

Heaven

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One might think that the topic of Heaven is simple: it's where God resides and where the saved go after death. We often picture Heaven as a utopia filled with complete peace and love, where we spend our days worshiping God, singing hymns, playing harps, and simply enjoying the environment. But Heaven is a surprisingly complicated place to understand, much less truly appreciate, and it's far more complex than my brief description suggests.

1 Corinthians 2:9 ... "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him."

That is a powerful statement that emphasizes how magnificent this place truly is. No matter how much we study the subject or analyze Bible verses about it, it will always remain partly an enigma. And even once we are there and actually experiencing it, truly appreciating it may still feel overwhelming. Although the subject may be difficult, let's dive into the "deep end."

What is Heaven?

It is, first and foremost, the abode of God.

2 Chronicles 20:6 "O LORD, God of our fathers, are you not **God in heaven**? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. In your hand are power and might, so that none is able to withstand you."

Lamentations 3:41 Let us lift up our hearts and hands to **God in heaven**

Matthew 5:34 But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by **heaven, for it is the throne of God.**

Daniel, Nehemiah, and Ezra also often refer to the "God of Heaven," and that God's throne is located in Heaven.

We see many references to “heavens,” in the plural, in the Old Testament. These often refer to what the Scriptures call the First Heaven, Second Heaven, and the Third Heaven. The First Heaven is Earth’s atmosphere, the Second Heaven is what we call “outer space,” and the Third Heaven is the true abode of God. Context can usually clarify which of the three, or if all three, are being referenced.

To add to the complexity, our previous study of the Underworld showed that other terms can also refer to Heaven. The part of the Underworld called “Paradise” is, in fact, also Heaven. As we saw in that earlier study, when the Old Testament righteous died, they went to “Paradise” in the Underworld. *That* Paradise served as a temporary holding place for believers until the judgment of all sin at the Cross, after which Jesus would ascend to Heaven, taking all the Old Testament occupants of *that* Paradise in the Underworld to the Third Heaven, the dwelling place of God. Paul also refers to this Third Heaven as “Paradise.”

Where is Heaven?

Scripture doesn’t provide GPS coordinates for Heaven, but it does show us where it is in relation to creation and how its position changes within God’s plan. Currently, it is often described as “above” creation in a spiritual dimension, outside the physical universe as we know it (Psalm 103:19; Isaiah 66:1), more like another realm than like a distant planet. Even though God is spirit (John 4:24), Heaven is not entirely non-physical (2 Corinthians 12:1-4; Acts 1:9-11). That is the present Heaven.

2 Corinthians 12:1 I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. ² I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. ³ And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—
⁴ and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter.

Revelation 21-22 depicts a future vision of a New Heaven, New Earth, and a new heavenly city where God will dwell forever with His people. The future Heaven is called the New Jerusalem. After the Millennium and the Final White Throne Judgment, God creates a New Heaven and a New

Earth (Revelation 21:1). The New Jerusalem descends from the heavens to rest on the New Earth (Revelation 21:2, 10). At that time, Heaven is on Earth, and God lives with humanity: “The dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them...” (Revelation 21:3). This final state will be a restored creation, free from suffering and sin, where believers will enjoy eternal peace and ongoing fellowship with God.

What does God look like?

There isn't much written about what God looks like. The Bible recounts God appearing to people on various occasions. These instances shouldn't be seen as exact descriptions of God's appearance but rather as Him revealing Himself in a way we can understand. God's true appearance is beyond our ability to fully grasp or describe. He shows us glimpses of His appearance to teach us truths about Himself, but not necessarily so we can picture Him clearly in our minds. A few passages vividly describe God's incredible appearance.

Ezekiel 1:26 And above the expanse over their heads there was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like sapphire; and seated above the likeness of a throne was a likeness with a human appearance. ²⁷ And upward from what had the appearance of his waist I saw as it were gleaming metal, like the appearance of fire enclosed all around. And downward from what had the appearance of his waist I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and there was brightness around him. ²⁸ Like the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud on the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness all around. Such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard the voice of one speaking.

