



Southwest Indian Ministries Camps

Elementary Devotional

January 2023

Heaven will be amazing.

Our minds can't even imagine all the wonders that Heaven will contain. But when we read the word-pictures of Heaven in Revelation, we can get an idea of how wonderful it will be.

Introduction:

When Star Wars: Episode 7 was just a few months from release, kids and adults started to get excited as the trailers for the movie hit the theaters and the Internet. Each trailer revealed a little bit more of what we would see in the movie: new characters, new ships, new Stormtroopers, and a handful of familiar faces.



One of the most exciting videos came out less than a month before the movie's release. Disney released a very exciting trailer for the movie around Thanksgiving, and shortly after its release, someone posted a video of John Boyega, the actor playing Finn, watching that trailer. Boyega and all the other cast members had worked hard on the movie, but they only knew so much of what would be in the film. They had to imagine the rest. When John finally sees what the movie will actually look like for the first time he falls off the back of his couch in excitement.

As we wrap up our series on Heaven, we want to turn our imaginations to what Heaven is like. The Bible gives us many words and descriptions for Heaven, and some of the most vivid word pictures are found in Revelation. Let's look at a few of the things John had to say about his vision of our future home.

REVELATION 21:1-5, 10-11, and 18-23

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The first heaven and the first earth had disappeared. Now there was no sea. ² And I saw the holy city coming down out of heaven from God. This holy city is the new Jerusalem. It was prepared like a bride dressed for her husband. ³ I heard a loud voice from the throne. The voice said, "Now God's home is with men. He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them and will be their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death, sadness, crying, or pain. All the old ways are gone."

⁵ The One who was sitting on the throne said, "Look! I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this, because these words are true and can be trusted."

¹⁰ The angel carried me away by the Spirit to a very large and high mountain. He showed me the holy city, Jerusalem. It was coming down out of heaven from God. ¹¹ It was shining with the glory of God. It was shining bright like a very expensive jewel, like a jasper. It was clear as crystal.

¹⁸ The wall was made of jasper. The city was made of pure gold, as pure as glass. ¹⁹ The foundation stones of the city walls had every kind of jewel in them. The first cornerstone was jasper, the second was sapphire, the third was chalcedony, the fourth was emerald, ²⁰ the fifth was onyx, the sixth was carnelian, the seventh was chrysolite, the eighth was beryl, the ninth was topaz, the tenth was chrysoprase, the eleventh was jacinth, and the twelfth was amethyst. ²¹ The 12 gates were 12 pearls. Each gate was made from a single pearl. The street of the city was made of pure gold. The gold was clear as glass.

²² I did not see a temple in the city. The Lord God All-Powerful and the Lamb are the city's temple. ²³ The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it. The glory of God is its light, and the Lamb is the city's lamp.

Main Point:

John was one of Jesus' twelve disciples. Before that, he had been a simple fisherman. Now, many years after Jesus returned to Heaven, John is given a vision of the new home Jesus is preparing for every one of us. John describes a city fortified by a giant wall and decked with every kind of precious stone imaginable. He sees a place filled with light not from the sun, but God himself. He sees a place where there is no more suffering and no more death.

John did his best to capture the view with words, but when he finished writing, he knew he couldn't possibly have captured Heaven's full glory. This is the promise Jesus gave us, the promise of a world free of sin where we would live forever with Him. This is where Jesus wants us all to go and live with him.

Revelation is the end of the Bible and the end of history's greatest love story. The story began in Genesis, with God creating our beautiful world and giving it to Adam and Eve. The story took a dark turn when Adam and Eve sinned. We were cast out of God's presence; hopeless and helpless to save ourselves from the sin we inherited.

God loved us so much; he sent his son Jesus to pay the price for our sins. Jesus conquered death and rose from the grave, and if we believe in him, we will not die an eternal death. We, like Jesus, will be raised up and taken to Heaven for all eternity.



Heaven is where many of us will see relatives from the past, people we knew and people we never met who also believed in Jesus. It's a place where we will see heroes of the faith like Moses, Abraham, David, and Revelation's author himself. More importantly, we will meet Jesus himself. He will welcome us home, and we will never, ever be apart.

Can you imagine what it will be like to meet Jesus? Can you imagine a place with no sin, no pain, no sickness? No death?

