

Heaven

Fr. Jacob Nadian
St. Bishoy Coptic Orthodox Church

Introduction

When we speak about heaven, we immediately think of that high place in the sky that we look up to praying and contemplating about our relationship with God and man. It is therefore defined by many as the abode of God, the angels, and the spirits of the righteous after death; the place or state of existence of the blessed after the mortal life. Although this is true, there are many questions about heaven that I will answer in this article. These include:

1. What is heaven?
2. How many heavens are there?
3. If God is everywhere, why do we look up to heaven when we pray?
4. How beautiful is heaven? What is the meaning of a new heaven and a new earth?
5. What is the description of the city of God?
6. How will we live in heaven?

1. What is heaven?

Heaven is defined in Arabic as “Sama”, which means high or exalted. In Hebrew, it is called “Shamayim” which is an expression close to the Arabic word since they both come from one linguistic origin. *Shamayim* (שָׁמַיִם), denotes a component of the cosmos (the other elements being the earth (*erets*) and the underworld (*sheol*)), the dwelling place of God and other divine beings. In English, the word heaven comes from the word “which is heaved”, meaning to raise or lift with force, i.e., to go high up the ground. It defines the sky, firmament, or expanse of space surrounding the earth.

2. How many heavens are there?

To answer this question, let us read the following Scripture:

- ✠ “I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago, 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. And I know such a man, whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows, how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter” (2 Corinthians 12:2-4)

What that means? There are three heavens. If Paradise is the third heaven, what will be the first and second heavens? The First heaven is the atmosphere just above the earth where birds and planes can fly. It has the air that we breathe and the clouds that we see in the sky. The Second heaven is the cosmological heaven that contains the stars and the planets.

There is also what is called in the Bible as the “heaven of heavens”, that houses the throne of God:

- ✠ “Indeed heaven and the highest heavens belong to the Lord your God, also the earth with all that is in it” (Deuteronomy 10:14)
- ✠ “But who is able to build Him a temple, since heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain Him? Who am I then, that I should build Him a temple, except to burn sacrifice before Him” (2 Chronicles 2:6)

- ✠ “You alone are the Lord; You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and everything on it, the seas and all that is in them, and You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You” (Nehemiah 9:6)
- ✠ “Praise Him, you heavens of heavens, and you waters above the heavens” (Psalm 148:4)

3. If God is everywhere, why do we look up to heaven when we pray?

Although we believe that God is everywhere, the Bible tells us about the high place of God that makes us always look up to heaven when we pray. For example, the Bible in Genesis 17 tells us that the Lord and two angels visited Abraham. After the two angels left, going their way to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah, the Lord stayed behind to talk to Abraham. When He finished the talk, the Bible says:

- ✠ “Then He finished talking with him, and God went up from Abraham” (Genesis 17:22)

Why didn't the Bible say something like “the Lord disappeared” from Abraham or “he went away” or “walked away to join the angels”, etc. This clearly indicates the high place where the Lord is. It also directs our attention to always look up when we want to speak to God, to pray, and contemplate in our mind about His high place above all the universe.

We also read in the First Book of Kings about the coinsecration of the Temple by King Solomon. In his prayers, he said:

- ✠ “Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands toward heaven and he said: Lord God of Israel, there is no God in heaven above or on earth below like You, who keep Your covenant and mercy with Your servants who walk before You with all their hearts... But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built... And may You hear the supplication of Your servant and of Your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. Hear in heaven Your dwelling place; and when You hear, forgive” (1 Kings 8:22-30)

The Bible also tells us:

- ✠ “The Lord looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek God” (Psalm 14:2)
- ✠ “if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land” (2 Chronicles 7:14).

Looking down means He is in a high place and same goes for hearing from heaven.

Also, when the Lord spoke to Nicodemus, He said:

- ✠ “No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven” (John 3:13)

Here He was talking about His divinity because He said: the one who is talking to you now on earth is the one who came down from heaven, incarnate and became man, and also ascend to the heavens as He did on the Day of Ascension. So, to ascend and come down, it means God's place is high up in heaven.

