

HEAVEN

Heaven, sometimes called Paradise, is the fantastic place where our immortal spiritual souls can live with God after we die, but only if we obey the covenant that He provided.

I was once asked by eight-year-old children what it is like. As I thought about it, I realised I was truly stumped. I got out of it by asking them what they thought it was like. The type of answers they gave were:

It's Christmas all the time.
No more school.
Living with people you like.
Always playing the games you like.
Always having money to spend.
It never rains.
And many others.

I couldn't help smiling at these innocent replies until I realised these were their honest ideas on Heaven and were better than any I had. I then remembered that story about **St. Paul (1 Cor 2:9)** saying:

“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.

This answer still does not tell us what Heaven is like, but it does tell us that **we haven't a clue.**

I tried to determine why Heaven is so special. From a human point of view, it would have to provide every pleasure and comfort known to us and do so for all eternity without us getting bored or fed up.

As I thought about all this, it became clear that of all the billions of people who have ever lived, with their likes and dislikes, how could Heaven satisfy them all? It all became a more puzzling problem. Then I realised that we do not know the likes and dislikes of an eternal spirit, which is what we become when we die.

I thought about Jesus Christ's teachings on love. Would this provide an answer? If people loved God and their neighbour as Jesus told them, there would be no wars, jealousy, or sinful desires. We would all live in a great, peaceful, and prosperous existence. Was this getting near my thoughts on Heaven?

I also asked myself, what about all those special places in fictional writings such as ATLANTIS, UTOPIA and AVALON, places where everyone lived in peace and harmony? Were these imaginary places ideas of what Heaven is?

Eventually, I realised that none of these things could even attempt to describe Heaven, and for one very simple reason.

HEAVEN WAS CREATED BY GOD.

Why have people always tried to work out or know God's intentions? Jesus Christ tells us that God does not think or do things in the same way as human beings. He has ultimate knowledge and wisdom compared with us, so we cannot know his reasons for any actions or decisions he makes unless he decides to let us know.

This then explained to me what Heaven is. In simple terms, it must provide unending happiness for any being, human or spiritual soul that exists there. God created them all, so he knows what happiness is to them. He can and has created an eternal, wonderful Heaven, the promise he intended for those who earned it.

Since God can create anything, we extremely limited mortals have no chance of even guessing what existence in Heaven is like. The only thing that we do know is that it is where God himself exists, along with the spiritual souls of all who have died with their souls in his favour, and those who were so special, such as Jesus and his mother Mary and a few others, that they were allowed to ascend there as human beings. This makes St. Paul's definition, mentioned above, so true.

I believe it's pointless for us to even try to understand what heaven is like. It must be a wonder way beyond our human knowledge and understanding, and I thank God that he's given us the chance to exist there for all eternity. What a great, wonderful, and compassionate God we have.