

Discovery

August 2011

Heaven

Stories • Puzzles • Jokes • Readers' Response • Serial and more...

What is heaven like? Do you think you know?

The Bible doesn't tell us much, but I think all of us has a picture in our minds of what it is like. For me – I don't really care what it is like so long as I am with Jesus and can feel his love for me. If I can have my family with me too that would be awesome! I pray that it may be so... how about you?

Wendy



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Stephen

See if you can fill in the spaces to find out what Stephen said.
Start with 'I' in the top left square. Each following word must
touch the last letter of the previous word. Words may go in
any direction but must be in a straight line.

I	S	E	E	H	E	A	V	E	N	X	A
N	A	M	F	O	N	O	S	O	P	E	N
S	T	A	N	D	I	N	G	E	H	T	D
J	G	O	D	N	A	H	A	T	T	H	E
K	F	A	C	T	S	Z	T	H	G	I	R

"Look," he said, "I s ____ h _____

When man has lived with God through many years

When man has lived with God through many years
When God has shared his pain, his joys and fears;
Then death is but the door God opens wide
To lead to heaven on the other side

In heaven there are no tears, no pain or sin,
Where through Christ's death we all may enter in,
To see the joy and splendour of that place
And view the beauty of the Saviour's face.

It's only by God's grace one enters there
And that is why God's home in heaven I'll share.
Will death for you that doorway open wide
To lead to heaven on the other side?

What is Heaven Like?

What is heaven really like? No-one has ever gone there and then come back to tell us. Some people have gone right to the door, peeped in and come back to tell us how bright and full of light it is. They have experienced a wonderful feeling of love and then woken up in their hospital bed and realised they are back in this world again. Some have heard beautiful music and others have had a sensation of everything being so spotless and clean that this earth seems very grubby compared to it.

So what does the Bible tell us about heaven? Paul told us in one of his letters how he had seen heaven and that he couldn't begin to describe it, words wouldn't do it justice! Besides he didn't know how to begin telling the things that he saw. He wasn't sure whether he had really gone there or just had a vision of it all.

It left him with the feeling that he just wanted to go and be there NOW. But he knew that he hadn't finished the work that God had for him to do on earth, so he would be content to wait for God's time. He knew that life with the Lord Jesus was going to be far better than anything he had ever known before.

Jesus is the only person on earth who knew what heaven was like because He had come from Heaven and was going to go back there. But He too didn't tell us very much about it, because He knew we couldn't understand it while we live on earth. He told us that there is plenty of room for everyone who wants to come to Him, but that there is only one way to get there. He said the gate to heaven is very narrow and quite hard to find; in fact He is the only way to get there. Some people think they can get there by their own good works, but that road is a dead end and will never get them there.

Sometimes when people are at death's door they seem to see heaven open up before them, just enough to give those beside them a faint idea of what they can see. In the book of The Acts, we read how Stephen saw heaven open up before him and the Lord Jesus standing beside His Father God just before he was killed by the Pharisees.

One time, a lady's daughter who was with her mother as she died, heard her say with wonder in her voice, "Oh! I had no idea it was like this!"

King David could say, You will show me the path of life: in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand there are pleasures for evermore (*Psalm 16,v 11*). And as for me, I will see Your face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with Your likeness. (*Psalm 17:15*)

One thing we need to realise is that no person on earth can go through the door to heaven with us. The only person we can call on is the Lord Jesus and He has promised to always be with those who have come to know Him on earth. In fact, He is calling everyone to come to Him right now. He says, "Look, come to Me NOW! I am coming unexpectedly and my reward is with me, to give every man according to what he has done".

God has told us that heaven is a place where there are no more sins or horrid things; people won't get sick or be sad and we can't even begin to imagine the things that He has ready and waiting to show us. If we think that life here is great, it is going to be far more exciting than we can imagine in heaven!



Heaven

Sue didn't feel like eating her tea this particular night.

"What's the matter Sue?" Dad asked, "It's not like you to be off your food!"

"Sarah wasn't at school today," Sue said, "Her mother is very sick with cancer and all her relations are at her house."

"That's not so good Sue," said Mum, "But it doesn't help Sarah if you go hungry."

"No, I suppose not," said Sue, "But I don't feel very hungry just the same."

"Well Sue, do the best you can," said Dad, "Tomorrow might be better."

• • • • •

"What's heaven really like Dad?" Bobby asked the next night while the family were again sitting at the table having their tea.

"Well, let's see what everyone thinks about it," said Dad. "Sue, what do you know about heaven?"