The Lord also told His disciples that He will ascend into the heavens where He was before, during His teaching about communion and the partaking of His body and blood:

- ✠ “I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life

of the world...Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said: This is a hard saying; who can understand it? When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples complained about this, He said to them: Does this offend you? What then if you should see the Son of Man ascend where He was before?” (John 6:51-62)

Similarly, when the Lord reproached St. Mary Magdalene about her coming for a second time to check if He is truly risen or not, He told her:

✠ “Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God’” (John 20:17)

Some people mistakenly think that the Lord didn't want her to touch His resurrected and glorified body. This is not true because she earlier came and touched Him; as St. Matthew tells us:

✠ “Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb... And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, ‘Rejoice!’ So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him” (Matthew 28:1-9)

God reproached Mary Magdalene because after she saw Him and touched Him, she believed the false rumors of the guards and Jews that His disciples came at night and stole His body. So, the Lord wanted to tell her that now you can't touch me since I did not get to that higher up place of the Father in your mind. This is why the Lord said “My Father and your Father”; meaning “My Father” is higher up than yours. Otherwise, He could have said “our Father”.

Also on the Day of Ascension, the Bible describes this magnificent scene saying:

✠ “Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven” (Acts 1:9-11)

So, similarly, the Bible could have just said that the Lord disappeared from them. But as you can see from the Scripture, the word “taken up” was repeated a lot to signify the higher up place of God and to encourage us to do what the disciples did: “gazing up into heaven”.

4. How beautiful is heaven? What is the meaning of a new heaven and a new earth?

The beauty of heaven lies in the fact that we will always be with God forever and His only angels and the saints. The Lord said:

✠ “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” (John 14:2-3)

The Bible describes that beautiful place using many different names like the City of God, Heaven, Heavenly Jerusalem, etc. It is a new heaven, the Kingdom of Heaven where current earth and heavens will disappear before Him; and will not be there anymore:

✠ “Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them” (Revelation 20:11)

Why” Because a new heaven and a new earth will appear:

✠ “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” (Revelation 21:1)

What does it mean to have “a new heaven and a new earth”? It means this earth where we live in and all three heavens that we talked about above will go away. A new heaven means the Kingdom of Heaven where we will live with God forever. All righteous people who are now waiting in Paradise will go to the Kingdom of Heavens. A new earth means getting settled in this Kingdom; everyone in his designated place since the Lord told us that in His Father’s house there are many mansions. St. Peter describes this beautiful place and says:

✠ “Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells” (2 Peter 3:13)

The Kingdom of Heaven will be opened for all of us after the last day of life on earth. This day is called the Day of General Resurrection; where God performs His greatest miracle and raises up all bodies to unite with their respective souls and all humans stand before the throne. This when books of lives are opened and judgment is done; that is why this day is also called the Day of Judgment. Before that day, Satan used to come during meetings of God with His saintly angels to complain against God’s people. The Bible describes this meeting in the story of Job:

✠ “Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. And the Lord said to Satan: From where do you come? So Satan answered the Lord and said: From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it. Then the Lord said to Satan: Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil? So Satan answered the Lord and said: Does Job fear God for nothing? Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face” (Job 1:6-11)

St. Paul explains that Satan always complains against us, but assures us that God will justify:

✠ “Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies” (Romans 8:33)

Therefore, Satan will never enter the new heaven, the Kingdom of Heaven, because he will be cast in the lake of fire:

1. “Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven: Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down” (Revelation 12:10)
2. “Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone” (Revelation 19:20)
3. “The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever” (Revelation 20:10)

The Lord Jesus also spoke about the passing away of the current heavens and earth:

✠ “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away” (Matthew 24:35)

Similarly, St. Paul said:

4. “You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You remain; and they will all grow old like a garment” (Hebrews 1:10-11)

If this is the definition of the new heaven and the new earth, what does it mean that there will be no more sea (Revelations 21:1 above)?

To answer this question, we need to understand the following:

1. It is known that there are many different seas in the earth that separate between continents, countries and people. In heaven, there is no separation. We will all be one people of God, speaking one language, an angelic language of praise.
2. The water of the sea is salty and sour; however heaven is beautiful and sweet.
3. The sea represents tribulations, troubles and worries; however in heaven there is peace, safety and security. The Bible resembles wicked people and doubters to the sea saying:
 - ✠ “But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt” (Isaiah 57:20)
 - ✠ “He who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind” (James 1:6)

5. What is the description of the city of God?

Let us read the following Scripture from the Book of Revelation, Chapter 21:

5. And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, 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. 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 tribes 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 apostles of the Lamb. And he who talked with me had a gold 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: the first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass. But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. 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” (Revelation 21:10-23)

Let us understand the meaning of the Scripture:

1. The city has the glory of God and her light was like a most precious stone. This reminds us with how the skin and face of Moses was shining for being in the presence of God. (Exodus 34:29). This tells us about the great shining and light that we will possess for living with God forever in the City of God.

