

HEAVEN



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In the beginning, when there was just God, He – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – lived in a perfect place which we call Heaven.

This place, the Presence of God, is described by Ezekiel in a vision. (Ezekiel 1: 22 and 26-28)



(I saw) an expanse, sparkling like ice, and awesome. Above the expanse was what looked like a throne of sapphire, and high above on the throne was a figure like that of a man. I saw that from what appeared to be his waist up he looked like glowing metal, as if full of fire, and that from there down he looked like fire; and brilliant light surrounded him. Like the appearance of a rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the radiance around him. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord.



So the Bible recognises Heaven as a real place. At the end of the Bible this place is described as a city. (Revelation 21:23-27 and verse 4)



The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendour into it. The glory and honour of the nations will be brought into it.

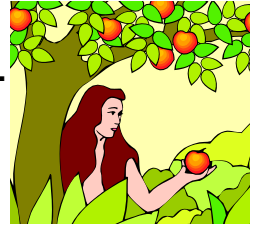
Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away. He who was seated on the throne said, I am making all things new! These words are trustworthy and true.



So why did God put people on the earth if He intends that the nations will be in Heaven?

When God made people He gave them a free will because they are made in His image. He wanted them to follow His guidance and learn from Him as He met with them every day. But Eve listened to the snake that spoke to her and ate the forbidden fruit.



They had to leave the Garden of Eden, the perfect place on the earth and they would eventually die.

But God made a plan. Jesus would come as a man and pay the death penalty that Adam and Eve had incurred.

Jesus was born of Mary 1000s of years later, after many prophets had spoken how He would come. This is the story of the Old Testament.

After Jesus was born the New Testament tells His story. His message was that the Kingdom of God is near. He asks His hearers to repent. This word means that we are to change our attitudes to God and be ready to listen to Him, instead of going our own way, as Adam and Eve had done.

When we do this God gives us eternal life as a gift. This gift is only possible because Jesus paid the death penalty on the Cross.

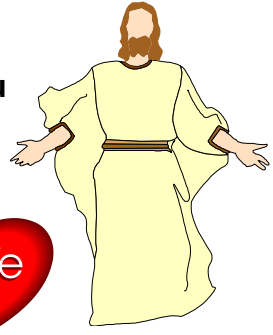


Eternal life eventually takes us to Heaven, the place where we spend the rest of our existence after we leave this earth.

All these plans that God made were because He made people to be His family, and like any good father He knows what is best for us.

He wants us to choose His way because He is love and love does not force people. We are free to reject His offer, but if Heaven is the reward of choosing to be in His family we need to know that Heaven is real.

Jesus holds His hands out to invite you into His family and His Kingdom.



You can tell Him today that you would like to receive Him into your life.

This is what you can say –

"I would like to be in your family so I want to turn away from my own way and learn yours, Jesus. Please come into my life. Heaven sounds like a wonderful place."

When you say this to Jesus the angels that are already in Heaven sing for joy.