"It's the place where Jesus is and where people go when they die if they love God," Sue replied.

"Yes, that's right Sue," said Dad. "What do you know about heaven Bobby?"

"Everyone seems to want to go there," Bobby said, "I guess it must be a good place."

"That's right," said Dad, "There won't be any sin there, no meanness, or nasty things said or done."

"There's a lot of light there, isn't there Dad?" Betty piped up. "Doesn't the Bible say that God is light?"

"Yes, that's right," chimed in Mum, "But there's a lot more to heaven than that."

The Bible says that it hasn't even entered our heads the wonderful things that God has ready waiting for us. Just like a caterpillar has no idea what it's like to fly like a butterfly!"

They were all silent for a bit thinking about that. "There are a lot of angels in heaven, aren't there Dad?" asked Betty. "Doesn't it say that in the Bible too?"

"Yes, it certainly does," Dad replied.

"Doesn't it say that Jacob saw angels going up and down a ladder?" asked Sue.

"Yes, it does. There a lot of places where angels are mentioned," Dad said, "Why do you think that we aren't told a lot about other things in heaven?" he went on to ask.

Bobby finished his mouthful and then said slowly, "I guess we wouldn't be able to really understand it if we were told".

"I think that's exactly right," said Dad, "God has told us that it is a wonderful place where He lives and that one day all His people will go to be with Him. He has also told us that there is another place where all wicked persons will be sent and it is a terrible place with no rest day or night."

"Ooh, I wouldn't want to go there!" said Betty, "I want to go to heaven!"

"We all want to go there," said Mum, "and if we do what the Bible says, we will. How is Sarah's mother today Sue?"

"Sarah was back at school today," said Sue, "She said her mother is a lot better now. The doctors have given her some new medicine. She's lucky her grandma is still there to help them."

"Yes, she is," Mum agreed, "Now, who is ready for their pudding?"



The Kingdom of Heaven

All the words needed to fill the gaps in the story can be found in this wordfinder. See if you can find them and fill in the spaces. If you get stuck the story can be found in Matthew 25:1-13.

"At that time ____ kingdom of ____ will be like ____ who took their ____ and went out to meet the _____. Five of them were ____ and ____ were _____. .

The foolish ones took their lamps but ____ not take any ____ with them. The wise, however, took oil in ____ along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a _____ time in _____, and they all became drowsy and fell _____.

"At _____ the _____ rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to _____ him!'

"Then all the virgins _____ up and _____ their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, '_____ us some of your oil; our lamps _____ going _____. '

'_____, ' they replied, 'there may not be _____ for both us and _____. Instead, go to those who _____ oil and _____ some for yourselves.'

"But while they were on their _____ to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were _____ in with _____ to the _____ And the _____.

"Later the others also came. 'Sir! _____!' they said. '_____ the door for ____!' "But he replied, 'I tell you the _____, I don't _____ you.'

"Therefore keep _____, because you do not know the _____ or the _____."

B	R	I	D	E	G	R	O	O	M	D	Y
A	H	S	I	L	O	O	F	V	I	H	A
N	P	L	O	N	G	N	I	D	D	E	W
Q	E	Y	D	A	E	R	O	E	N	A	O
U	E	N	O	U	G	H	U	M	I	V	N
E	L	E	V	I	F	D	T	M	G	E	K
T	S	G	N	I	M	O	C	I	H	N	M
R	A	S	N	E	P	O	R	R	T	E	I
U	H	C	T	A	W	R	Y	T	E	B	H
T	O	E	V	I	G	S	O	T	U	H	S
H	U	N	S	R	A	J	U	Y	A	D	E
A	R	E	E	K	W	A	S	O	I	L	
W	E	N	T	T	R	I	S	P	M	A	L

Bible Readings: August

DATE	BOOK	VERSE	DATE	BOOK	VERSE	DATE	BOOK	VERSE
1	Mon	John 15:11-17	12	Fri	Acts 20:17-27	23	Tue	Acts 28:1-10
2	Tue	John 15:18-27	13	Sat	Acts 20:28-38	24	Wed	Acts 28:11-22
3	Wed	John 16:1-4	14	Sun	Acts 21:1-16	25	Thur	Acts 28:23-31
4	Thur	John 16:5-15	15	Mon	Acts 21:17-26	26	Fri	Eph. 1:1,2,11-14
5	Fri	John 16:16-24	16	Tue	Acts 21:27-40	27	Sat	Eph. 1:15-23
6	Sat	John 16:25-33	17	Wed	Acts 22:1;22:30	28	Sun	Eph. 2:1-10
7	Sun	John 17:1-5	18	Thur	Acts 23:1-11;23:23-35	29	Mon	Eph. 3:14-21
8	Mon	John 17:6-11	19	Fri	Acts 24:27;25:1-12	30	Tue	Eph. 4:1-6
9	Tue	John 17:12-19	20	Sat	Acts 27:1-12	31	Wed	Eph. 4:7-16
10	Wed	John 17:20-26	21	Sun	Acts 27:13-26			
11	Thur	Acts 20:7-16	22	Mon	Acts 27:27-44			

Congratulations
for years completed!!