2. The city is surrounded with a great and high wall and has twelve gates indicating the gigantic size of the city and its security where no one can get into this fortress. It also indicates that nothing defiled or corrupt will enter it; as the Bible said:
 - ✠ “But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life” (Revelation 21:27)
3. The city has twelve gates with twelve angels at the gates. The use of the number twelve refers to the children of the kingdom who protected by the angels of God.
4. The names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel are written on these gates while the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb are written on the twelve foundations showing that this great city will house all faithful from the Old and New Testaments.
5. The writing of the names of the apostles on the twelve foundations shows that the Christian faith must be founded the teaching of the apostles; as St. Paul said (and not any other invented denominations):
 - ✠ “But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ...Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone” (Ephesians 2:13-20)
6. The city had three gates on each side (East, West, North, South) referring to people coming from all corners of the earth:
 - ✠ “After these things 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 branches in their hands” (Revelation 7:9)
7. The city is has equal dimension (length, height, breadth) with twelve thousand furlongs referring to perfection of people in this city and equality in the sense of being all children of God. The twelve thousand furlongs shows how huge this city is. It is a symbolic number showing how believing in the trinity and following God’s commandments (10x10x10) based on the foundations of the apostles (12) makes us enjoy living in this great city. Just a side note: A furlong is a measure of distance in imperial units and U.S. customary units equal to one-eighth of a mile, equivalent to 220 yards, 660 feet, 40 rods, or 10 chains. The exact value of the furlong varies slightly among English-speaking countries. Five furlongs are approximately 1 kilometer (1.0058 km is a closer approximation). Since the original *definition* of the meter was one-quarter of one ten-millionth of the circumference of the Earth (along the great circle coincident with the meridian of longitude passing through Paris), the circumference of the Earth is about 40,000 km or about 200,000 furlongs.
8. The city was pure gold indicating the richness the king of the city is and the great wealth of its residence. The clear glass indicates the purity of the people living in the city.
9. The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones referring to the virtues that God bestows on us. The color of these precious stones represents the original and true color of light, the light of the world, the Lord Jesus Christ. It also includes the light of the rainbow that represents the peaceful covenant between God and man. This fulfills what the Lord spoke about through Isaiah:
 - ✠ “For a mere moment I have forsaken you, but with great mercies I will gather you. With a little wrath I hid My face from you for a moment; but with everlasting kindness I will have mercy on you,” says the Lord, your Redeemer. For this is like the waters of Noah to Me; for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah would no longer cover the earth, so have I sworn that I would not be angry with you, nor rebuke you. For the mountains shall depart and the hills be

removed, but My kindness shall not depart from you, nor shall My covenant of peace be removed," says the Lord, who has mercy on you. O you afflicted one, tossed with tempest, and not comforted, behold, I will lay your stones with colorful gems, and lay your foundations with sapphires. I will make your pinnacles of rubies, your gates of crystal, and all your walls of precious stones. All your children shall be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the peace of your children. In righteousness you shall be established; you shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear; and from terror, for it shall not come near you. Indeed they shall surely assemble, but not because of Me. Whoever assembles against you shall fall for your sake. Behold, I have created the blacksmith who blows the coals in the fire, who brings forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the spoiler to destroy. No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is from Me," says the Lord" (Isaiah 54:7-17)

10. The twelve gates were twelve pearls; each individual gate was of one pearl. This means that he owns a precious pearl will enter from this gate. What pearl? The Lord Himself spoke about this pearl and this gate when He said:

- ✠ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it" (Matthew 13:45-46)
- ✠ "I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture" (John 10:9)

6. How will we live in heaven?

A) No hunger, thirst, heat or cold

- ✠ "They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat" (Revelation 7:16)

All what human being needs is love. God knows that and He offered it by word and action. He loved us so much that He gave up His only begotten Son to save us. Sadly, we, humans, do not show or share or express this love to one another. We either hurt each other's feelings or act in a cold way by not showing any feeling toward our loved ones, the closest ones to us at home, to our wives or husbands or children. So, if on earth we were faced with hunger for love, thirst for a word of comfort and support, heat from people's cruelty and oppression, cold from someone not feeling our feelings, God will make it up for us. He will welcome us with His warm love and passionate bosom, not making us in need of anything.

However, in case you wonder about how will we not hunger or thirst? What will we eat or drink? The Lord answers:

- ✠ "To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God...To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat" (Revelation 2:7-17)
- ✠ "For the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters" (Revelation 7:17)

B) No death, sorrow, crying or pain

- ✠ "There shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away" (Revelation 21:4)

And why Lord “the former things have passed away”? Because all of these grieving issues of death, sorrow, crying and pain were the fruits of sin. In heaven, there is no sin anymore. There will always be comfort, joy and happiness.

