

And what is Heaven really like?

This is an outline on “Heaven” from Randy Alcorn’s book on this subject. His book is 499 pages and most people do not have the time or energy to read such a long book...**it is worth every page!**

I am going to provide headings and questions with outline-style answers, plus scriptures that apply in some instances. I will also included few of my own thoughts as well.

CONTENTS

Part 2 – Questions and answers about Heaven during the millennial years.

WHAT WILL THE RESURRECTED EARTH BE LIKE?

1. Will the New Earth Be an Edenic Paradise?

God poured himself, his creativity, and his love into making Eden for his creatures. He saw that it was good--before the Fall, when Adam and Eve sinned by disobeying God’s commandment. But at that time, it was all we were: his creatures, his image-bearers. Now that we are both his children and his *bride, chosen out of the human race* to live with him forever, would we expect more or less the place than Eden? More, of course. And that’s exactly what the New Earth will be. Culture won’t regress back to Eden, where none of those things had yet been invented.

We have never seen men and women as they were intended to be. We have never seen animals the way they were before the Fall. We only see marred remnants of what once was. We have never seen nature unchained and undiminished. We have only seen it cursed and decaying. Yet even now we see a great deal that pleases and excites us, moving our hearts to worship. If the “wrong side” of Heaven can be so beautiful, what will the right side look like?

2. What is the New Jerusalem?

Scripture describes Heaven as both a country (Luke 19:12; Hebrews 11:14-16) and a city (Hebrews 12:22; 13:14; Revelation 21:2) Fifteen times in Revelation 21 and 22 the place God and his people will live together, a city. The city at the center of the future Heaven is called the New Jerusalem.

The city will be 1400 cubic miles in size! The ground level will be two million miles square. Lots of room for millions of people...many levels high...not pyramid buildings...up to 600,000 stories, each 12 feet high. Use your imagination to go on from there! God has given us imagination. What else would a city have? In Revelation 21:9-27 you can read all the details that are written there. There you will find links to other scriptures which verifies the same information in a different manner sometimes.

3. What will the Great City Be Like?

Every believer will have a place or home of their own.(John 14:2, 3) No other city will be like this one, for it will be called home by the King of Kings. The New Jerusalem will be filled with great beauty. The New Earth will also be filled with Edenic beauty for our enjoyment. Whatever God’s people create is also God’s creation, for it is he who shapes and gifts and empowers us to create. We will all have our own gifts and skills, some continuing on from our past. God enjoys watching us and gets pleasure from our efforts. Imagine having everything you need to work on your projects! God wants us to feel that we have finally come home!

4. Will there be Space and Time?

The Bible’s answer is yes. Our current earth will be renewed, resurrected for the millennium years and we will be resurrected from death or caught up in the rapture. The New Earth will be our home for 1000 years; Satan and his followers will be judged and sent into the Lake of Fire for eternity. Then God will renew the entire world and the universes simultaneously.

We will then live in an entirely New Heaven and Earth for eternity. What makes the difference from the previous New Earth and the final one? Our millennium years Jesus Christ will have his throne on this New Earth in the new Ezekiel temple that He will build there, next to the Holy City of New Jerusalem. In the final New Earth, it will also be a New Heaven. This means that the “third” Heaven where God has his throne will finally come down and settle on the New Earth. God himself and Jesus Christ will both be with us “physically” on the New Earth and the heaven will then be called the New Heaven.

This is a complex area and contains many pages in Randy Acorns book. I have tried to give you just a glimpse of what he has there. He gives many references and examples to explain it, if you really want more details.

To say we will exist outside of time is like saying we will know everything...not true. Only God knows everything. We will still live in chronological sequence one word, step or event at a time! We will only live in the present. We will remember the past and look forward to the future and enjoy the present. How much better can it get?

5. Will the New Earth have Sun, Moon, Oceans and Weather?

When God created the above things, he said it was good. Nothing will change there as far as we know. The main difference is the New Jerusalem that will be coming down from heaven. In the holy city there will be no need for sun because Jesus will fill the whole city with His light! The universe will most likely become renewed as well, being even more beautiful to look at and enjoy. Plant life requires a period of rest from the sun; the stars are used for naval travel! Those things will still be there. Some of these things we will know about once we get there!

The ocean will be there, but only ONE ocean. God will bring all the land back together again as it was when created, creating one ocean! Islands will still exist and all the nations and tribes will all still be there, but only believers in the **final** New Earth and Heaven. The first New Earth and Heaven, the Millennium 1000 years, will still have all the survivors of the tribulation period. One last chance for unbelievers to change their life style and choose Jesus. During this time Satan and his demons will be locked up for the 1000 years, but mankind will still have a “will” and still be able to perform their ungodly activities instead of following Jesus. Unfortunately, many will still choose a sinful life and will face the final throne of judgment by God at the end of the 1000 years. NOTE: Some of the comments are mine, not those of Randy Alcorn. I am keeping things brief for those who cannot read his book and still want to know answers. There are scriptures to back up most of our comments. A few things are just common sense where no scriptures are available.

WHAT WILL OUR LIVES BE LIKE?

6. Will we be ourselves?

Disembodied spirits are not who they once were. Continuity of identity ultimately requires bodily resurrection. We are physical beings. We will be ourselves but without sin. There will be no sickness and death. We will live in the New Jerusalem with Jesus Christ who is the King of kings and Lord of lords. We will have many surprises awaiting us. God’s presence will always be with us wherever we go or whatever we do. There is much more I could present to you. Read Randy Alcorn’s book for more. Look up and be watching for the return of Jesus Christ! God bless you all!