

## **What is Heaven Like?**

This is how I imagine it...

Heaven is a place like no other. Deep in the inky darkness of the cosmos, the walls of this city sparkle like crystal-clear jasper—like a perfect, square diamond radiating brilliant rainbows of God’s glory from within. Each side of the city is fifteen hundred miles long, with massive walls fifteen hundred miles high and two hundred feet wide at the base. Twelve gates, each made of one gigantic pearl, are the only entrances, each five hundred miles from the other on each wall. Above each gate is engraved the name of one of the twelve tribes of Israel. The foundations of the walls glisten with precious, multicolored gems whose brilliance pierce the darkness for millions of miles into space.

Within the fifteen-hundred-mile-high walls are fifteen hundred levels, one level every mile above the bottom level. Each level contains an entire heavenscape covering the length and breadth of heaven, like the floors of a king’s castle. God’s Throne is in the center of the top floor, where he meets each believer as they arrive in heaven through the middle East Gate. From there, each saint is assigned to their eternal homes on one of the lower heavenscapes. Only angels, the Twenty-four Elders, and a few select saints live on the top floor of heaven. Everyone else is allowed to choose whichever other heavenscape they desire. Most choose to live on the heavenscapes that look and feel like San Diego, California. Others choose heavenscapes with very cold or very hot climates. Truth be told, many people end up moving from one heavenscape to another just for a change of scenery and weather. Thus, every fifteen hundred years, they begin the cycle again—if they want. Variety and freedom are two of heaven’s most popular features.

And there is never a housing shortage as people move around heaven. Each heavenscape below the top level is sprinkled with millions of exquisite homes for the faithful followers of Jesus. A hundred and forty-four million miles of pure gold roads connect each home to all other parts of heaven. People can walk just to visit but most of the saints prefer to travel long distances simply by thinking about the destination. In that way, they can go to any place in heaven in an instant. It is common to see visitors from even one thousand heavenscapes away suddenly appear for a visit to a friend or relative. Much of heaven is spent in deep, satisfying fellowship with generations of family members and with saints from Old and New Testament times.

Unlike Earth, heaven has neither sun nor night. The light of God illuminates all of heaven with a brightness and clarity that no one on Earth has ever seen. Plants, animals, angels, and humans all radiate a soft, golden light from within. Heaven also has no clouds, no rain, and no sea. But a large river of pure water runs steadily from God's Throne through all of the fifteen hundred heavenscapes. The river replenishes the lakes, ponds, and streams in heaven's magnificent parks which are filled with the fragrances of flowers and warm, caressing breezes.

Parks are everywhere in heaven. Each park is different and unbelievably gorgeous—wide areas of the greenest grass, fragrant flowers, and fruit trees with fruit always in season. The small ponds in the parks are filled with colorful, glowing fish of every shape imaginable. Animals from every continent on Earth roam the parks. Remarkably, they have no need to eat anything. These animals usually stay in the parks, but every child who comes to heaven without their parents is allowed to have two park animals as personal pets in their homes. Koala bears and lions are always the first to be picked! In a word, heaven is—well—heavenly.