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Umera
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Sigadromucala
Ruth Stokes
Daniel Stokes

- Charlene Surekha
Joel Tyler
Jared Tyler
- Rebekah Thompson
Joshua Thompson
- Mayli Yew
- Mavis Harris

- 14 Uzochukwu Ezukwo
- 17 Darren Maharaj
- 18 Monika Lal
- 19 Andrew Gillgren
- 37 Fairleen Alexander

Readers' Response

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"Hey kids – this is YOUR page – so send in (original materials) your favourite joke, one of your own poems or prayers, a letter or a question about being a Christian and it might end up here!!"

Please send your *questions*, **poems**, **puzzles** or **whatever** to us at Discovery Magazine.

We'd love to hear from you!

By Julia Martin

What's going to be in heaven?

The last book of the Bible is called Revelation and it tells us the most about heaven. Heaven will be so different from the world we live in. Place the words below under the correct heading. There should be 10 in each.

fruit	SUN	worry
gates	fears	throne
gold	music	crowns
liars	night	marriage
temple	Satan	pearls
river	mansions	sea
death	angels	

Things in heaven

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Things not in heaven

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Heaven

I love to think of heaven
My home beyond the sky;
Where God's prepared a place for me
To dwell in when I die.

I dream of all those mansions
Prepared on streets of gold;
Where friends and loved ones meet again
With all the saints of old.

In heaven, therell be no sickness,
No sadness, tears or pain.
And evil, death, and sinfulness -
Will not be seen again.

There, I'll see my Saviour's face
And at His feet will fall.
Through endless days, I'll sing His praise
And crown Him Lord of all.



What's heaven like?

Danny and his father were driving home from soccer. The car they were following had a bumper sticker which read: 'Unless there's fishing in heaven, I don't want to go there!'

"Is there really fishing in heaven?" Danny asked his dad.

"I can't be sure Dan, but I don't think so," replied his father.

"Then what do people do in heaven? Do they just sit around on clouds, dressed in white and strumming harps all day? Sounds boring."

"People have all sorts of ideas about heaven," said his father, "but most of them come from their own imagination. If we really want to know the truth, we should find out what God says about heaven, since it's His dwelling place."

"So where do we get that information from?" asked Danny.

"God tells us about heaven in His Word, the Bible."

"What does it say then?"

"The Bible tells us that heaven is a real place and it's described as beautiful beyond our understanding. The streets are made of gold and there are many mansions and everything is decorated with precious stones."

"What will it be like to live there?"

"Beyond our wildest dreams. There will be no

suffering, sadness, pain, evil or death. And it'll stay like that forever and ever."

"So who's going to be there?"

"Jesus will be there and hosts of angels."

"And lots of good people?"

"Not good people – just sinners saved by God's mercy and grace."

**"If we really
want to know
the truth, we
should find out
what God says
about heaven.."**

"You mean, good people won't be there?"

"Yes, they will, but they won't get there because of what they've done here on earth. Being kind and generous and going to church and so on, are all good things, but they won't earn us a place in heaven."

"So what will?" asked Danny.

"It's what we've done with Jesus Christ that counts," said his father.

"How do you mean?"

"Well Danny, we're all sinners separated from a holy God and there's nothing we can do to bridge the gap. But God provided the solution by sending Jesus to be the Saviour of the world. Jesus took the punishment for all our wrongdoing and if we trust in Him, He's willing to forgive us and give us a new start, and that guarantees us a place in heaven when we die."

"That's great news, Dad. Heaven sounds wonderful. I want to go there one day too – and who cares if there isn't any fishing up there!"



May I know you more?

Lord, may I know you more,
Your mind, your heart, your way,
And may your grace be shining out
With every passing day.

Help me to do your will,
To go where you would go,
And through each hour of every day
Your love to others show.

Lord keep my eyes on you
And on the hope of heaven,
While being thankful every day
That I have been forgiven.

