

Name: _____

Date: _____

UNDERSTANDING HEAVEN

“In My Father’s house are many mansions [...]. 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)

Objectives

Knowledge of God’s Will	God has prepared for the righteous a glorious heavenly home. He gives us the Holy Spirit as the guarantee of our inheritance.
Knowledge of God	God is holy. He reigns eternally.
Good Works	Pursue holiness. Hold on to our faith.

A. The Heavenly Kingdom in the Bible

Right now, we are simply wanderers on this earth. Just as the Israelites traveled in the wilderness, hoping to enter Canaan, we also “seek a homeland” that God has prepared for us (Jn 14:2–3; Heb 11:14–16). And from its many names, we can see that it is unlike any kingdom on earth.

B. Characteristics of the Heavenly Kingdom

1. *Our inheritance:* We are wanderers on this world, waiting for the arrival of our true home (Jn 14:2; Rev 21:7).
2. *An unshakeable and everlasting kingdom:* The kingdom will never perish, spoil, or fade. Unlike the world around us, it is everlasting (Heb 10:34; 13:14).
3. *A holy and sinless place, without need of lamp or sunlight:* There will be no chance for sin to enter (Rev 21:27; 22:5), and we will never be separated from God ever again. There, the righteous will shine alongside Jesus as the sun in the kingdom (Mt 13:43).
4. *Those who enter will be transformed:* We cannot see God as we are now, but when He returns, we will be transformed to be like Him (1 Jn 3:2).
5. *A place of rest, with no death, sorrow, or tears:* Adam and Eve had to toil and labor, but when we enter the heavenly kingdom we will be able to rest (Heb 4:9–11; Rev 21:4).

C. Inheriting the Heavenly Kingdom

1. *Be born of water and the Spirit:* If we are not baptized in water and the Spirit in accordance with the Bible, we will not enter the kingdom of heaven (Jn 3:5).
2. *Receive the kingdom as a little child:* Our hearts should be as humble and trusting as a child’s, completely dependent on our Father and eager to learn the truth (Mk 10:14–15).
3. *Seek God’s kingdom and His righteousness:* The Lord doesn’t want us to wait for His kingdom to fall into our laps. If we truly seek His kingdom, then we will prioritize God in our lives (Mt 6:33).
4. *Overcome the world:* We must hold on to our faith and fight to “walk in the Spirit” (Gal 5:25).

Life Application

1. *Pursuing Holiness:* We can be called holy when we cultivate our spiritual lives and conform ourselves to God’s will. To do so, we must learn to apply biblical principles to our everyday decisions. It isn’t easy to pursue holiness, but when we repent, humbly admit our faults, and correct our mistakes, we will be rewarded.
2. *Holding on to Our Faith:* Faith alone will not carry us into God’s kingdom (Jas 2:14–20). What “stones” or “rocks” hinder you while walking your path to heaven?

