

A Sneak Preview of Heaven
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Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever. (Revelation 22:1-5 ESV)

Though we don't get an exact answer as to how the newly restored creation will look, we do receive through Saint John's vision an awesome "sneak preview" of what it means to live in the nearer presence of God in the life of the world to come.

We can surmise from John's vision in the last chapter of the New Testament that the new creation already promised to us, but not yet revealed in its fullness, will be much like the Garden of Eden before Adam's fall into sin. The providence of God for physical care and nurture may, again, be at our fingertips. No longer will we have to work the ground by the sweat of our brow. The Lord provides, just as He did before sin and even after the fall into sin. The difference is that we will receive every good and perfect thing from God without the consequences of sin.

There will be no need of sun or moon. The Lord God Himself is our light. Ponder that for a moment. It is hard to understand what life is like without the greater and lesser lights. We are so used to living this way that our feeble brains cannot fathom God Himself as our light. Nevertheless, recall the promise of God in Revelation chapter 21 where He says, "I make all things new!"

What matters most in these verses is not the exact "how" and "why" of the new creation. What matters most is living in the presence of the Lord without sin for all eternity. This is our blessed hope because of Jesus Christ, the firstborn from the dead Who has trampled down death forever in His victory over sin and the grave. This is our future in Christ. It is mind-boggling to consider now. All will become clear, though, when Christ returns to judge the living and the dead.

Even so, Lord Jesus, quickly come!