

### IS HEAVEN A REAL PLACE?

1. When you think of going to heaven, what comes to mind?
  - Discuss: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Do you think every person would be happy in heaven or would some be uncomfortable living there?
  - Explain: \_\_\_\_\_
3. How many people do you believe will be saved in heaven?
  - Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

### Sharing

4. We all have born inside us an intense desire and longing for our Creator-God. C.S. Lewis expressed it this way: 'Creatures are not born with desires unless satisfaction for those desires exists. A baby feels hunger: well, there is such a thing as food. A duckling wants to swim: well, there is such a thing as water. ... If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world.' The Bible tells us that we were made for another world and we will never be truly satisfied until we are living with our Creator in our eternal home.
5. A recent CNN poll about the public's beliefs in heaven reported that 93% believed that there would be angels present; 79% expected that St. Peter would be there; 43% believed that people would play harps in heaven and 36% believed that the saints in heaven would wear halos. While we aren't given every single detail about heaven, nevertheless, the Bible does provide sufficient information to make us long to be there. There are many promises given to us by Jesus that concern our eternal home. The promise below, of a heavenly home was given by Jesus to His disciples on the day before He was to be crucified:
  - Read John 14:1-3 "Let not your heart be \_\_\_\_\_ you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."
6. Over 1,500 times the Bible refers to Jesus' return to this earth. We trust His promise as did those men and women of faith mentioned in Hebrews 11. Men and women from the very beginning of the world have waited for the promise of a heavenly home.
  - Read Hebrews 11:8 "By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was \_\_\_\_\_."
  - Read Hebrews 11:10 "For he waited for the \_\_\_\_\_ which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God."
  - Read Hebrews 11:13 "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth." If we considered ourselves strangers and pilgrims on this earth—just passing through—then our hearts would be far less troubled about the things of this life.
  - Read Hebrews 11:16 "But now they desire a better, that is, a \_\_\_\_\_ country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them."

# BIBLE BREAKTHROUGH

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7. John, in vision on the island of Patmos, about 60 years after Jesus had returned to heaven, looked up and saw a door standing open in heaven. Each Bible Breakthrough student should read Chapters 4 and 5 of Revelation to prepare for this study because space only allows us to present highlights. Let's read what John saw in this vision:
- Read Revelation 4:1 "After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in \_\_\_\_\_. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this."
  - Read Revelation 4:2 "Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in \_\_\_\_\_, and One sat on the throne." John saw the throne room of heaven where God sits!
  - Read Revelation 4:8 "The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to \_\_\_\_\_!"
  - Read Revelation 5:11,12 "Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!"
8. We all want to go to heaven! The Bible makes it very clear when and how we will get there!
- Read 1 Thessalonians 4:16,17 "For the Lord Himself will \_\_\_\_\_ from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord."
9. It will be at this time that we will receive our immortal bodies. That will be exciting!
- Read 1 Corinthians 15:53,54 "For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on \_\_\_\_\_. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." So, we will become immortal at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ when, at that time, He gives us new 'uncorrupted' bodies and we receive the gift of immortality."
10. In addition to our new immortal bodies we will enjoy a new heaven and a new earth. Out of the ashes of the old world God will make the new earth where there will be no more sea that separates people, nor will there be anymore sorrow, crying or death.
- Read Revelation 21:1 "Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea."
  - Read Revelation 21:2 "Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming \_\_\_\_\_ out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband."
  - Read Revelation 21:4 "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more \_\_\_\_\_, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." God has a wonderful home planned for us. When we move to verse 10, we begin to read the description of this fantastic place being prepared for us.
  - Read Revelation 21:10,11 "And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great \_\_\_\_\_, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal."