Seated on this radiant blue throne was Someone who resembled a man. Ezekiel's gaze first focused on the upper part of His body and then on the lower part. Although Ezekiel could describe the cherubim in detail, all he could say about God was that He appeared like glowing metal and fire. The splendor of His glory was so intense that Ezekiel could only see His form before he was compelled to look down. Ezekiel then noticed a radiance surrounding the vision. It resembled a rainbow. The multicolored hues of the rainbow were refracted from the blazing light of God's glory.

Revelation 1:13 and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. ¹⁴ The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, ¹⁵ his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. ¹⁶ In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength. ¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead.

This passage describes God as the “Son of Man,” Jesus Christ. The whiteness of His hair matches the description of God the Father, the Ancient of Days, in Daniel.

Daniel 7:9 “As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire. ¹⁰ A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened.

God the Son shares the same purity and eternity as God the Father, as shown by the whiteness of His head and hair. The eyes like blazing fire described His piercing judgment of sin (Revelation 2:18).

This concept is further emphasized by His feet, which shone like bronze glowing in a furnace. The bronze altar in the temple symbolized sacrifice for sin and divine judgment. His voice was likened to the roar of rushing waters. His face radiated with a brilliance like the sun shining. John noticed that in His right hand He held seven stars, described in verse 20 as the angels or messengers of the seven churches. Importantly, Christ held them in His right hand, indicating sovereign authority. Speaking of Christ’s role as a Judge, John saw a sharp double-edged sword coming out of His mouth. Jesus Christ was no longer a Baby in Bethlehem, or a Man of sorrows crowned with thorns. He was now the Lord of Glory.

In the Daniel 7 passage, Daniel saw thrones set up for judgment. One throne was occupied by the Ancient of Days. This is the sovereign God (Isaiah 43:13; 57:15a) who exercises control over people and nations. His white clothing and hair symbolize His holiness (Revelation 1:14). Daniel’s description of the glory surrounding the One sitting on the flaming, wheel-

throne echoes Ezekiel's description of God's glory (Ezekiel 1:4–28). The thousands around the throne were God's servants, angels carrying out His will. When Daniel saw God the Judge take His seat, the court (Daniel 7:26) was assembled, and the books were opened. In Revelation 20:12, opening the books symbolizes reviewing and judging someone's stewardship. This passage talks about the judgments that happen at the end of the Tribulation.

What does Heaven look like?

Heaven is a real place described in the Bible. The word *heaven* appears 276 times in the New Testament alone. The Bible provides two main descriptions of Heaven's appearance: one for the present Heaven (God's throne room now) and one for the future eternal Heaven (the New Jerusalem on the New Earth).

Scripture offers us snapshots of Heaven's appearance, but each glimpse fits into its specific moment in God's plan. What Heaven looks like depends on whether we're talking about God's current throne room (present Heaven) or the New Jerusalem (eternal Heaven).

Present Heaven — God's Throne Room

Revelation 4:1 After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." ² At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne. ³ And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald. ⁴ Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads. ⁵ From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God, ⁶ and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal.

And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: ⁷ the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight.

⁸ And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say,

“Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty,
who was and is and is to come!”

⁹ And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, ¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

¹¹ “Worthy are you, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they existed and were created.”

God’s throne is described as high, exalted, and glowing like jasper and carnelian (Rev. 4:2–3). A rainbow resembling an emerald encircles the throne (Rev. 4:3). Before the throne, there is a sea of glass, clear as crystal (Rev. 4:6). Flashes of lightning, rumblings, and peals of thunder demonstrate God’s majesty (Revelation 4:5). Surrounding the throne are “four living creatures” (cherubim/seraphim) with six wings and eyes all over, crying out “Holy, holy, holy” (Isaiah 6:2–3; Revelation 4:6–8). Multitudes of angels worship around them (Daniel 7:10; Revelation 5:11–12). The scene must be overwhelming, filled with brightness, vivid colors, crystal-like beauty, and alive with sound, movement, and worship. I don’t know about you, but I find it difficult to picture this in my mind even after such a vivid description. *THAT* must be absolutely mind-boggling to behold.