So may I be each day
A person you can choose,
To take and mould, to be each day,
Somebody you can use.

HEAVEN

“TO HIM WHO OVERCOMES, I WILL GIVE THE RIGHT TO SIT WITH ME ON MY THRONE, JUST AS I OVERCAME AND SAT DOWN WITH MY FATHER ON HIS THRONE. HE WHO HAS AN EAR, LET HIM HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT SAYS TO THE CHURCHES” (REVELATION 3:21)

When I was young I desperately wanted to know the secret to overcoming evil. Having tried nearly everything, it was heart-breaking to find I was fighting a losing battle. Yet I had totally overlooked one simple truth.

After a lifetime of searching, I finally discovered the secret I had so longed for. Reading Jesus’ words in Revelation 3:20 will help you understand:

“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.”

This is an open invitation for friendship with the Son of God. Eating a meal together in Jesus’ day meant the sealing of friendship. Jesus often did this with his disciples and here he invites everyone to do just that. All we need do is open the door to let him in.

“The door to what?” you may ask. The door to your heart or your will. That’s all it takes, and that’s the secret to overcoming. For with Jesus (the Son of God) evil cannot survive. When we have a meal with Jesus, he invites us to do much more than eat. He invites us to talk about our problems. He’s interested in anything and everything.

Jesus’ close presence and listening ear is the greatest encouragement I’ve ever known. He makes my big problems seem small. Having Jesus is like heaven on earth.

But Jesus not only offers us his friendship and wisdom. He also invites us into heaven, into his Father’s home where a feast awaits us (Luke 14:15-24). Read Revelation 4-5 and be inspired by God’s awesome power and majesty. It will change the way you pray and help you overcome too.

Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him” *1 Corinthians 2:9*

Most Christians have spent some time wondering what happens to us after we die. Look at the account of Lazarus who was raised from the dead by Jesus. He spent four days in the afterlife, yet the Bible tells us nothing about what he saw. Of course, Lazarus’ family and friends must have learned something about his journey to heaven and back. And many of us today are familiar with the testimonies of people who have had near-death experiences. But each of these accounts are unique, and can only give us a glimpse into heaven.

In fact, the Bible reveals very few concrete details about heaven, the afterlife and what happens when we die. God must have a good reason for keeping us wondering about the mysteries of heaven. Perhaps our finite minds could never comprehend the realities of eternity. For now, we can only imagine. Yet the Bible does reveal several truths about the afterlife.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT DEATH, ETERNAL LIFE AND HEAVEN?

Believers can face death without fear.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Psalm 23:4 (NIV)

Then, when our dying bodies have been transformed into bodies that will never die, this Scripture will be fulfilled:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.
O death, where is your victory?
O death, where is your sting?”

For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:54-57 (NLT)

Also: *Romans 8:38-39, Revelation 2:11*

Believers enter the Lord’s presence at death.

Yes, we are fully confident, and we would rather be away from these earthly bodies, for then we will be at home with the Lord.

2 Corinthians 5:8 (NLT)

But if I live, I can do more fruitful work for Christ. So I really don’t know which is better. I’m torn between two desires: I long to go and be with Christ, which would be far better for me.

Philippians 1:22-23 (NLT)

Believers will dwell with God forever.

Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Psalm 23:6 (NIV)

Also: *1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*

Jesus prepares a special place for believers in heaven.

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."

John 14:1-3 (NIV)

Heaven will be far better than earth for believers.

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Philippians 1:21 (NIV)

And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this down: Blessed are those who die in the Lord from now on. Yes, says the Spirit, they are blessed indeed, for they will rest from their hard work; for their good deeds follow them!"

Revelation 14:13 (NLT)

The death of a believer is precious to God.

Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.

Psalm 116:15 (NIV)

Believers belong to the Lord in heaven.

If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

Romans 14:8 (NIV)

Believers are citizens of heaven.

But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

Philippians 3:20-21 (NIV)

After their physical death, believers gain eternal life.

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

John 11:25-26 (NIV)

Also: *John 10:27-30, John 3:14-16, 1 John 5:11-12*

Believers receive an eternal inheritance in heaven.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 Peter 1:3-5 (NIV)

Believers receive a crown in heaven.

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

2 Timothy 4:7-8 (NIV)

Eventually, God will put an end to death.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away ... I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God ... And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

Revelation 21:1-4 (NIV)



“To him who overcomes,

I will give the right to sit with me on my throne,

just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne.

He who has an ear,

let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches”

(Revelation 3:21)