

THINGS THAT EXIST IN HEAVEN AND ON THE NEW EARTH

A LIST OF INHABITANTS, PLACES, ITEMS, SENSORY EVENTS, STATES, AND SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Life in heaven and on the new earth will be much like it is here, but without sin.

IN HEAVEN

1.1 INHABITANTS OF HEAVEN

1. God the Father (1Kgs 8:30; Eccl 5:2; Mt 5:16), Holy Spirit (Jn 1:32; 1Pet 1:12), Deity of Christ (Jn 1:1–2; 3:13; 6:38). **2.** Jesus (Acts 1:11; 2:34; Heb 9:24; Rev 5:5–6). **3.** Satan, the anointed cherub who covers before his fall (Isa 14:12; Ezk 28:14, 16; Lk 10:18). **4.** Satan, access to heaven after his fall (Job 1:6–12). **5.** fallen angels (1Kgs 22:19–23; Rev 12:7–9). **6.** four living creatures (Rev 4, 5). **7.** twenty-four elders (Rev 4, 5). **8.** angels (Mt 18:10; Lk 2:15). **9.** cherubim (Ezk 1, 10). **10.** seraphim (Isa 6:2–7). **11.** horses (of fire, 2Kgs 2:11; 6:17; white, chestnut, black, pale, Rev 6:2–8; white, 19:11, 14, 19, 21). **12.** armies (Rev 19:14, 19). **13.** Michael (Dan 10:13, 21; 12:1; Jude 9; Rev 12:7). **14.** Gabriel (Dan 8:16; 9:21; Lk 1:19, 26). **15.** Enoch (Gen 5:24; Heb 11:5). **16.** Elijah (2Kgs 2:11). **17.** Old Testament saints (Jn 14:2–4). **18.** Church Age believers (2Cor 5:8; 1Thes 4:13–18). **19.** bride (*numphe*) and wife (*gune*) of the Lamb (Rev 19:7–9; 21:9). **20.** tribulational martyrs (6:9–11; 7:9–17; 15:2–4). **21.** two witnesses (11:4, 12) = “two anointed ones . . . standing by the Lord” (Zech 4:14). **22.** great multitude (Rev 19:1, 6).

1.2 PLACES IN HEAVEN

1. Eden, the garden of God (Ezk 28:13). **2.** New Jerusalem (Gal 4:26; Heb 11:10, 16; 12:22; 13:14; Rev 3:12; 21:2, 9–27). **3.** holy mountain of God (Ezk 28:14, 16), mount of assembly in the recesses of the north (Isa 14:13), Mount Zion (Heb 12:22). **4.** God’s holy dwelling place (Dt 26:15; 2Chr 30:27). **5.** temple (throne room, Rev 7:15; 16:17; pillars, 3:12; 7:15; door and doorway, 4:1; 11:19; 14:15, 17; 15:5–8). **6.** springs of the waters of life (plural, 7:17).