Future Heaven – the New Jerusalem

Revelation 21:16 The city lies foursquare, its length the same as its width. And he measured the city with his rod, 12,000 stadia. Its length and width and height are equal. ¹⁷ He also measured its wall, 144 cubits by human measurement, which is also an angel’s measurement. ¹⁸ The wall was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold, like clear glass. ¹⁹ The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every kind of jewel. The first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the

fourth emerald, ²⁰ the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst. ²¹ And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

²² And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³ And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴ By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, ²⁵ and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶ They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷ But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

The New Jerusalem is a massive cube-shaped city stretching 1,380 miles in length, width, and height. Its walls are made of jasper, with twelve gates—each carved from a single pearl—and guarded by angels. Its foundations feature twelve kinds of precious stones: jasper, sapphire, emerald, amethyst, and more. Its streets are made of pure gold, transparent like glass. And, no, I can't even begin to visualize “pure gold, like transparent glass!”

Revelation 22:1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³ No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. ⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

A river of life flows from God's throne through the city. The Tree of Life on both sides of the river produces twelve kinds of fruit, each different every month. There will be no temple, sun, or moon — God's glory and the Lamb provide its light. Nothing impure enters; everything radiates holiness and beauty. The visual impression is of a flawless, radiant city adorned with

jewels, radiating with God's light, surrounded by life-sustaining water and greenery. It combines natural beauty with exceptional craftsmanship.

Some key takeaways are that the Present Heaven, God's throne room in the spiritual realm, is radiant with God's glory, with living angelic beings in worship. The Eternal Heaven, the New Jerusalem on the New Earth, is a tangible, physical, beautiful city where God dwells with His people forever.

What does Heaven feel like?

Scripture doesn't give a detailed sense of feeling concerning Heaven, but it describes what *being there* is like in terms of relationship, environment, experience, and purpose.

The Bible states there will be perfect fellowship with God. "They will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads" (Revelation 22:4). There will be no separation from this perfect fellowship. Believers will live in God's direct presence forever. We will experience pure joy and peace without any sin, guilt, or shame getting in the way.

Psalm 16:11 You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

There will be no sorrow, fear, or anxiety. Our emotional lives are complete and satisfied in God.

Revelation 21:3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

There will be freedom from sin and death. "There will be no more death, mourning, crying, or pain."

1 Corinthians 15:53 For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed

up in victory.” ⁵⁵ “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.
⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our resurrection bodies will be incorruptible — no illness, no weakness, no temptation, and no aging.

We will experience lively and joyful worship. “A great multitude... standing before the throne and before the Lamb... crying out, ‘Salvation belongs to our God’”

Revelation 7:9 After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” ¹¹ 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, ¹² saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

Worship in Heaven is lively, communal, and filled with awe; it’s never dull or boring. You’ll never grow tired of it.

There will be recognition of others and relationships in Heaven. The Bible shows people in Heaven recognizing one another (Luke 9:30–31; Matthew 17:3–4; 1 Thessalonians 4:17–18). Relationships are pure, free from jealousy, rivalry, or hurt.

It will be more beautiful than you can imagine. “Streets like pure gold, walls like jasper, foundations of precious stones” (Revelation 21:18–21). Nature will be perfected with rivers, trees, and the vibrancy of creation without decay.

We will experience timelessness but not meaninglessness. There is no night (Revelation 22:5), yet events still unfold. Heaven is eternal *life*, not an eternal pause.

