

INSIDE THE FATHER'S HOUSE (John 14:1-6)

On a night so clear you could catch a handful of moonbeams, a little girl studied the stars & said, "Daddy, if heaven is so pretty on the wrong side, think of what it must look like on the right side!"

A. Do you ever think about the right side of heaven?

1. I try to imagine what I can see in creation without any of the discomforts & annoyances.
2. But what is it really like inside the Father's house?

[The answer will supply us with several reasons why we should be glad & rejoice that we have accepted His call (Matt 11:28).]

I. HEAVEN IS THE HOME OF GOD

A. The home of **God**, our (a) Father.

1. There is no a word that blends the ideas of authority & affection better than "father".
 - a. He guides us down the proper path of life with His words (Prov 3:5-6).
 - b. He disciplines us when we get off that path (Heb 12:14ff).
 - c. He challenges us by placing before us a work to do, goals to achieve (Matt 25:14ff).
 - d. He secures us, giving us peace of mind to do His will without fear (1 Pet 1:5).

[He is the Father of all (Eph 4:6). We originated with Him, & we will return to Him (Ecc 12:7). He desires for us to return to Him as His child.]

Gal 3:26-27 – For *you are all sons of God* through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

THAT IS WHY PAUL BEGAN THIS LETTER IN THIS WAY

Gal 1:1-5 – Paul, an apostle (not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ & *God the Father* who raised Him from the dead), 2 & all the brethren who are with me, 3 Grace to you & peace from *God the Father* & our Lord Jesus Christ, 4 who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our *God & Father*, 5 to whom be glory forever & ever. Amen.

THE FATHER WAS WRITING TO HIS CHILDREN...FROM HEAVEN

Isa 66:1 – Thus says the Lord: “Heaven is My throne, & earth is My footstool. Where is the house that you will build Me? where is *the place of My rest*?”

B. The home of **Jesus, our Lord Savior.**

1. To the wise & foolish, saint & sinner – He is light of the world... (**John 8:12**).
2. To Christians facing death – He is the hope of a resurrection to life eternal (**John 11:25**).

3. To those who desire to be in the presence of His Father – He is the way (**John 14:6**).

1 John 4:14 – And we have seen & testify that *the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world*.

John 6:38 – For *I have come down from heaven*, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

John 14:28 – You have heard Me say to you, ‘I am going away & coming back to you.’ If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, ‘*I am going to the Father*,’ for My Father is greater than I (cf. **Acts 2:33, 36**).

C. The home of the **Holy Spirit, our Helper.**

1. Though He is active in our lives through the Word He revealed; His home is in Heaven (**John 16:7-11**; cf **1 Cor 2:9-10**).

[**What** will be the greatest thing about Heaven?

We will see where we came from; the Father, Son & Holy Spirit in their home – & from that moment we will never doubt the love God has always for us.

And we will never again be without the sense of love, family & friendship – that may have been lacking in our earthly sojourn.]

II. HEAVEN IS THE HOME OF THE FAITHFUL

A. **Most people** consider celebrities to be their heroes, but Heaven is the home of the true heroes of faith from every age: *Patriarchal, Mosaical & Christian.*

Matt 8:11 – I say to you that *many* will come from east & west [there we are], & sit down with *Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.* Why will Abraham, Isaac & Jacob be there?

Heb 11:15-16 – And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But now *they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country.* Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their *God, for He has prepared a city for them.*

Matt 17:2-3 – He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, & His clothes became as white as the light. 3 And *behold, Moses & Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.*

Psa 23:6 (David) – Surely goodness & mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; & *I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

2 Cor 12:2-4 – I know a man in Christ, — whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows — *such a one was caught up to the third heaven ... 4 how he was caught up into Paradise* & heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

2 Tim 4:7-8 – I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Finally, *there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness*, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, & not to me only but also *to all who have loved His appearing* [there we are again].

[Do you want to be in the presence of greatness? **Greatness** of faith, that is. **Heaven** is the retirement home for war weary soldiers in God’s army; the heroes of faith.

You may think, “I have so much I want to ask these people.” **But** I’ll bet they have just as much they would like to ask you, for they are no different from you: men & women who strove to live in obedient faith to God.]

III. HEAVEN IS THE HOME OF CHILDREN

A. **A child is like** “A tiny flower, lent, not given; to bud on earth & bloom in heaven”.

2 Sam 12:23 – But now he is dead; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? *I shall go to him*, but he shall not return to me.

Matt 18:3-4 – Assuredly, I say to you, *unless you are converted & become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.* 4 Therefore *whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.*

Matt 19:13-14 – Then little children were brought to Him that He might put His hands on them & *pray*, but the disciples rebuked them. 14 But Jesus said, *“Let the little children come to Me, & do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.”*

[Do you want to be in the presence of humble innocence for all eternity - or - in the company of the selfish & prideful who never truly understood or accepted the nature & will of God?]

IV. HEAVEN IS THE HOME OF BOOKS

A. **Most of us** have a favorite Bible (that belonged to someone we love). **One** day we'll have to part with that book. **But** the spirit of the word it contains will be with us in Heaven – *as we carry it there in our souls.*

1 Pet 1:23-25 – having been born again, not of corruptible seed but *incorruptible*, through *the word of God which lives & abides forever*, 24 because “All flesh is as grass, & all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, & its flower falls away, 25 but *the word of the Lord endures forever.*” Now *this is the word which by the gospel* was preached to you.

