will not return to me" (2 Samuel 12:23). David assumed that he would be able to recognize his son in heaven, despite the fact that he died as a baby. In Luke 16:19-31, Abraham, Lazarus, and the rich man were all recognizable after death. At the transfiguration, Moses and Elijah were recognizable (Matthew 17:3-4). In these examples, the Bible does seem to indicate that we will be recognizable after death.

1 John 3:2 declares that when we arrive in heaven, we will "be like Him [Jesus]; for we shall see Him as He is." Just as our earthly bodies were of the first man Adam, so will our resurrection bodies be just like Christ's (1 Corinthians 15:47). "And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality" (1 Corinthians 15:49, 53). Many people recognized Jesus after His resurrection (John 20:16, 20; 21:12; 1 Corinthians 15:4-7). If Jesus was recognizable in His glorified body, we also will be recognizable in our glorified bodies.

<https://www.gotquestions.org/amp/family-heaven.html>



# Do we receive mansions in heaven?

The night before Jesus was crucified, He told His disciples that He would be leaving them and that they could not go with Him (John 13:33). Peter asked where He was going and why they couldn't go with Him, and Jesus assured them that they would follow Him eventually (John 13:36-37). Jesus said, "In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also" (John 14:2-3).

This saying of Jesus has confused many because of the King James Version's rendering of the words "house" and "mansions." The Greek word [*μονή mone*] translated "house" means "an abode," literally or figuratively, and, by implication, "a family." The word translated "mansions" or "rooms" means literally "the act of staying or residing." So, putting the Greek together, Jesus is saying that in God's home (heaven) there will be many people in the family of God all abiding together. Within God's heavenly house, Christians will live in the presence of the Lord. This is quite different from the idea of rows of mansions on streets of gold, which is the image many people have of what Jesus was saying.

Jesus Christ prepares a place in heaven for His own, those who have come to Him in faith, and the Holy Spirit prepares the redeemed on earth for their place in heaven. Revelation 7:9 tells us that there will be a "great multitude in heaven that no one could number" all standing before the throne. Here, again, the imagery is of multitudes together, not living separately in different mansions.

<https://www.gotquestions.org/amp/mansions-heaven.html>



## Where is Jesus now? Is Jesus in heaven?

According to Mark 16:19 and 1 Peter 3:22, Jesus is in heaven right now at the right hand of God the Father.

Luke 24:51 and Acts 1:9-11 describe the bodily ascension of Jesus, which occurred 40 days after His resurrection. Jesus had told His disciples that He was going to prepare a place for them and for all believers (John 14:2–3). Jesus' ascension was a literal and bodily return to heaven. He rose up from the ground gradually and was received into a cloud while His disciples gazed in wonder. Two angels appeared and promised Christ's return "in just the same way that you have watched Him go" (Acts 1:11). This marked the end of the human limitations Jesus had during His earthly ministry. Some of the attributes He possessed as God had been temporarily suspended, but now the suspension was over. His heavenly glory returned—a glimpse of which was seen at the Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1–9).

King David said in the Spirit, "The LORD says to my lord: 'Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet'" (Psalm 110:1). This verse in Hebrew literally says, "*Yahweh* says to *Adonai*." This is a remarkable conversation between two Persons of the Godhead. In Matthew 22:43–45, Jesus applies this psalm to Himself, claiming that He is more than the son of David, but that He is David's Lord. Jesus' place is at the right hand of God, the place of divine honor.

Other passages that indicate Jesus' presence in heaven are Matthew 26:64; Luke 22:69; Ephesians 1:20; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 12:2; and Revelation 5:7. Also Stephen, just before he died, had a vision in which he "looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God" (Acts 7:55).

So, biblically, Jesus is in an actual place called heaven, a place of glory where God dwells with His angels and redeemed children. In another sense, Jesus is also with us here, in this world. Jesus, being God, has all of the attributes of God, including omnipresence. So, Jesus and the Father and the Holy Spirit are everywhere and not just "in heaven." As Solomon said in 2 Chronicles 2:6, "The heavens, even the highest heavens, cannot contain him."



