



What is Heaven like?

—by Peter Hammond

The Apostle Paul wrote: *“For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens.”* 2 Cor 5:1.

What will Heaven be like?

We are told that there will be no hunger or thirst (Rev 7:16); no more sorrow, cry-

branches in their hands.” Rev 7:9.

In Heaven we will enjoy reunion with loved ones who have gone ahead (Genesis 25:8, 17; 35:29; 37:35; 49:33; Numbers 31:2; Deuteronomy 32:50).

Heavenly experiences

We will experience glory (Ps 73:23-24); the presence of God (Ecc 12:5-7); Divine com-

being with Christ which is far better (Phil 1:23); perfection (Heb 12:23); safety from the second death (Rev 2:11); the Morning Star and authority over the nations (Rev 2:26-28).

Christ will confess your name before the Father and His holy angels (Rev 3:5; Matt 10:32-33); the waters of life (Rev 7:16); and worship (Heb 12:22-24; Rev 4:9-11; 5:8-14; 7:9-12; 11; 16-18; 19:1-7).

Glorified bodies

We will have glorified bodies. Our senses will be enlarged greatly in their capacities. We already know that, compared to some other creatures in this world, we are almost deaf and blind.

What will it be like when we are released from the bondage of sin? We can hear beautiful music, which causes our hearts to thrill now, but we are limited to such a small range and scale. Imagine the sounds we will hear when we have perfect hearing on every level!

Like eagles

Compared to the eagles we are almost blind - when you consider the telescopic, microscopic, ultraviolet and infrared sight capabilities of these magnificent birds. What will it be like in Heaven when our vision is enlarged in perfected resurrected bodies?

Unlimited

Imagine the incredible intellectual stimulation of inhabiting a sinless universe. Our fallen human minds can barely contemplate what tremendous intellectual adventures we will enjoy in Heaven. Even the greatest geniuses barely use 10% of their mental potential on earth.

Imagine when all sorrow and aches, and pains, and grief, and selfishness, and anger, and temper, and pride, and deceit, and darkness, and malice is removed! If we can enjoy so much beauty, even in this fallen world and under the burden of sin, imagine what indescribable beauty will be

enjoyed in the Paradise of God!

“And God will wipe away every tear from our eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor sighing. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” Rev 21:4

We will stand before our Creator

We do not know when, or under what cir-

who have done good will rise to live and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned.” John 5:28-29.

At death we leave behind everything we have and we take with us everything that we are. The character with which we die is the character with which we will appear at the Judgment. Only those who have surrendered their lives to Christ will

“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” 1 Corinthians 2:9

When we die, we will stand before Almighty God, our Creator and Eternal Judge, and we will have to give Him an account of our lives.

ing, pain or death (Rev 21:4); and no more night (Rev 22:5).

The Apostle John was given a glimpse of Heaven: *“I looked and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples and tongues, standing before the Throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes with palm*

fort (Luke 16:25); the Tree of Life (Luke 23:43; 2 Cor 12:4; Rev 2:7) and Communion with God (Matt 22:32).

We will experience coming into possession of the treasures we sent to Heaven while on earth (Matt 6:19-21; Luke 12:21; 33-34; 1 Tim. 6:17-19); opportunities to please God (2 Cor 5:9); gain (Phil 1:21);

cumstances, our lives will come to an end. What we do know is that when we die, we will stand before Almighty God, our Creator and Eternal Judge, and we will have to give Him an account of our lives.

“Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear His voice and come out – those

be able to enter Heaven.

In the light of eternity

If you are prepared to die then you are ready for anything. Until you are free to die, you are not free to live. It ought to be our business of everyday to prepare for our last day. If we take care of our life, then »

What is Heaven like?



God will take care of our death.

In the Bible we are told that it is better to go to a funeral than to a party, because the living should always be reminded that death waits for us all (Ecc 7:2).

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under Heaven; a time

"Only one life, it will soon be passed. Only what's done for Christ will last." We need to work out our priorities in the light of Eternity. We need to invest our time and talents and treasure into those things which are going to last for Eternity: the people of God, the Word of God and the

One day you will be standing before the Judgement Seat of Christ where "God will judge men's secrets..." Romans 2:16; "All the harsh words..." Jude 15 and "Judge each man's work impartially..." 1 Peter 1:17.

In Eternity, will any of us regret praying too much? Studying the Bible too intently? Sacrificing too much for God's Kingdom? Being too forgiving? Being too generous? Too evangelistic?

If you knew that you were to die next year, what would you do differently this year? We all need to work out our priorities in the light of Eternity.

to be born and a time to die..." Ecc 3:1-2. "Our days on earth are like a shadow..." 1 Chron 29:15

Your life is short

"Each man's life is but a breath." Psalm 39:5. We are only one heartbeat from eternity. Being mindful of death should make us serious, industrious and conscientious.

Kingdom of God. These are what are ultimately important.

Review your life

In the light of Eternity, and knowing that you are going to die and stand before the Creator and Eternal Judge, you need to review your life's work, your family relationships, habits and activities.

Are you ready?

If you knew that you were to die next year, what would you do differently this year?

*Work out your priorities in the light of Eternity. You must be ready at all times for that which can happen at any time. **Are you ready?** Can you say: "For me to live is Christ and to die is gain." Phil 1:21? ■*

DR. PETER HAMMOND is a Missionary who has pioneered Evangelistic missions throughout Mozambique, Angola and Sudan. Tel: 021-689-4480; mission@frontline.org.za; www.frontline.org.za.