1.3 THINGS THAT EXIST IN HEAVEN

1. city (Heb 11:10, 16; 12:22; 13:14; Rev 21:2, 10). **2.** walls, gates, foundation stones (21:12–25). **3.** dwellings (Lk 16:9; Jn 14:2–3). **4.** judgment seat (Rom 14:10; 2Cor 5:10). **5.** thrones (Ps 11:4; 1Kgs 22:19; Rev 3:21; 4:2–6, 9–10; 5:1, 6, 11, 13; 6:16; 7:9–11, 15, 17; 8:3; 11:16; 12:5; 14:3; 19:4–5; 21:3, 5). **6.** chariot throne (Ezk 1, 10). **7.** diadems (Rev 19:12). **8.** authority (Mt 28:18; 1Pet 3:22). **9.** rank (archangel, 1Thes 4:16; Jude 9; ruler of this world, Jn 12:31; 16:11; rulers, authorities, world rulers, spiritual forces, Eph 6:12; King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Rev 19:16). **10.** accusations from Satan (Job 1:9–11; 2:4–5; Rev 12:10). **11.** glass (4:6; 15:2). **12.** fire (8:5; 14:18; 15:2). **13.** lamps of fire (4:5). **14.** golden lampstands (1:12–13). **15.** thunder and lightning (4:5). **16.** emerald rainbow (4:3). **17.** robes (1:13; 3:4–5, 18; 4:4; 6:11; 7:9, 13–14; 15:6; 19:8, 13, 14, 16). **18.** linen (15:6). **19.** fine linen (19:8, 14). **20.** washing (7:14). **21.** golden girdles (1:13; 15:6). **22.** gold (1:12–13; 3:18; 4:4; 5:8; 8:3; 14:14; 21:15, 18, 21). **23.** pearls and gems (Ezk 28:13; Rev 21:18–21). **24.** jewelry (Ezk 28:13). **25.** scrolls (title deed to the earth, Rev 5:1–9; little scroll, 10:2, 8–10; scroll of life, Ex 32:32–33; Lk 10:20; Heb 12:23; Rev 3:5; 13:8; 17:8; 20:12, 15; 21:27; scrolls of works, Neh 13:14; Ps 56:8; Rev 20:12). **26.** writing (with ink, 3:12; 5:1; 13:8; 17:8; 19:12, 16; 21:27; in stone, 21:12, 14). **27.** seal (7:2) and seals (5:1, 9; 6:1; 8:1). **28.** God’s Word (Ps 19:89). **29.** doctrines forbidden and permitted (Mt 16:19). **30.** harps or lyres (Rev 5:8; 15:2), trumpets (Ex 19:16, 19; 20:18; Mt 24:31; 1Cor 15:52; 1Thes 4:16; Heb 12:9; Rev 8:2, 6, 13; 9:14). **31.** songs (5:9–10; 14:3; 15:3–4). **32.** bowls (5:8; 15:7; 16:1–17). **33.** incense (5:8; 8:3–4). **34.** golden censer (8:3, 5). **35.** golden altar (6:9; 8:3, 5; 9:13; 14:18). **36.** ark of the Covenant (11:19). **37.** smoke (8:4; 15:8). **38.** palm branches, implies palm trees (7:9). **39.** keys (1:18; 9:1; 20:1). **40.** great chain (20:1). **41.** sharp sickles (14:14–19). **42.** pair of scales (6:5). **43.** gold measuring rod (21:15–17). **44.** chariots of fire (2Kgs 2:11; 6:17). **45.** sword (Rev 1:16; 2:12, 16; 19:15, 21). **46.** war (12:7). **47.** no peace (Lk 19:38). **48.** fear of God (Rev 19:5). **49.** joy (Lk 15:7) and gladness (Rev 19:7). **50.** rejoicing (12:12; 18:20; 19:7). **51.** praising (19:5) and glorifying Jesus (5:11–12) and God (4:9–11; 5:13–14; 19:7). **52.** worship (4:10–11; 5:14; 7:11–12; 11:16; 19:4). **53.** secrets (Mt 24:36; Mk 13:32; Rev 2:17; 19:12). **54.** our names (Lk 10:20). **55.** our new names (Rev 2:17; 19:12). **56.** resurrection bodies (1Cor 15:51–52; 2Cor 5:1–2; 1Thes 4:16–17). **57.** hope (Col 1:5). **58.** bank accounts (Phil 4:17). **59.** rewards (Mt 5:12; 6:20; 19:21; Mk 10:21; Lk 12:33; 18:22; 2Cor 5:10). **60.** crowns (2Tim 4:8; Jas 1:12; 1Pet 5:4; Rev 2:10; 3:11; 4:4, 10; 6:2; 14:14). **61.** inheritance (1Pet 1:4). **62.** rest (Rev 6:11; 14:13).

