

Heaven #5 Details...details...details

I. Introduction

On many topics, God has been very specific and thorough as he describes and explains important biblical truths. For example, there is no ambiguity in scripture on how a person can deal with their sin “problem”, and comes to have a personal relationship with an almighty righteous God.

1 John 5:12-13 “He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

However on the topic of Heaven, God has not spelled out every detail. He has used a broad “paint brush” with Old Testament and New Testament passages giving basic ideas, concepts and general truths. The details however, are found as we compare scripture with scripture and consider those details with an open mind. It is difficult to be dogmatic on each of these points.

II. In heaven, what will we know?

A. Each other!

1. We will have glorified bodies (Luke 24:39)
2. We will have our names (Rev. 21:12-14 see the Apostles listed)
(we get new names as well – Isa. 62:2, 65:15, Rev. 2:17, 3:12)
3. We will recognize others

Matt. 17:3 The Transfiguration

Luke 16:19-31 Abraham and Lazarus were recognized.

John 21:4-7 “Its Jesus, the one we’ve known....”

1 John 3:2 “Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

4. We will be unique individuals (not a blob of clouds)

Luke 15:4-7, 10

Matt. 8:11

Matt. 26:29

B. We will remember...

1. We'll remember "the good stuff"
See the memorials... Rev. 21:12-14
2. We'll remember what God has done for us.
Seeing Christ's scars will always remind us of His grace
3. There seems to be some awareness of what's gone before. The martyrs in Rev. 6:9-11 knew about what had gone on before their death.
4. However, "In eternity, past sins and sorrows won't preoccupy God or us."

We will marvel at His grace. We'll have a biblical not emotional perspective. "None of our loved ones will be in hell, only some whom we once loved." (Alcorn, p. 348)

Isa. 65:17 "Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind."

C. We will learn

1 Cor. 13:12 "Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known."

III. In Heaven, what will we be like?

- A. We will have bodies
Glorified and imperishable (1 Cor. 15:35-54)
- B. We will continue our racial distinctions (Rev. 5:9, 7:9)
- C. We'll wear clothes
Robes (Rev. 3:4, 6:11, 19:13)
With color sashes (Rev. 15:6)
- D. We'll probably speak one language (Rev. 5:9, 6:10)

E. We will have children among us (Isa. 11:6-9)

F. We will not be angels

We will govern them

1 Cor. 6:2-3 "Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? ³Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life!"

G. We will not be married (with those same kind of emotional/physical attachments)
Matt. 22:30, Mark 12:25, Luke 20:35

H. We will enjoy things (we will have some godly desires)
Eating: Luke 24:43, John 21:9-14
Fishing: Eze. 47:9-10

Ps. 37:4 "Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart."

I. There will be nothing unholy
Rev. 21:27 "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."

IV. How many folks will be in Heaven?

Matt 7:14 "But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."

My pure speculation:

- A. There may have been some 51 billion people who have lived since Adam.
- B. 8% of them probably died before their 5th birthday (from poverty, disease as per Unicef Data)
- C. In just the last 25 years some 1 billion 150 million children have been aborted (as per Women's Issues.about.com)
- D. Estimates suggest that maybe 10% of the population are/or have been Christians (see www.adherents.com)

E. The Math:

51,000,000,000	
-4,080,000,000	(died before 5 years old)
-1,150,000,000	(abortions)
<hr/> 45,770,000,000	
X 10%	% of world wide Christians
<hr/> 4,577,000,000	
+5,230,000,000	Add back in the children who have died
<hr/> 9,807,000,000	Neighbors in glory!

Contained in 3.4 billion cubed miles (1500 x 1500 x 1500)

Equals 34 cubed miles per person

V. What about infants? Do they remain infants?

Rom. 3:23 "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," The adamic nature condemns all. However, the grace of God abounds. 2 Sam. 12:23 "But now that he is dead, why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me."

VI. What about animals (Hope so!)

God made sure they were named, (Gen. 2:19-20) they were saved from the flood (Gen. 7:14-15), they were included in the covenant (Gen. 9:9-10) and they showed up in the millennial kingdom (and the new earth?) (Isa. 11:6-9).

"If God brings our pets back to life, it wouldn't surprise me. It would be just like Him. It would be totally in keeping with His generous character...Exorbitant. Excessive. Extravagant in grace after grace. Of all the dazzling discoveries and ecstatic pleasures heaven will hold for us, the potential of seeing Scrappy would be pure whimsy – utterly, joyfully, surprisingly superfluous...Heaven is going to be a place that will retract and reflect in as many ways as possible the goodness and joy of our great God, who delights in lavishing love on His children." Joni Erickson Tada