## Will we be able to see all three members of the Trinity in Heaven?

In heaven, there are three Persons of the Trinity – God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit.

Will we be able to actually see them? Revelation 4:3-6 gives us a description of heaven and the throne that is occupied by God and by the Lamb: “the one sitting there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian... a rainbow resembling an emerald encircled the throne. Before the throne... a sea of glass, clear as crystal.” Since God dwells in “unapproachable light” and is one “whom no one has seen or can see” (1 Timothy 6:16), God is described in terms of the reflected brilliance of precious stones. First Corinthians 2:9 says, “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him.” Because of God’s holiness, it may be that we will never be able to look upon His face, but again, this is speculation.

Revelation 5:6 tells us that in heaven, the Lamb stands in the center of the throne and there are descriptions of Him clothed in brilliant white. Since the Lamb represents Christ Jesus, and we know that human eyes have beheld Him after His resurrection and glorification, it seems reasonable to conclude that in heaven, we will be able to look upon our Lord and Savior.

The Holy Spirit, by the very nature of His being, is able to move at will and take various forms. When Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit descended on Him in the form of a dove (Matthew 3:13-17). At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was accompanied by a loud rushing noise and was seen as tongues of fire (Acts 2:1-4). It may not be possible to see the Holy Spirit unless He chooses to manifest Himself in some form, but that is speculation.

Mere mortals do not have the ability to grasp the wonders of heaven—it is entirely beyond our comprehension. Whatever heaven is like, it will far exceed our wildest imaginings! All we know is that we will be worshiping our great God and full of wonder that He died to save sinners.



## How does the Bible describe the glorified bodies we will possess in Heaven?

While the Bible doesn't describe in detail the glorified bodies we will receive in heaven, we know that they will be like that of Jesus' resurrected body. Our human bodies are described in 1 Corinthians 15:42–53 as perishable, dishonorable, and weak, all due to sin. Our glorified bodies will be imperishable, honorable, and powerful. Our new bodies will be no longer “natural” bodies, but “spiritual” bodies, no longer focused upon the natural senses but at one with the Holy Spirit.

As imperishable bodies, they will no longer suffer from sickness and death, nor will they ever be subject to heat and cold or hunger and thirst. Our new bodies will be honorable in that they will not be shamed or shameful because of sin. When Adam and Eve sinned, the first thing they felt was shame because of their nakedness (Genesis 3:6–7). Although the Bible doesn't portray glorified bodies as being naked, but rather clothed in white garments (Revelation 3:4–5, 18), they will be pure and undefiled by sin. Our earthly bodies are “weak” in many ways. Not only are we subject to the natural laws of gravity and time/space, we are weakened by sin and its temptations. Our glorified bodies will be empowered by the Spirit that owns us, and weakness will be no more.

Just as our earthly bodies are perfectly suited to life on earth, our resurrected bodies will be the same for life in heaven. We will have form and solidity to the touch, yet with no hindrance to travel (John 20:19, 26; Luke 24:39). We will be able to enjoy food, but will not be driven to it by necessity for nourishment nor fleshly desire (Luke 24:40–43). Like Moses and Elijah, we will be able to bathe in the glory of our Creator in the fellowship of His dear Son (Matthew 17:2–3; Philippians 3:10). The bodies we inherit will be more like what God had originally made us to be, rather than what we now abide in through the infirmity and weakness of our sinful flesh. We will be glorified with Christ, and that glory will extend to the bodies we will inhabit.

<https://www.gotquestions.org/amp/glorified-bodies.html>



# What are the five heavenly crowns that believers can receive in Heaven?

The Greek word translated “crown” is *stephanos* and means “a badge of royalty, a prize in the public games or a symbol of honor generally.” Used during the ancient Greek games, it referred to a wreath or garland of leaves placed on a victor’s head as a reward for winning an athletic contest. As such, this word is used figuratively in the New Testament of the rewards of heaven God promises those who are faithful. Paul’s passage in 1 Corinthians 9:24-25 best defines for us how these crowns are awarded.