John did the best he could to capture the glory of Heaven, but I think when we all walk through those gates, we will find ourselves speechless. No one on Earth has seen the glory that awaits us there, and if you thought John Boyega's reaction to the Star Wars trailer was surprising - you haven't seen anything yet.

Heaven is a real place of unimaginable beauty. It is the future home for all who believe in Jesus. Put your trust in Jesus today, and when it's your time to leave this world, you won't have to imagine Heaven any longer.



**Answer the questions and mail to: SIMCamps | 14202 N 73rd Ave | Peoria, AZ 85381.
Please print legibly.**

Camper's Name:

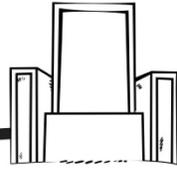
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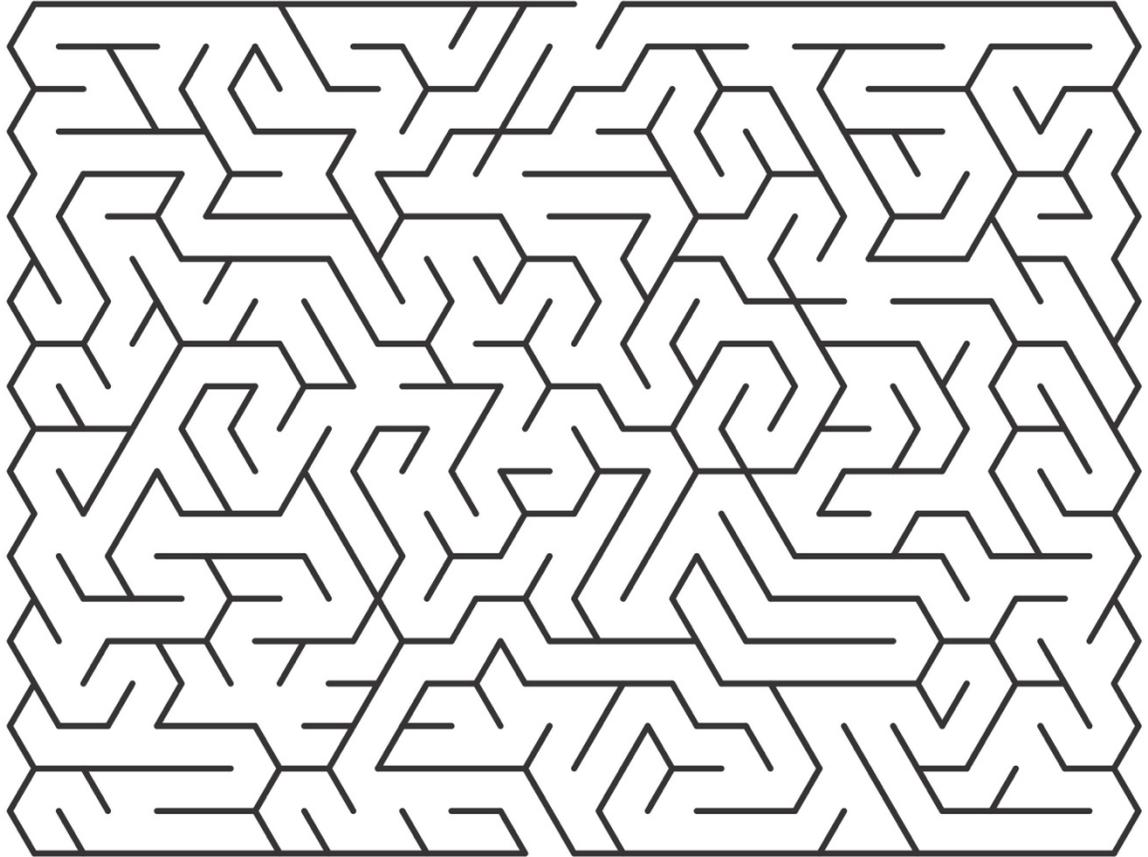
E-mail:

1. How does John describe Heaven?
2. Where does the light in Heaven come from?
3. Who will we see in Heaven?
4. What do you think it will be like living in a place with no sickness or death?
5. How can we know that we will one day go to Heaven?

Lead the people to Heaven.



FINISH



START