1.4 SENSORY EVENTS, STATES, AND SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS IN HEAVEN

1. colors (emerald, jasper, sardius, Rev 4:3; white, 4:4; 6:2, 11; 7:9, 13–14; 19:14; 20:11; red, 6:4; black, 6:5; pale green, 6:8). **2.** brightness (15:6; 19:8). **3.** brilliance (21:11). **4.** transparency (4:6; 21:11, 18, 21). **5.** purity (21:18, 21). **6.** sounds (19:6). **7.** volume (loud, 5:2; 7:10; 19:1). **8.** singing (5:9; 14:3; 15:2–3). **9.** silence (8:1). **10.** time (duration, 6:11; 15:8; half an hour, 8:1; days, Ps 89:29; perpetuity, Rev 4:9–10; 5:13; 15:7). **11.** direction (up and down, 4:1; 10:5, 8; 14:8; east, north, south, west, 21:13). **12.** position (here, 4:1; around, 4:3–4; before, 4:5–6; middle, 4:6; 6:6; back, 5:1; inside, 4:8; 5:1; under or below, 6:9; on, 19:11–12, left and right, 1Kgs 22:19; Rev 5:1, 7). **13.** units of measure (cubit and stade, 21:16–17). **14.** geometric forms (square and cube, 21:16). **15.** symmetry (21:13). **16.** sharpness (14:14–19). **17.** preparation (19:7). **18.** no hunger, no thirst, no bodily discomfort, no tears (7:16–17). **19.** no marriage (Mt 22:30; Mk 12:25; Lk 20:34–35). **20.** wedding and wedding supper of the Lamb (19:7–9). **21.** families (Eph 3:15). **22.** citizenship (Phil 3:20). **23.** social position (“the small and the great”) (19:5).

1.5 CATEGORIES AND OBSERVATIONS

Much of what exists on earth exists in heaven: **1.** rule (thrones, diadems). **2.** meteorological phenomena (thunder, lightning, rainbow). **3.** material things (writing materials, music instruments, measuring devices, containers, clothing, housing, keys, weapons). **4.** metals (gold, chain, sickles). **5.** precious stones (rubies, diamonds, emeralds, Ezk 28:13). **6.** workmanship (Ezk 28:13). **7.** cult items (altar, censer, incense). **8.** burning (fire, smoke). **9.** worship (songs, praise, glorification). **10.** time periods. **11.** spatial relations. **12.** measure (capacity, size, degree). **13.** geometric shapes (square, cube). **14.** city planning. **15.** building materials (stones, pearls, gems, glass). **16.** geographic landmarks (garden, mountains, springs). **17.** motion (fall down, fly). **18.** direction (up, down). **19.** numeration. **20.** justice (sentences, vengeance). **21.** parties (invitations, supper). **22.** food (manna, Ps 78:25–26). **23.** plants (palm trees, linen from flax). **24.** animals (horses). **25.** angels (resembling men or with human and animal body parts). **26.** military organization (angelic armies). **27.** agricultural implements (sickles). **28.** memories (remembrance of past events on earth (human lineage of Jesus, Rev 5:5; saving work of Christ, 5:9, 12; 7:14; 12:11). **29.** rewards (crowns, rule with Christ). **30.** position and privilege (exaltation, Col 1:18, Phil 2:9; high priest, Heb 8:1; ruler of the kings of the earth, Rev 1:5). Sometimes the heavenly precedes the earthly; e.g., the four faces of cherubim (man, lion, bull, eagle) with corresponding body parts (hands, lion’s torso, bull’s hooves, eagle’s wings) existed before humans.

1.6 INTERPRETIVE NOTE

Some items in visions may be figurative and not literal; e.g., I doubt Satan looks like a great red dragon (Rev 12:3).

