

Heaven

“...and your days of sorrow will end.”

Isaiah 60:20

Play the song ‘I Can Only Imagine’ by MercyMe as people enter the class

Will there be sunsets and day/night cycles?

While God will be our light source, it doesn’t say that there will be no more Sun and Moon. It only says that we won’t need them for our light source.

Revelation 21:23, 22:5 and Isaiah 60:19-21

Darkness isn’t evil; God created it before the fall. ***Genesis 1:5***

Night is also associated with positive things like time with family after a hard day’s work (work which we’ll enjoy, by the way), plus opportunity to talk, rest, have dinner with loved ones, etc. For us to see the stars, there will have to be night-time. This is speculation, but there may be diffused light or twilight – maybe not total darkness. Maybe the light of God will be emanating from us. But darkness, in whatever amount, will not be a fearful thing, like it is now.

What about lakes, rivers and seas or oceans?

Revelation 21:1 says there won’t be any seas. Maybe seas were the result of the flood.

The core meaning may be that there will no longer be cold, treacherous waters that separate nations or destroy ships; no more poisoned salt waters and drowning of our loved ones. To ancient peoples, the sea was frightful and fearsome; a watery grave.

But there will be rivers. ***Revelation 22:1,2***

Rivers flow somewhere, so we could expect lakes...

Isaiah 60:5-9 speaks of ships traveling the sea.

Somehow the “no more seas” of ***Revelation 21*** and the “wealth of the seas” in ***Isaiah 60*** will be compatible. Maybe the new Earth will have large bodies of fresh water where we’ll dive without tanks, masks or fear of death. Maybe we’ll be able to play with God’s underwater creatures.

Maybe the salt water will all become fresh water and won’t be poisonous anymore.

Ezekiel 47:7-9

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Will there be seasons and varying weather?

Ezekiel 34:26,27 says showers in season will help the ground to yield its crops. Is rain a bad thing? No, it's good. Will rain turn to snow at higher elevations? Why not? Just as resurrection people will still have eyes, ears, etc., so the new Earth will have snow, rain and wind. It's something that we won't have to be fearful about. It will not cause death and destruction. Lightening, thunder, rain and snow all declare God greatness. ***Job 37:3-6*** There is no reason that these won't exist in the new Earth. These things will not cause death and destruction. It's something that we won't have to be fearful about. Nature will be a source of joy and pleasure; not fear and death...

Will we miss anything from the old Earth?

While we will have the memory from the old Earth (even our memories will be redeemed), we won't miss anything. Gone will be sin, the curse, death and suffering. The new Earth will be so vastly superior to the old Earth that we won't miss anything. Our memories will be used to remember the times when we were obedient to God and we'll see how that produced good things, even if we didn't see them on the old Earth. God will fashion us to be precisely what He will give us, so what He gives us will be exactly what we want. Our needs will become our wants...

Lesson 5

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What will our lives be like?

Will we look like ourselves?

The three disciples recognized Moses and Elijah in **Matthew 17:2,3**. We'll recognize Abraham, Isaac and Jacob at the great wedding feast in **Matthew 8:11**.

What will our bodies be like?

The most beautiful person you've ever seen is still under the curse; a shadow of the beauty that once characterized humanity in Adam and Eve. My guess is that we will have a natural physical beauty that may even come from our spiritual self. Racial and gender (male/female) identities will continue. **Revelation 5:9; 7:9**

Was Jesus genderless after His resurrection? No! No one mistook Him for a female or as androgynous. Gender is a God-created aspect of our humanity. Some people say that Paul supports genderless-ness in **Galatians 3:28**.

All he is saying here is that men and women are all equal before God (context is everything).

Our bodies will be redeemed also. While we'll still be recognized as us, all our imperfections will be gone like pimples, scars, bad eyes, bad hearing, allergies, etc. We'll still have fat cells but they'll be in a healthy proportion.

Will we maintain our own identities?

In **John 20:10-18, 24-29** and **21:15-22** Jesus deals with Mary, Thomas and Peter in very personal ways, drawing on His previous knowledge of them.

John said in **John 21:4-7** “It is the Lord” meaning it's the Jesus we had known. We can banish all fear of being absorbed into the “All is One” beliefs of Buddhism and Hinduism, or being re-incarnated into something else. The self which we were endowed with by God is His gift of life to us. We are the same person that He died for. That self will endure. Death will not destroy us. **1st Corinthians 15:42-44, 53-58**

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What will our lives be like? (continued)

Will our names be the same?

Probably. The names of the 12 tribes of Israel and the patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, etc.) and the 12 Apostles are the same. ***Revelation 21:12-14***

God allowed Adam to name the animals. ***Genesis 2:19-20***

Our names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life. ***Revelation 20:15; 21:27***

We’ll receive new names in Heaven (***Isaiah 62:2; 65:15; Revelation 2:17; 3:12***) but that doesn’t invalidate our old names.

Maybe we’ll be called Mary the Faithful or Jim the Perseverer.

C.S. Lewis says, “Until you have given up yourself to Him, you will not have a real self. Sameness is found in all the people who haven’t surrendered to Him. How monotonously alike all the great tyrants and conquerors have been; how gloriously different are the saints... Nothing in you that has not died will ever be resurrected from the dead. Look for yourself and you will only find hatred, pride, despair, rage and decay. Look for Christ and you will find Him and everything else good will be thrown in.”

