

WHAT IS HEAVEN LIKE?

A. Opening Questions

1. Are you sure you are going to heaven? (1 John 5:13).
2. Are you looking forward to going to heaven? (2 Cor. 5:2,4,8; Phil. 1:23).
3. Would you be happy if the Lord came today? (1 Thess. 4:17,18).
4. Is there anything you would very much like to do or complete or accomplish before you finish this present life? (Phil. 1:24; *Little Flock* #46-Appendix).
5. Do you think heaven will be more enjoyable than your present life on earth? How would you rank one's expected enjoyment level in heaven, on earth (now), and in hell?
 - a. (1) Heaven, (2) Earth, (3) Hell?
 - b. (1) Earth, (2) Heaven, (3) Hell?
 - c. (1) Hell, (2) Earth, (3) Heaven?

B. What Is Heaven Like?

1. Singing (Rev. 5:9; 14:3; 15:3; compare 1 Chron. 25:1-7 with Heb. 9:23).
2. Variety (Rev. 21:19-21; 22:2).
3. Knowledge (Jer. 31:34; 1 Cor. 13:12).
4. Service (Luke 19:17,19; 1 Cor. 6:2,3; 2 Tim. 2:12; Rev. 7:15; 22:3).
5. Enjoyment of God's creation (Isa. 11:6-9; 65:25; 1 Cor. 3:22; Eph. 1:10,11,21-23; Rev. 4:11; 21:7,10; 22:1,2).
6. Holiness, no sin, all like Christ (Isa. 6:3; Rom. 8:29; 1 John 3:2; Rev. 4:8; 21:8; 22:15).
7. Reconciliation, unity (John 17:21-24; Eph. 4:4-6; Col. 1:21,22).
8. "We shall all be changed" (1 Cor. 15:35-54).
9. No tears, death, sorrow, pain, night (Rev. 21:4,25).
10. With Christ, seeing His face, hearing His voice, walking and talking with Him (Gen. 3:8; John 17:24; 2 Cor. 12:4; 1 John 3:2; Rev. 1:10-18; 5:6-14).

C. Earthly Types and Figures of Heaven

1. Tabernacle—Heaven (Heb. 9:19-24).
2. Husband and wife—Christ and His Church/Bride (Eph. 5:22-27,32).
3. Father and son/daughter—God and His children (Matt. 7:11).

D. Beginning to Enjoy Heaven Now

1. Lay up treasure in heaven (Matt. 6:19-21; 1 Tim. 6:17-19).
2. Make wise and diligent use of all (wealth, possessions, spiritual gifts) that God has entrusted to us (Matt. 25:14-30; Luke 16:11,12; 19:11-26; Rom. 12:6-8; 1 Tim. 4:14; 2 Tim. 1:6,14).
3. Be content (1 Tim. 6:6,8; Heb. 13:5).
4. Seek reconciliation—now! (Matt. 5:23,24; 6:14; 18:15; Gal. 6:1; Jas. 5:16).
5. Show love, grace to one another—now! (John 13:34; Eph. 4:29,32; 5:2,25; Col. 4:6; 2 Pet. 3:18; 1 John 4:11).
6. Serve God and one another—now! (Psa. 100:2; John 12:26; 13:14,15; Gal. 5:13; Col. 3:23,24; 1 Thess. 1:9; Heb. 12:28).
7. Be holy and like Christ—now! (Rom. 6:11; 2 Cor. 3:18; 7:1; Eph. 5:26; 1 Thess. 4:3,4; 2 Tim. 2:21; Heb. 12:10; 1 Pet. 1:16).

E. Finding Hope through the Truths Concerning Heaven

1. Increasing dangers of war, violence in school and on the streets, catastrophes (Matt. 24:6-8; 2 Cor. 11:23-27; 12:1-10; 2 Tim. 3:1-5,13)
2. Persecution for righteousness' sake and for Christ's sake (Matt. 5:10-12; Jas. 1:12; 1 Pet. 1:7; Rev. 2:10).
3. Joblessness, homelessness, poverty, hunger (Matt. 6:25-34).
4. Divorce, abusive parents, without friends, no suitable marriage partner in sight, health problems, emotional problems, depression (Psa. 23:5; 68:5; 102:3-5,12-22; 146:9; Prov. 18:24; John 15:15; Rev. 19:7-9; 21:4,25).