

# Heaven

Our "Home Sweet Home"

Based on Revelation 21:9-27

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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. Pastor Joe's personal commentary is in brackets modifying the biblical text underlined with dots. The abbreviation "NIV84" stands for the NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION of the Holy Bible published in 1984. You can find this passage in your Pew Bible on page 1140-1141.

## REVIEW

"Heaven will be life as God intended it to be."

"There is no sorrow that Heaven cannot heal."

"Every man, woman and child desperately needs Christ."

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## What's so Great about Heaven?

### 1. The place itself.

***It is filled with God's glory and shines like a precious jewel and pure gold.***

**Revelation 21:9–11, NIV84** <sup>-9</sup> One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb [cf., all the believer's in Heaven]." <sup>10</sup> And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. <sup>11</sup> It shone with the glory of God, [When Moses finished the first tabernacle and when Solomon completed the first temple, both structures were described as "the glory of God filled...". The Hebrews called it "shekinah"—the glowing presence of God] and its brilliance was like that of a very precious [lit., unblemished, perfect] jewel, like a jasper [like a diamond], clear as crystal...<sup>18</sup> The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass.

### 2. The Gates and Walls

***There were twelve gates, each made of a solid pearl, guarded by twelve angels. The names of the twelve tribes of Israel are written on the gates.***

**Revelation 21:12–14, 21, NIV84** <sup>-12</sup> It had a great, high wall with twelve [12 was the number of governmental perfection in Hebrew numerology. <sup>1</sup>] gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. <sup>13</sup> There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west [The OT book of Numbers tells us that the tabernacle was set up in the wilderness with three tribes stationed on each of the four sides of the structure; also, the "Holy of Holies" was twelve cubits square in the Temple]. <sup>14</sup> The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb... <sup>21</sup> The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl [cf., Matt. 13:45-46—the parable of the pearl of great price].

***The walls are made of jasper, supported by twelve foundations, on which are written the names of the twelve apostles. The wall is two-hundred feet thick.***

**Revelation 21:12, 14, 18, NIV84** <sup>-12</sup> It had a great, high wall with twelve gates... <sup>14</sup> The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles [Biblical scholars disagree on who the "12<sup>th</sup> apostle" might be...Matthias (Acts 1) or Paul] of the Lamb... <sup>17</sup> He measured its wall and it was 144 cubits thick [a cubit was about 18 inches], by man's measurement, which the angel was using.

### 3. The Size

***It measured 1,500 miles wide, 1,500 miles tall, and 1,500 deep.***

**Revelation 21:15–16, NIV84** <sup>-15</sup> The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod [of 10 feet] of gold to measure the city, its gates and its walls. <sup>16</sup> The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He measured the city with the rod and found it to be 12,000 stadia [about 202 yards per stadia; some translations say, 144,000 furlongs—a biblical measurement of 1,500 miles] in length, and as wide and high as it is long.

<sup>1</sup> E. W. Bullinger, *Numbers in Scripture* (Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1967), p. 253. "The number twelve is a perfect number, symbolizing perfection of government, or of governmental perfection. It is found as a multiple in the Bible with all that has to do with ruling...so the repetition of the number 12 serves to remind us that this great heavenly city is constructed in such a way as to represent God's perfect and divine governmental rule."

## 4. The Foundation

***Each of the twelve foundations is inlaid with a different precious jewel.***

**Revelation 21:19–20, NIV84** -<sup>19</sup> *The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation was jasper [like a diamond], the second sapphire [clear blue], the third chalcedony [yellowish green], the fourth emerald [deep green],<sup>20</sup> the fifth sardonyx [white with layers of red], the sixth carnelian [fiery red], the seventh chrysolite [golden yellow], the eighth beryl [sea green], the ninth topaz [greenish yellow], the tenth chrysoprase [golden green], the eleventh jacinth [violet], and the twelfth amethyst [purple].*

“The New Jerusalem is composed of such beautiful materials, such unique construction, and such amazing dimensions as to be beyond human comprehension.”  
-Dr. Henry Morris, a Biblical Archeologist<sup>2</sup>

**1 Corinthians 2:9, NKJV** -<sup>9</sup> *But as it is written: “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.”*

**Hebrews 11:8–10, NASB95** -<sup>8</sup> *By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going.<sup>9</sup> By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise;<sup>10</sup> for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.*

## 5. The Streets

***It's made of pure gold—like glass.***

**Revelation 21:21b, NIV84** -<sup>21</sup> *...The great street of the city was of pure [lit., pure, clean, unsoiled] gold, like transparent glass.*

## 6. The Worship

***All nations—all believers—bring their worship before the Lord.***

**Revelation 21:26–27, NIV84** -<sup>26</sup> *The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it.<sup>27</sup> Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.*

## Why is the *place of heaven* so important?

**John 13:36, 14:1-6, NIV84** -<sup>36</sup> *Simon Peter asked him, “Lord, where are you going?” Jesus replied, “Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later.”<sup>1</sup> “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me.”<sup>2</sup> *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.*<sup>3</sup> *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.*<sup>4</sup> *You know the way to the place where I am going.*<sup>5</sup> *Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”*<sup>6</sup> *Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.**

**A. Our Faith is in a \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 1).**

**B. Our Faith is in a \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 2).**

**C. Our Faith is in a \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 3).**

### “Heaven”

By Squire Parsons

Somewhere beyond the grave there is a land,  
Where Jesus went to prepare by His own hand;  
And for the saved by grace there is a resting place,  
And in a few more days it will be mine.

Someone said you can't go back home again,  
Things will not ever be as good as they've been;  
I've got good news for you, when Heaven comes into view,  
One glimpse and you'll know the best is yet to come.

Some call it Heaven, I call it Home,  
Some call it dreamin', let me dream on;  
Some call it Paradise, somewhere beyond the skies,  
The Bible calls it Heaven, I call it Home—My Home Sweet Home.



**Heaven—that perfect place of perfect delight—is our eternal home-sweet-home. It will be absent of evil and it belongs to only those whose names are written in the Lambs Book of Life.**

<sup>2</sup> Henry M. Morris, *The Revelation Record* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale, 1983), p. 449.