C) No curse anymore

✠ “And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it” (Revelation 22:3)

Curse was also the result of sin. It was the first time we hear about it when Adam and Eve committed the sin. The Lord said:

✠ “Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life” (Genesis 3:17)

And we heard again the word “cursed” when Cain sinned and killed his brother Abel. The Lord told him:

✠ “So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand” (Genesis 4:11)

D) No darkness

✠ “There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever” (Revelation 22:5)

Darkness is simply described as the absence of light. How many of us who lived in darkness for the absence of justice in their life. How many of us were put down because of the injustice of fellow humans and discrimination in society. How many of us were persecuted for following the Lord Jesus Christ and died for His same. All these are some little examples of darkness. But thank God, after long nights and darkness, there is day and light forever. It is the light of our Lord who will shine our lives forever and bring justice, peace and security into our life forever.

E) No tears

✠ “And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes” ” (Revelation 7:17; Revelation 21:4)

I just wonder about how much tears we poured crying for just one peaceful night, for losing a beloved spouse or a son or a daughter or a dear friend. How many times did we cry in our life because of a non caring husband or wife, for neglect of family and friends, for hurt from people at work, for abuse from the closest people to our hearts, from prejudice because of race or color of our skin, from your loved ones who instead of saying “I love you”, they say “I hate you”. Humans are becoming like machines with no emotions or feelings anymore. They only love you when you are fun to be around, when you help them, when you give them what they want. When you are tired and in need of love and support, everyone will turn his back on you. God is the only one who will never turn His back on you in this earth or in heaven. He will wipe away every tear and He will reward you abundantly for enduring these hardships.

F) No ignorance

✠ “For we know in part and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away... For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known” (1 Corinthians 13:9-12)

How much do we really know about God and understand His wisdom? Almost nothing! We struggle to know a little bit about Him through the Bible. But; as St. Paul said:

✠ “Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out” (Romans 11:33)

Our good Father in heaven will teach us all about His wisdom, His creation, and His love to mankind because we are His children who will inherit the kingdom of God.

G) No corruption, dishonor or weakness

✠ “So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body” (1 Corinthians 15:42-44)

When sin entered into the world because of the fall of Adam and Eve, corruption and dishonor followed and destroyed humanity. However, the Lord renewed our nature when He died on the cross for us, paid our debts to the father and prepared us to inherit His kingdom. So, when we are raised and are ready to enter the Kingdom of heaven, we will be in incorruption, in glory and in power. All of these will like His reflection on us who are called His children.

H) No envy or strife but love and harmony

✠ “How good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down on the beard, the beard of Aaron, running down on the edge of his garments. It is like the dew of Hermon, Descending upon the mountains of Zion; for there the Lord commanded the blessing -- Life forevermore” (Psalm 133:1-3)

Our struggle on earth will be over the minutes we enter heaven. We struggle here to live in peace and security. In heaven we will live with the King of peace, as one family in a great harmony with great love.

I) Will learn a new song of angelic praise

✠ “They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth” (Revelation 14:3)

We hear about angels and their praise and we always wish to see them and hear their beautiful songs. In heaven, we will not wish anymore because we will sing with them the new song of love with no language barrier or race or color, but all as one people of god.

J) Will meet our loved ones who preceded us

✠ “After these things 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 branches in their hands” (Revelation 7:9)

This is greatest reward of all. We cry to death for losing a beloved one. Christianity gives us that hope that we will meet again. Husbands and wives will get together again along with their children to complete their love journey that started on earth. It is no fair that God unites a husband and a wife as one on earth and then separate them in heaven. God will reunite us and reignite that love forever.

Some people wonder about God's answer to the Sadducees:

‡ “You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven” (Matthew 22:29-30)

People think that this verse means that we will not know each other but all live like brothers and sisters. As I said many times before, to make a doctrine or a theory, please read what is before and after the verse you are using and add more from Old and New Testaments teachings.

The Sadducees were referring to God's law in the Old Testament about the brother who dies without having children, then his brother must marry the woman to bring forth children and call the first child after the deceased person so his name is not blot out of Israel. They were asking about sexual relationship in heaven. That is why God told them “you are mistaken”? Why Lord? Because there is no sex in heaven. We will be like angels. We don't get married anymore and we don't procreate anymore. This is all done here on earth. There is absolutely nothing of this sort in heaven. It is pure life like the angels.

In conclusion, to enjoy this great life in such great city, struggle hard and conquer because He promised:

‡ “And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to everyone according to his work” (Revelation 22:12)