1.7 PROPOSAL

Perhaps heaven is a planet in some distant solar system. *Support:* **1.** A Garden of Eden is present in heaven (Ezk 28:13), on earth (Gen 2:8), and likely on the new earth (Rev 22:1–4; cf. 21:22). **2.** If a garden, then plants and trees (Rev 7:9); and if plants, then dirt to grow in; and if dirt, perhaps a globe like earth somewhere out in space. **3.** Sickles may imply harvesting grain and grapes (Rev 14:14–19). **4.** Mountains (“holy mountain of God,” Ezk 28:14, 16; “mount of assembly,” Isa 14:13; “Mount Zion,” Heb 12:22) and springs (Rev 7:17) suggest a planet. If mountains, then plains and valleys, if springs, then streams, rivers, and lakes. **5.** Since the tabernacle, temple, and furnishings are earthly copies of the heavenly temple (Heb 8:5; 9:23–24), perhaps the original earth is also a downsized copy of heaven.

1.8 COMMON MISCONCEPTION

Most Christians think they will die, go to heaven, and live in heaven forever. But this is not what the Bible teaches. Old Testament saints went to Abraham’s Bosom (Luke 16:22–23)—also called Paradise (Luke 23:43)—in the heart of the earth (Matt 12:40). Church Age saints are “absent from the body and . . . at home with the Lord” (2Cor 5:8) in heaven (Acts 1:11; Heb 8:1; 9:24). All believers, however, will live forever on the new earth (Rev 21:7, 24–27; 22:1–5).

ON THE NEW EARTH

2.1 INHABITANTS OF THE NEW EARTH

1. God and Jesus (Rev 21:3, 23; 22:1, 3). **2.** God’s people (21:3, 7, 27). **3.** servants (*douloi*) of Jesus, the Lamb (22:3).

2.2 PLACES ON THE NEW EARTH

1. nations (Rev 21:24; 22:2). **2.** city (21:2, 10, 14–16, 18, 21, 23; 22:14, 19). **3.** New Jerusalem (3:12; 21:2, 10–27).

2.3 THINGS THAT EXIST ON THE NEW EARTH

1. walls, gates, foundation stones (Rev 21:12–25; 22:14). **2.** street (21:21; 22:2). **3.** travel (21:24, 26). **4.** gold (21:15, 18, 21). **5.** pearls and gems (21:18–21). **6.** no temple (21:22). **7.** no sea (21:1). **8.** no curse (22:3). **9.** no tears, death, mourning, crying or pain (21:4). **10.** no sun, moon, or lamps (21:23; 22:5; cf. 1:16). **11.** no night (21:25; 22:5). **12.** God’s glory (21:11, 23). **13.** light (21:23–24; 22:5). **14.** daytime (21:25). **15.** thrones (22:1, 3). **16.** kings (21:24). **17.** human glory (21:24). **18.** national glory and honor (21:26). **19.** names of the twelve tribes of Israel and the twelve apostles (21:12, 14). **20.** spring of the water of life (singular, 21:6). **21.** river of the water of life (22:1–2). **22.** tree of life with fruit and leaves (22:2). **23.** months (22:2). **24.** service (22:3). **25.** Jesus’ name on our foreheads (22:4). **26.** see Jesus’ face (22:4). **27.** full knowledge of God (*a fortiori* argument from millennial verses such as Isa 11:9 and Jer 31:34). **28.** reign of God and Jesus forever and ever (22:5).

2.4 SENSORY EVENTS AND STATES ON THE NEW EARTH

1. motion (Rev 21:2; 22:1). **2.** direction (down, 21:2, 10; into, 21:24, 26; out of, 22:1; east, north, south, west, 21:13). **3.** position (middle, 22:2; sides, 22:2). **4.** perpetuity (never, 21:25). **5.** adornment (21:19). **6.** illumination (21:23; 22:5). **7.** brilliance (21:11). **8.** clear or transparent (22:1). **9.** grace and kindness (Eph 2:7). **10.** acts of creation (21:5).

2.5 BLESSINGS UPON BLESSINGS ON THE NEW EARTH FOREVER

What is our future? What can we look forward to? How good will life be? Meditate on these words of the apostle Paul: “God . . . made us alive together with Christ . . . and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him . . . so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus” (Eph 2:4–7 *italics mine*).