B. **The book** (registry) of God's faithful family will be in Heaven: *the Book of Life.*

Rev 3:5 (Sardis) – He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, & *I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life*; but I will confess his name before My Father & before His angels.

Luke 10:20 (70, Limited Commission) – Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather *rejoice because your names are written in heaven.*

C. **The book** (record) of our earthly deeds will be in Heaven: *the books from each dispensation that contain the works of all men.*

Rev 20:12, 15 – And I saw the dead, small & great, standing before God, & *books were opened.* And *another book was opened, which is the Book of Life.* And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. 15 ...*anyone not found written in the Book of Life* was cast into the lake of fire.

[**There** are only three books that matter to God:

- 1) Book of *Scripture*, w/ His wisdom & instruction.
- 2) Book of *life*, with your name in it.
- 3) Book of *your deeds*, with the good ones noted & the evil ones scratched out if you are His child.]

V. HEAVEN IS THE HOME OF NEWNESS

A. **Have you ever** lived in a new home? **One** day you will, if you serve the Lord faithfully. **Heaven** is described as a “new heaven & a new earth” 4 times in Scripture (1-4).

1. New reasons to rejoice (*Isa 65:17-19*).
2. New worship offered (*66:22-23*).
3. New residents (*2 Pet 3:13*).
4. New nearness to God (*Rev 21:1-4*).
5. New incorruptible body (*1 Cor 15:51-53*).
6. New city (*Rev 3:12*).
7. New name for each one (*Rev 3:12*).
8. New song (*Rev 14:3*)

Rev 21:5 – Then He who sat on the throne said, “**Behold, I make all things new.**” And He said to me, “Write, for these words are true & faithful.”

VI. HEAVEN IS THE HOME OF GLORY

A. **Glory means** “splendor, brightness, majesty, a most exalted state” (Thayer). **The** closing verses of Scripture depict the glory of Heaven in three ways.

1. “A *bride* adorned for her husband.” (*Rev 21:2*) – consider the months of her preparation & the beautiful glorious result.
2. “The *tabernacle* of God with men” (*Rev 21:3-5*).
- a. Remember how much effort, detail & expense God put into the first tabernacle where He could meet with His people, & it lasted only a short time (*Exo 35*).
- b. How much more glory will He give to an eternal tabernacle, where He, who is the essence of all glory, will be dwelling with His people throughout all eternity?

3. “The holy...great city” (Rev 21:2, 10).

a. “Holy” in that nothing impure can enter it; the city is prepared as a chaste virgin bride for her husband.

b. “Great” in that only the most precious materials ever created are used (Rev 21:9-27).

Rev 21:18 – The construction of its wall was of jasper; & *the city was pure gold*, like clear glass.

Rev 21:22-23 – But I saw no temple in it, for *the Lord God Almighty & the Lamb are its temple*. 23 The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for *the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light*.

[**The** glory of Heaven is not superficial; it will not wear out or fade away.]

VII. HEAVEN IS THE HOME OF COMFORT & REST

Rev 21:4 (Comfort) – And *God will wipe away every tear from their eyes*; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.

Rev 14:13 (Rest) – Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “*that they may rest from their labors*, & their works follow them.”

[Do you know who gets comfort & rest? **Those** who need comfort & rest.

Those who need comfort are those who stood for truth in the face of heated resistance.

Those who need rest are those who labored diligently in the kingdom of God during their lives. **Do you need comfort & rest?**

CLOSING

A. **What’s inside** the Father’s house?

1. Do you remember what I said at the beginning? My vision of Heaven is of the creation without its discomforts & annoyances.

2. A lesson like this can change your mental picture of Heaven.

- a. Is there a tree with fruit? (Rev 22:2, 14).
- b. Is there a beautiful piney forest? I seriously doubt it!
- c. Is there a river? (Rev 22:1, 2).
- d. Is the river stocked with rainbow trout? I think it would be safe to say there are no fish in the river of life.
- e. What about majestic mountains, verdant valleys, green meadows, oceans & beaches? I find nothing in the Scripture to indicate the presence of these things we so enjoy here.
- f. Disappointed? Don't be! The Heaven God has prepared for His people will be the consummate Paradise – because He made it for Himself & He made it to last for eternity.

B. **But did you notice** what IS in the Father's house?

1. He is (Father, Son, HS)
2. His faithful children are
3. His humble children who never had a chance to grow up
4. His books
5. His new order of things
6. His glory
7. His promised comfort & rest for us

C. **I've heard people say**, "If there is no _____ in Heaven, then I don't care to go."

- a. Without even considering the horrors of Hell – **If any soul were permitted to see Heaven, he wouldn't want to be any place else.**

Earth holds no treasures but perish with using, **however** precious they be; **Yet** there's a country to which I am going: **Heaven** holds all to me. **Heaven** holds all to me, brighter its glory will be; **Joy** without measure will be my treasure. **Heaven** holds all to me.