11. The New Jerusalem is **not** an earthly city to be rebuilt during the millennium reign of the Messiah on this earth as is being taught by some. It is a heavenly city that is out of this world—whose builder and maker is God. It is glorious beyond our wildest imagination. It will descend out of heaven when the earth is made new and will be inhabited by the saints of God—those who have been given the gift of immortality when they were redeemed from this world at Jesus Second Coming.
12. The twelve tribes of Israel served as the gateway to the world for God’s law and grace. Therefore, the tribes will forever be immortalized by the naming of the gates of the New Jerusalem after them. The apostles laid the foundation of the gospel being carried to the world. Therefore, their names will be immortalized for all eternity in the foundation of the holy city.
  - Read Revelation 21:12-14 “Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve \_\_\_\_\_ of the children of Israel: three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west. Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lamb.”
13. The immensity of the city is staggering. It’s sides are 12,000 furlongs which equals about 1,500 miles. We do not know if this is the circumference of the Holy City or if it means that each side is 1,500 miles. One mathematician has estimated that if every person were allotted 100 square feet of space to stand in the Holy City it would hold 39 billion people. The foundation stones make the color of the rainbow which represents God’s promise to the world that there would never be another world-wide flood. It is going to be a glorious place.
  - Read Revelation 21:15-18 “And he who talked with me had a \_\_\_\_\_ reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs. Its length, breadth, and height are equal. Then he measured its wall: one hundred and forty-four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel. The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones.”
14. Imagine being able to look through the transparent walls of the city to the beautiful earth outside.
  - Read Revelation 21:21 “The twelve gates were twelve \_\_\_\_\_: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.”
15. We won’t need the sun or moon. (That doesn’t necessarily mean there won’t be a sun and a moon—it just means that we won’t need it as we now do on this earth—because the source of light will be God Himself.)
  - Read Revelation 21:23 “The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to \_\_\_\_\_ in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.”
16. We should never deceive ourselves that we can break God’s Ten Commandments or harbor a ‘little innocent’ sin, or indulgence, and still be part of God’s kingdom. That is a deception of Satan. The most important question we can ask ourselves is, “Is our name written in the Lamb’s Book of Life in heaven?”
  - Read Revelation 21:27 “But there shall by no means enter it anything that \_\_\_\_\_, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.”
17. Luke tells us that the most important thing for each Christian is the assurance that our names are recorded in heaven’s Book of Life. We should reserve all our rejoicing, not for what we can accomplish in God’s name, but, rather, that our names are recorded in heaven and that we are sealed for salvation.
  - Read Luke 10:20 “Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are \_\_\_\_\_ in heaven.”

19. There will be much to do in heaven. We will never be bored. Inter-galactic space travel will be awesome! We will meet the patriarchs and have the time to dine with them and talk to them. We will have a life that is full of joy and unending pleasures! We can't even **imagine** what is in store for us.

- Read Matthew 8:11 "And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and \_\_\_\_\_ down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven."
- Psalm 16:11 "You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are \_\_\_\_\_."
- Read 1 Corinthians 2:9 "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the \_\_\_\_\_ of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

20. There will be much to do in heaven—we'll never have a dull moment.

- Read Isaiah 65:21,22 "They shall build \_\_\_\_\_ and inhabit them; They shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit."

21. We will continue to worship God in the New Jerusalem and we will keep the Sabbath, too.

- Read Isaiah 66:22,23 "For as the new heavens and the new earth which I will make shall remain before Me," says the Lord, "So shall your descendants and your name remain. And it shall come to pass that from one New Moon to another, And from one \_\_\_\_\_ to another, all flesh shall come to worship before Me," says the Lord."

22. Heaven will be a very real place. We are told that we will be like Jesus. We don't exactly know what that means, but we, by faith, know that it means eternal glory with Him. Imagine how wonderful it will be to associate with Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord and converse with Him.

- Read a John 3:2 "Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be \_\_\_\_\_ Him, for we shall see Him as He is."

23. Time is running out for our earth. History is approaching a climax. Our personal time (life) may end at any moment. May each of us take this opportunity to call upon His name and open the heart's door to His Holy Spirit.

- Read Isaiah 55:6 "Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is \_\_\_\_\_."
- Read Revelation 3:20 "Behold, I stand at the door and \_\_\_\_\_. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me."

24. The heavenly home that God has prepared for us is ours free. God wants us to be there to share eternal happiness with Him. He offers it without cost to us because His Son paid for it with His blood. Earnestly, tenderly, He asks us to accept it. Read carefully the next text and listen to His voice:

- Read Revelation 22:17 "And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts \_\_\_\_\_. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely."
- ⇒ May none of us postpone our acceptance of this offer. Let none of us put it off till a more 'convenient season.' His Spirit is speaking now. This moment, above all others, has been given to us as a gift from God. Let us not resist His pleading or make an excuse for not doing what our conscience tells us is right.
- ⇒ Pray this prayer: "Father, I come. I yield my all to You. I want to be part of Your kingdom. Forgive my sins and accept me as Your child. Save me. In Jesus' name. Amen."

## Applying this lesson

25. Looming on the horizon of each person in the world is the greatest event of all time, the return in majesty and power of Jesus Christ. At that time all choices will have been made for or against an eternal home in heaven.
- Heaven is a choice. We must decide to follow Jesus Christ wherever He leads and walk daily in His Spirit.
  - \_\_\_\_\_A check mark at left indicates that I accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior and choose to live with Him eternally in the earth made new.
26. The New Jerusalem that comes down out of heaven to settle on the earth made new is a literal city whose description is given in Revelation 21 and 22.
- After studying this lesson I understand that heaven is a real, literal place that has been prepared by Jesus Christ for all those who follow Him.
  - \_\_\_\_\_A check mark at left indicates that I desire to live eternally in the New Jerusalem.
27. The Lamb's Book of Life will have a list of everyone who is saved.
- I understand that to have my name recorded by Jesus Christ in the Lamb's Book of Life, my sins must be forgiven and forsaken and I must live a life in obedience to God's will as outlined in His Word.
  - \_\_\_\_\_A check mark at left indicates that I desire my name written in the Lamb's Book of Life.