In short, being in Heaven means living with endless joy, perfect peace, unbroken fellowship with God and others, serving with a purpose, and experiencing an unimaginably beautiful, eternal home, where there is no more death, sin, or suffering.

How old will we be in Heaven?

The Bible does not give a direct answer to this question. Will babies and children who die still be babies and children in Heaven? Do the elderly remain elderly in Heaven? Some speculate that, at the resurrection, babies receive a body that is “fast-forwarded” to the “ideal age,” and those who die at an older age will have a body that is “rewound” to the prime of life. If everyone in Heaven appears to be the same age, and that age is considered “ideal,” then what is that ideal age? Some believe it’s around 33 years old since that’s roughly the age Jesus was when He died. What about Moses, who, at 120 years old, was still full of vim and vigor? And what about Methuselah, who lived 969 years?

It’s probably useless to assign a number to our apparent “age” in Heaven. It’s enough to know that God has a plan to change us: “Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.” (1 John 3:2). We will have a body in heaven, and it will be the same body we have now, except it will be transformed into a resurrection body suited for eternal existence. God redeems the whole person—body, soul, and spirit. But our resurrected body will be “heavenly” (1 Corinthians 15:40), “imperishable” (v. 42), glorified (v. 43), “spiritual” (v. 44), immortal (v. 53), and bearing Christ’s image (v. 49). So, much will change, but we will not lose our identity. You will still be you and easily recognized by others.

The only certainty is that all signs of human fallibility will be eliminated, and we will finally become everything God intended us to be.

What will we do in Heaven?

The Bible describes life in Heaven as active, joyful, relational, and purposeful, not passive or boring. We will have meaningful service. “His servants will serve Him” (Revelation 22:3). Heaven is not idle; we will have roles and responsibilities in God’s eternal kingdom, likely involving

creativity, leadership, and exploration. What we do will depend on which stage of Heaven we're talking about.

In the current Heaven (God's Throne Room), from now until Christ's return, we will worship and praise God directly (Revelation 7:9-12). We will serve God in ways that match our calling (Revelation 7:15). We will have fellowship with other believers. We will rest from earthly labors (Revelation 14:13). We will await resurrection. Our resurrection body will be received later, at Christ's return, the Rapture (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).

Hebrews 12:22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³ and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect.

In the future New Jerusalem Heaven will be a place of continuous, joyful worship of God and the Lamb (Revelation 21:3-4; 22:3-4). It will be a fellowship free from sin, conflict, and misunderstanding. We will reign with Christ (2 Timothy 2:12).

Revelation 22:5 And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

2 Timothy 2:11 The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; ¹² if we endure, we will also reign with him...

This describes roles in leadership, governance, and stewardship over the New Earth and possibly the renewed universe. We will serve God (Revelation 22:3). This likely includes creative, intellectual, and practical work, all without frustration or failure.

We will have opportunities for exploration and discovery. A perfected creation means endless beauty to explore—mountains, rivers, and perhaps even new worlds in a restored universe (Isaiah 65:17; Revelation 21:1). If God creates this, it's reasonable to assume we will be able to visit and explore it. Travel and interaction will be unhindered by sin or decay. Travel will likely happen at the speed of thought. There will be chances for

learning and growth. Our minds will expand forever, uncovering more about His creation and character.

We will share fellowship with others, even with those who are long dead and whom we never knew in life.

Matthew 8:11 Many will come from east and west to sit with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of Heaven.

Imagine sitting down with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Paul, or even Jesus, and having a one-on-one conversation!

In summary, in Heaven, we will worship, reign, serve, explore, celebrate, fellowship, and continuously grow, all in perfect joy, health, and peace. Every action will be an act of worship, with no boredom or fatigue.

Will we be naked in Heaven?

