

Equipped for Heaven

What will heaven be like?

Heaven will be a place of friendship, love, wonder, and discovery. The Promised Land will never be a place of boredom or dullness. There will be amazing surprises for us to experience beyond what we could ever imagine.

“But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him.”

1 Corinthian 2:9

“Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear fruit, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing.” **Ezekiel 47:12**

“And He showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.”

Revelation 22:1-2

Imagine what it will be like to visit with your guardian angel who carrying out God’s plan, has watched over you all your life, and to finally hold face to face communion with Jesus Himself. Pure joy!

The foundation of the Holy City is made of precious stones and gems. The 12 gates are made of one pearl each, and the streets will be paved with the most pure transparent gold.

Look up and read Revelation 21:19-21

We will all live in peace and complete safety in God’s kingdom.

“The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.” **2 Timothy 4:18**

“No longer will the people of Israel have malicious neighbors who are painful briers and sharp thorns. Then they will know that I am the Sovereign Lord.”

Ezekiel 28:24

*“The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them.” **Isaiah 11:6***

God Himself will be our light.

“There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever. The angel said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true.”

Revelation 22:5

The Master Architect of the Universe is making an amazing place for us in His Holy City. What a home that will be!

Jesus tells us, *“In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.” **John 14:2***

How can we be assured of a place in paradise?

Don’t listen to Satan’s lies! He wants to make us feel like our case is hopeless. Listen to the voice of God instead. The way to heaven is by Jesus alone. Jesus is all we need. He is reaching out to every one of us.

*“I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life.” **1 John 5:14***

*“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” **John 14:6***

*“He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit.” **Titus 3:5***

In **Exodus 23:13-33** there are promises listed that God would carry out for the Israelites if they obeyed.

*“I will send the hornet ahead of you to drive the Hivites, Canaanites and Hittites out of your way.” **Exodus 23:28***

How nice it would it have been to have simply taken God at His word and let the hornets do the fighting?

We find in Numbers 13, the story of the twelve spies that were sent to spy out the Promised Land. Ten of them brought back a discouraging report that there were giants and that it would be impossible to take the land. Only Caleb and Joshua had a good report. Trusting God they felt that they were well able to overcome the land.

We can learn a couple of lessons from the Israelites entering into their promised land, as we seek to enter the ultimate Promised Land. They had to 1. Let God lead them out of Egypt, which meant letting go of their attachment to Egypt (the fallen world) and stop looking back longingly on those things that were bad for them. 2. Trust completely in God and obey Him.

In the Lord's strength, and with His guidance, we will be fully equipped to overcome whatever obstacles we are facing. Those barriers keeping us from a close walk with God may look like giants, especially when Satan is magnifying them for us in his last desperate attempt to defeat us. Listen to the Lord instead.

"But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

1 Corinthians 15:57

Treasure the words of the faithful Caleb in your heart, and always remember, **"...we are well able to overcome it."** **Numbers 13:30** It is good land, a free gift bought for us with a great price by Jesus, and by His power we are well able to enter into it.

How can we begin to experience heaven in our homes and lives right now?

Some of the joy of heaven can be ours now. If we are closely walking with Jesus who now lives in heaven, then we have a real connection to that place of eternal bliss.

What actually makes heaven so special? The precious gems, golden streets, beautiful trees or mansions? If sin were to hold sway in heaven, wouldn't it eventually become just as bad as this earth? Heaven is so blissful because the will of God is done there.

"Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." **Matthew 6:10.**

THE BEAUTIFUL WORLD

O, BEAUTIFUL world! Where all is bright,
How we long to hail thy dawning light,
When the triumphs of sin and sorrow cease,
And all shall bow to the Prince of peace;
Where the weary pilgrim finds a home,
No more in this desert land to roam.
Then hush each sigh, and dry each tear,
Lo! Tokens of that glad morn appear
O, that glorious morn!

O, beautiful world! Where the City of gold
Shall its radiant scenes of bliss unfold,
With the Tree of Life, the crystal streams,
Adorned with heaven's resplendent beams;
Where crowns that will the sun outshine,
Round cloudless brows, immortal twine,
And loud and clear the anthems ring,
When the seraphs' harps they strike and sing.
O, that City of God!

O, beautiful world! When the earth a new
Is arrayed in robes of Eden hue,
And fruits, and flowers of sweet perfume,
In one perennial spring will bloom;
Where gushing songs of rapture rise
From the lovely birds of Paradise,
And the shining throngs, transported, view
Unfading glories, ever new.
O, that ransomed earth!

O, beautiful world! Where storms ne'er rise
To cast their shade o'er the azure skies,
And soon will it burst on our longing sight,
When the sleeping myriads will unite,
With the pure, angelic choirs above,
To swell the strains of redeeming love,
And on fair Canaan's happy shore,
With the lamb we shall reign forever more.
O, that endless life!

1855

Annie Smith

Adventist Pioneer



Higher Ground

by Johnson Oatman, Jr

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I'm pressing on the upward way,
New heights I'm gaining every day;

