

Several of the prophets had glimpses of heaven. Paul in 2 Cor. 12:2, speaks of a man (likely Paul himself) who saw heaven. Certainly, Jesus had been there and spoken of it to us. John had a revelation of Jesus and some things of heaven. **What will the experience of heaven be like?**

1. **Physical Delights:** 1) **A real physical body:** 2 Cor. 5:1, "tent" is used speaking of our body being temporary. But Paul speaks in V1 that if our body or tent is torn down, we have a building from God, a place with a roof, or a house, a permanent dwelling, that is eternal in the heavens. V2-3, we long to be clothed (not naked), and V3 says that we will put on this permanent body and not be found naked. V6-8 speaks of death and the believer being absent from the body and present with the Lord in the context of having a permanent body fit for heaven.
  - a. **Rev. 6:9-11** speaks of those who were slain during the Tribulation but in V11, they received a white robe until the rest of their brothers are killed. A robe needs a body.
- 2) **Food and drink:** Is. 35:1-10 and Amos 9:13 speak of feasts and wine and Isaiah speaks of things that are familiar to us. Rev. 19 speaks of the marriage supper of the Lamb. Matt. 26:29, Jesus will partake of communion with us. Luke 12:37, Jesus speaks of the master waiting on those who are awake when he comes. 3) **Adornment:** Clothes are seen as given because of sin (Gen. 2:25, 3:7, 21), but clothing is found throughout Scripture in reference to the saints. 1 Tim. 2:9, speaks of women being adorned with proper clothing. Rev. 6:9-11, speaks of tribulation saints having robes. Rev. 19:7-8 speaks of the saints being clothed in the fine linen of righteous acts. In Matt. 17:2, Jesus' garments became white as light and there is no mention of Moses and Elijah needing to be clothed by Peter. Is. 64:6 contrasts righteous acts done apart from faith in God as filthy rags. Multitudes of every nation are adorned in white robes, Rev. 7:9-14, prepared to worship God in verse 15-17. 4) **Color:** Rev. 4:3 speaks of the color of emeralds and a rainbow around the throne of God.
2. **Spiritual Satisfaction or the Joys of Heaven:** 1) **Prayers of the saints:** Rev. 5:8, are all to be kept and answered. 2) **Reward:** a) Crowns being cast at the feet of Jesus, Rev. 4:10. Matt. 5:12, rewards for suffering persecution. The reward of those who have given up things in life, Matt. 19:28-30. The reward of serving Christ, Luke 19:11-21. 3) **Music:** Rev. 5:8-9, harps are played. Ps. 150, all kinds of instruments are commanded to be used in the worship of God.
  - a. **What is the function of music in heaven:** Rev. 5:9-10, a) extolling the glory of Christ. b) exclaiming the work of Christ. c) explaining the Gospel. d) expecting the reign of Christ. The posture of this worship: V8, the elders "fell down before the Lamb."
- 4) **Dancing:** Ps. 150:4 dancing is the word meaning dancing in a circle. It is used 28X in Scripture and is used a) in general celebration; b) in sexual sin; c) associated with the perfected, consummated work of God. Ps. 30:11, our mourning turned into dancing. Ps. 149:1-3, speaks of dancing for those in glory (V5-6). Luke 15:11-32, dancing and celebration was enjoyed for the return of the prodigal son.
3. **The Real Temple of God:** Believers worship many different places today, but in generations past, there was a place to gather for Israel; the tabernacle (Heb. 8:1-5), Solomon's temple, and altars. 1) **The Temple of God is in Heaven.** Heb. 8:5, the temple and tabernacle are copies of the throne room of God. 2) **Real Ark of His Covenant:** Rev. 11:19 speaks of it, it is there because it is an eternal covenant. 3) **Altar of God:** Rev. 6:9. 4) **Tree of Life:** Rev. 2:7. 5) **Interceding Son of God:** Heb. 9:24, 1 John 2:1-2, Jesus our Advocate intercedes for us.

### **Further Discussion and Application**

The more we learn and read about our future home in heaven, the more we are filled with hope and strength. God says His Law is strength and health to our bones. How does Scripture revive the soul and deepen our love for the Lord? What is our response to others when we are filled with hope and faith? What do our actions and words display about our heart when we are full of the wisdom and truth of Scripture? How does Christ interceding for us give us strength everyday?

What strength do we gather for ourselves in life when we study and know the Word of God? How do we handle trials? How do we handle discouragements? How about lack and need? How about sorrow and pain? In all of life's struggles and issues, how can we respond to trials in life? What can our speech be filled with? How can we show others where our heart and affection lie?

We truly understand almost nothing about an infinite God, but what we have been given in His word, He promises us is enough and sufficient (2 Tim. 3:16-17) to make us mature in Christ. It is awesome that we know very little, but we have all that is needed in this life to get us through unto maturity. Speak of how great a treasure that we possess in the person of Jesus Christ and His word. What are 10 blessings that we have received in life that have brought great stability to our lives?

There are physical things in heaven that we can relate to such as the Tree of Life, music, people, robes, horses, and the Ark of the covenant. Creation was God's gift to man in the beginning. How are a renewed creation, a new heaven and earth, and an eternal kingdom easier to understand with the light of God's original picture in the Garden of Eden?

What do you look forward to the most about heaven?