Before sin, Adam and Eve were naked without shame, but after their sin, God clothed them (Genesis 2:25; 3:7). In Heaven, sin will not exist, yet the Bible indicates that people will wear clothing. Angels in the Bible are always depicted as clothed, as was the resurrected Jesus (Matthew 28:3; Acts 1). Believers in Heaven are described as wearing white robes (Revelation 3:5; 4:4; 6:11; 7:9). Heaven is a place where believers have a new body and clothing suited for eternity.

Rewards in Heaven

There are five heavenly crowns mentioned in the New Testament that will be given to believers. They are the imperishable crown, the crown of rejoicing, the crown of righteousness, the crown of glory, and the crown of life. 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 to describe the rewards of Heaven that God promises to those who are faithful. Paul’s passage in 1 Corinthians 9:24-25 best explains how these crowns are awarded at the Bema judgment. These crowns are all cast at God's feet in acknowledgment of whose power enabled us to earn them.

Revelation 4:10 the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, ¹¹ “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”

Do we eat food in Heaven?

Yes! Scripture shows we will eat food in Heaven, both in the current Heaven and especially in the everlasting New Heaven and New Earth. Just imagine how delicious the gumbo will be in Heaven!

How do we know this? After His resurrection, Jesus ate broiled fish with His disciples (Luke 24:41–43). This shows that the resurrection body can enjoy real, physical food. He ate with His disciples (Luke 24:41–43; John 21:12–13). We will have the same kind of resurrection body He has (Philippians 3:21; 1 Corinthians 15:20–23). That means we will be able to eat real food. Jesus promised: “I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom” (Matthew 26:29). This points to shared meals in the future Kingdom. Revelation 19:9 mentions the “marriage supper of the Lamb,” a great feast celebrating Christ and His bride. The imagery depicts a real meal in a physical resurrection setting, a royal feast featuring the best of creation’s abundance (Isaiah 25:6–8).

In Matthew 26:29, Jesus says He will drink the fruit of the vine with us in the Father’s Kingdom. In Luke 22:30, He tells us that believers will “eat and drink at my table in my kingdom.” What will that table be like? Isaiah 25:6 tells us, “The LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine — the best of meats and the finest of wines.” This prophetic vision points to the Messianic Kingdom, likely fulfilled in the New Earth. You think that expensive Bordeaux you had at a fine restaurant was good? Wait until you taste the “estate” wines in Heaven!

The Tree of Life in the New Jerusalem bears twelve types of fruit, offering a new harvest each month. This is physical food available to the redeemed, symbolizing eating as part of eternal life. The tree signifies eternal life and continuous blessing.

The purpose of eating in Heaven will not be for survival. Our glorified bodies won't need food to live (1 Corinthians 15:42–44). It will be for pleasure, fellowship, and celebration. Sharing meals is a God-given joy that will be perfected in eternity.

Sleep in Heaven?

The Bible doesn't explicitly say whether we sleep in Heaven, but it provides enough clues to arrive at a reasonable conclusion.

In this life, we sleep because our bodies need rest, repair, and renewal (Psalm 127:2). In Heaven, after the resurrection, our glorified bodies will be incorruptible and never grow tired (1 Corinthians 15:42–44; Isaiah 40:31). That means sleep will no longer be necessary for survival or health.

There will be no night in the Eternal Heaven (Revelation 21:25). "They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light..." (Revelation 22:5). This suggests a constant, joyful state of alertness and energy without periods of fatigue.

But rest is still promised. Hebrews 4:9–10 discusses a Sabbath-rest for God's people, but this is spiritual rest, not sleep. Revelation 14:13 states that believers who die "*rest from their labors*," meaning freedom from the burdens of a fallen world.

Although the Bible doesn't mention sleep in Heaven, the imagery of believers as "*awake*" and "*reigning*" (Revelation 22:5) suggests full awareness and active joy in God's presence, not needing rest.

We conclude that in Heaven, we will not need sleep because our glorified bodies will never tire. However, if God chooses to allow us to "sleep" as a form of comfort or simply for enjoyment, it would be completely free of fatigue or vulnerability, and more akin to peaceful refreshment than a necessity.