**1) The Imperishable Crown** – (1 Corinthians 9:24-25) “Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate [disciplined] in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown” (NKJV). All things on this earth are subject to decay and will perish. Jesus urges us to not store our treasures on earth “where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal” (Matthew 6:19). This is analogous to what Paul was saying about that wreath of leaves that was soon to turn brittle and fall apart. But not so the heavenly crown; faithful endurance wins a heavenly reward which is “an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you” (1 Peter 1:3-5).

**2) The Crown of Rejoicing** – (1 Thessalonians 2:19) “For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?” The apostle Paul tells us in Philippians 4:4 to “rejoice always in the Lord” for all the bountiful blessings our gracious God has showered upon us. As Christians we have more in this life to rejoice about than anyone else. Luke tells us there is rejoicing even now in heaven (Luke 15:7). The crown of rejoicing will be our reward where “God will wipe away every tear . . . there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away” (Revelation 21:4).

**3) The Crown of Righteousness** – (2 Timothy 4:8) “Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.” We inherit this crown through the righteousness of Christ which is what gives us a right to it, and without which it cannot be obtained. Because it is obtained and possessed in a righteous way, and not by force and deceit as earthly crowns sometimes are, it is an everlasting crown, promised to all who love the Lord and eagerly wait for His return. Through our enduring the discouragements, persecutions, sufferings, or even death, we know assuredly our reward is with Christ in eternity (Philippians 3:20). This crown is not for those who depend upon their own sense of righteousness or of their own works. Such an attitude breeds only arrogance and pride, not a longing, a fervent desire to be with the Lord.

<https://www.gotquestions.org/amp/heavenly-crowns.html>



# What are the five heavenly crowns that believers can receive in Heaven?

**4) The Crown of Glory** – (1 Peter 5:4) “And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.” Though Peter is addressing the elders, we must also remember that the crown will be awarded to all those who long for or love His appearing. This word “glory” is an interesting word referring to the very nature of God and His actions. It entails His great splendor and brightness. Recall Stephen who, while being stoned to death, was able to look into the heavens and see the glory of God (Acts 7:55-56). This word also means that the praise and honor we bestow to God alone is due Him because of who He is (Isaiah 42:8, 48:11; Galatians 1:5). It also recognizes that believers are incredibly blessed to enter into the kingdom, into the very likeness of Christ Himself. For as Paul so eloquently put it, “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” (Romans 8:18).

**5) The Crown of Life** – (Revelation 2:10) “Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.” This crown is for all believers, but is especially dear to those who endure sufferings, who bravely confront persecution for Jesus, even to the point of death. In Scripture the word “life” is often used to show a relationship that is right with God. It was Jesus who said, “I have come that they may have life and that they may have it more abundantly” (John 10:10). Just as things such as air, food, and water are vital for our physical lives, Jesus provides us what is required for our spiritual lives. He is the One who provides “living water.” He is the “bread of life” (John 4:10, 6:35). We know that our earthly lives will end. But we have the amazing promise that comes only to those who come to God through Jesus: “And this is the promise that He has promised us—eternal life” (1 John 2:25).

James tells us that this crown of life is for all those who love God (James 1:12). The question then is how do we demonstrate our love for God? The apostle John answers this for us: “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome” (1 John 5:3). As His children we must keep His commandments, obeying Him, always remaining faithful. So, as we endure the inevitable trials, pains, heartaches, and tribulations—as long as we live—may we ever move forward, always “looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith” (Hebrews 12:2) and receive the crown of life that awaits us.

<https://www.gotquestions.org/amp/heavenly-crowns.html>



# Do you want to go to heaven?

**“if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. For the Scripture says, ‘Whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed.’”** Romans 10:9-11

**Please let us speak with you about your desire to follow Jesus**

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