

Will We Be Ourselves in Heaven?

Job 19:25-27

*“For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:
And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God:
Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another;
though my reins be consumed within me.”*

HEAVEN QUESTIONS TO PONDER (REVIEW)

- ▶ Will we live in a **MANSION** alone? John 14:1, 2
God is preparing for each of us a special place suited for us
Ill.: flying into New York
- ▶ If we are born into sin, do **CHILDREN** go to Heaven before they can accept Jesus?
Scripture opens the door to this question through its teaching that God has a special love for children. Luke 18:16; Matt. 18:2-4; Matt. 21:16; Luke 1:15; 2 Samuel 12:23; I Cor. 7:14.
What do Noah/flood and Lot/Sodom reveal? Notice what Abraham said in Gen. 18:24, 25.
- ▶ What will **FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS** be like in Heaven?
Receiving a glorified body and relocating to the New Earth doesn't erase history; it culminates history. Nothing will negate or minimize the fact that we were members of families on the old Earth. Luke 8:19-21; Mark 10:29-30
- ▶ What will happen with **HUSBANDS AND WIVES** in Heaven?
We will maintain genders in our resurrected bodies, but desire will be different.
Marriage was ALWAYS intended to be a picture of Christ and the church. Ephesians 5:31-33.

MORE HEAVEN QUESTIONS TO PONDER

The stories of the resurrection give us an idea of what our resurrected selves will be like.

“Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have,” Jesus said in Luke 24:39.

People saw Him after He was resurrected. He talked with them (Thomas, Mary Magdalene, the disciples on the road to Emmaus). He ate with them (Luke 24:41-43).

1. Will we be unique, or will we all be just alike?

Just as our DNA and fingerprints are unique now, we should expect the same of our new bodies. God created us and gave us different looks and personalities. Why would He do away with that.

What makes you *you*? It's not only your body but also your personality, traits, gifts, passions, preferences, and interests, even your memory. In the final resurrection, it seems these things will be restored and **perfected**.

2. Will we become angels?

Angels are angels. Humans are humans. Just as we have a **history**, angels have their own histories and memories. They have distinct identities, obviously, because they have names, such as Michael and Gabriel. Under God's direction, they serve us here on Earth.

"Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?" (Hebrews 1:14).

One day, we will **govern** angels. *"Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?"* (1 Cor. 6:2-3).

The fact that angels have served us on Earth will make meeting them in Heaven particularly fascinating. They may have been with us from childhood, protecting us, standing by us, doing things on our behalf (Matthew 18:10).

If we really believed angels were with us daily, here and now, wouldn't it motivate us to make wiser choices? Wouldn't we feel accountable somehow? Maybe even embarrassed. :/

Warnings:

We aren't to seek wisdom from angels (James 1:5).

We are to know that even Satan can be transformed into an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:15).

3. Will we have emotions in Heaven?

God's emotions are **regulated** and proportionate.

In Scripture, God is said to enjoy, love, laugh, take delight, and rejoice, as well as be angry, happy, jealous, and glad. Keeping in mind that our emotions are derived from God, we no doubt will experience emotional moments. Revelation reveals that repeatedly.

How many verses can you think of where God expresses emotion? They're everywhere!

While we should always avoid creating God in our image, the fact remains that we are created in His. Emotions are part of our God-created humanity, not sinful baggage to be eliminated. The gifts of the Spirit in Galatians 5 are emotions. Even angels respond emotionally (Rev. 7:11-12; 18:1-24). Hence, we should expect that in Heaven emotions will exist for God's **glory** and our **good**.

Will we cry in Heaven? Rev. 21:4 says that God will wipe away our tears. Keep in mind that these will be tears of suffering over sin and death, “the cries of the poor, the widow, the orphaned, the unborn, the persecuted” (Alcorn). These are tears coming from injustice, sorrow, and grief. So, we might shed tears of **joy** in Heaven.

4. Will we have desires in Heaven?

We will have many desires in Heaven, but they will be Heaven-driven. Everything we want will be good and good for us. God loves it when we anticipate what He has for us. “As the deer panteth . . .”

One of the greatest things about Heaven is that we will no longer have to **battle** our desires. We don’t smoke and we don’t chew, but we have some awful other desires—
To be revengeful or bitter or angry or upset . . .

In Heaven, not long after we finish one meal, we start looking forward to the next. Anticipation and desire is a big part of joy, and no doubt we will be enthralled over many things there.

*“Why give flowers their fragrance and food its taste?
Perhaps He loves to see the look on our face.”*

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