Is there marriage in Heaven?

Jesus said, "At the resurrection, people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven" (Matthew 22:30). This statement clearly addresses whether there will be marriage in heaven. The

answer is “no.” Marriage is part of God’s good design for humanity on earth and serves as the foundational building block of society.

The fact that there will be no marriage in heaven does not mean that a husband and wife will no longer know each other there. It also does not mean that they cannot still have a close relationship in Heaven. However, it seems to indicate that a husband and wife will no longer be married in Heaven. Marriage is an earthly bond, and it is broken by physical death (Romans 7:2; 1 Timothy 5:14).

Can we watch what is happening on Earth?

The Bible doesn’t explicitly state that people in Heaven *cannot* look down on us, so we shouldn’t be too dogmatic about it. However, I’m doubtful. People in Heaven are probably busy with other things, such as worshiping God and enjoying the splendors of Heaven.

Some argue that Hebrews 12:1 indicates that we can observe what is happening on Earth. “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses ...” The witnesses mentioned are all those listed in the previous chapter 11, the well-known “faith chapter,” which describes all those great people of faith who came before us, and through their faith, *they are witnessing to us*.

Will there be animals in Heaven?

All of us who have had pets in our lives—whether a loving dog, a mischievous cat, or a noisy parakeet we cherished—wonder if they go to Heaven when they die. The Scriptures are silent on this subject. That silence suggests not, but then we have this passage.

Revelation 19:11 Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a **white horse!** The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. ¹³ He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him **on white horses**.

That is the return of Christ and His armies, the Church, and they are all riding white horses as they arrive at the end of the Tribulation. Make of it what you will, but that is all I could find to suggest the presence of animals in Heaven.

Why Heaven?

The last question we need to answer is: Why does Heaven exist? The simple answer might be that God needs a place to call home., not that a spirit being actually needs a physical home. That *could, kinda, maybe* explain the current Heaven, the abode of God, but more specifically, why the Heavenly Jerusalem version on Earth? Why the change?

I believe a partial answer to that question might be that the Heavenly Jerusalem has always been the intended destination for humanity. God created a perfect environment, as described in Genesis 1. He then placed two perfect individuals into that perfect environment. Because Adam and Eve and their descendants were to serve as His testimony against Satan in his appeal trial, mankind needed free will to choose what God offers over the alternative Satan offers. Of course, God knew what would happen next, and all that “perfection” was lost when Adam and Eve sinned. From history and prophecy, as recorded in Scripture, we understand that God is in the process of proving Satan wrong, calling out a people of His own, and reclaiming what was lost in the Garden that is rightfully His. The culmination of this process is that the Heavenly Jerusalem is the natural and intended final version of the Garden of Eden.

Hypothetically, if Adam and Eve had not sinned, humanity would have eventually reached the same destination we look forward to—eternal life in God's presence in the Heavenly Jerusalem. Of course, things didn't happen that way, but God knew this from eternity past.

Back to our question: the answer might be explained this way—God desires fellowship with creatures with whom He can relate and who will relate to Him. This requires a perfect environment free of sin and temptation, a place where mankind and God can openly express their love for each other, untouched by sin. Since mankind is so closely connected to Earth, it seems logical that this future Paradise, this Heaven, this Heavenly Jerusalem would be linked to the environment we know best but completely free of any taint of sin.

In Closing

Heaven is a place of “no mores.” There will be no more tears, no more pain, and no more sorrow (Revelation 21:4). There will be no more separation, because death will be defeated (Revelation 20:6). And the greatest blessing of Heaven will be the presence of our Lord and Savior and our close relationship with Him.

1 John 3:2 Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. ³ And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

We will be face-to-face with the Lamb of God, who loved us and gave Himself for us. Because of His sacrifice, we can enjoy His presence for eternity.

1 Corinthians 2:9 But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”