Will we be angels?

No, this is a Mormon belief! We will rule over angels. ***1st Corinthians 6:2,3***

Exactly how, we don’t know. Angels were created by God. ***Colossians 1:16***

They do His bidding and serve us on Earth. ***Hebrews 1:14; Matthew 18:10***

Sometimes we have entertained angels and haven’t been aware of it. ***Hebrews 13:2***

Angels are angels and humans are humans and they are not the same nor ever will be.

Hebrews 2:6,7 and Psalm 8:3-5

Humans becoming angels has its roots in evolutionary theory...

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What will our lives be like? (continued)

Will we have emotions?

Our emotions are from God as we were created with them. But they have been marred by sin. **Revelation 21:4** doesn't say we won't have emotions/tears but that these emotions/tears won't be due to sorrow. We may have emotions/tears of joy. Can you imagine meeting loved ones in Heaven? Or meeting Christ Himself?

Will we have desires?

Yes, but they won't be unholy or sinful desires. We won't have to battle them like we do now. Won't it be great to enjoy food without being gluttonous? We'll express affection and admiration and love without lust, fornication or betrayal. Those bad desires just won't exist.

Buddhism teaches that one day all desires will be eliminated. Christianity teaches the exact opposite; that one day our desires will be redeemed. What we should do will at last be identical with what we want to and will do. That's real deliverance!

Will we know everything?

Only God is omniscient (all-knowing). **1st Corinthians 13:12** says that we will 'know fully'. When applied to humans, it means that we will know to the fullest extent of our ability. Note that Paul didn't say that we will know all things. We'll be flawless, but not knowing everything isn't a flaw. It's part of being a finite human being. We'll still be finite but all of our faculties will be unhindered by sin.

In **Ephesians 2:6,7** the word 'show' means to reveal. So in Heaven, there will be an ongoing, progressive revelation by God to us. So we'll be learning. Where does God's grace extend to? All of creation!

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Learning about what?

Anything and everything that God wants us to know. Maybe we'll learn about the stars, about if time travel is possible, about the inner working of the soul, about many of God's fish and animals. Also, we could learn about astronomy, chemistry, biology, physics, etc. We'll have an eternity to study these things. We'll definitely learn more about God. It was God, not Satan, that made us learners. Because of the doctrine of continuity, what we learn here, carries over into Heaven.

The Bible never teaches sameness in Heaven or Earth. We will be individuals, each with our own God-given gifts but we won't be jealous of other people's gifts. We'll just revel in our own gifts. Can you imagine how faster and easier we'll learn with our resurrected minds? While learning and education are sometimes bland and boring on this Earth, they won't be in Heaven. Think of what it will be like to discuss gravity with Isaac Newton or electricity with Michael Faraday or with some other person or angel who has infinite patience? What about learning sermons from George Whitefield or Jonathon Edwards or family and prayer from Susanna Wesley? Intellectual curiosity isn't part of the curse. God made us with it so that we might seek out truth and find Him.

Maybe we'll time travel and observe first-hand what really happened. Maybe we'll be able to see these events with the help of another 'relational dimension' so we're actually seeing not only what happened but why it happened. Since our minds will also be resurrected, maybe we'll understand how obeying godly principles was always the right thing to do. Maybe by observing a 'spiritual dimension' we'll also see how God was answering our prayers even when we didn't think He did. Wouldn't this cause us to praise and worship God even more?

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Will there be books in heaven?

Psalm 119:89 says that the 66 books of the Bible will be there.

Revelation 20:12 says that there will be some other books in Heaven.

One is the Book of Life but other books apparently record everything anyone said or did on the old Earth, so there must be a lot of them. Your acts of faithfulness and kindness that maybe no one knows about are recorded for eternity and will be read by many in Heaven. Jesus opens a scroll (**Revelation 5:1,5**) and an angel held a scroll. **Revelation 10:2**

Also see **Psalm 56:8** and **Malachi 3:16-18**

Because we'll have stronger intellects, great curiosity and unlimited time, it's likely that books will have a greater role in Heaven (paper or electronic). But unlike some of the books on this Earth, Heaven's books will be objective and completely accurate. Many books will probably endure from the old Earth, but many will probably be written on the new Earth. When I say 'books', they may not be made out of paper. They may be electronic books or even 3-D holographic projections, so people who aren't 'book learners' can still learn.

Will we rest and/or sleep?

God rested. **Genesis 2:2**

The Sabbath was patterned after God resting. **Exodus 20:9-11**

Even the Earth was supposed to rest every 7 years. **Leviticus 25:4,5**

We're told to enter that rest in **Hebrews 4:11**. What about sleep? We can only guess but Adam and Eve probably slept because the world was created with day and night.

Will we get tired?

Maybe yes, maybe no. Couldn't resources be depleted and renewed in a perfect but finite world? If we will sleep in Heaven, we won't have insomnia or bad dreams. Our sleep will be perfect. Why would we eat from the tree of life, and drink from the river of life, if we didn't need sustenance? **Revelation 22:1,2**