There seems to be a lot of confusion about the subject of heaven! People have many different ideas about what heaven is like. Some think it’s unreal or just a state of mind. “It’s pie in the sky when you die.” The man on the street isn’t the only one confused. Prominent religious leaders recently expressed their ideas to the press. In the August 19, 1999 edition of *The Catholic Sun*, Pope John Paul II dropped a bombshell by saying that heaven is not a physical place, that paradise is not what you think, and “God is not an old man with a white beard, but a supreme Being with male and female qualities and that there are no pearly gates.” Dr. Deepak Chopra, a world famous spiritual teacher says, “Heaven is as real as spirit, and spirit is the only reality. . . . Because this spirit is within us all along, it is possible to create a ‘heaven on earth’ simply by turning within and becoming aware of our innermost selves.”

Why all the hazy, ambiguous opinions when God has a master key to unlock our knowledge of heaven? The Bible is that master key. We need not depend on man’s theories and opinions—we have the Bible, our only safe source of information on heaven. 2 Peter 1:19 calls this source “the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place. . . .” Acts 3:21 speaks of the “restoration of all things.” What will God restore? He’ll restore “all things” lost by Adam and Eve! It will be Paradise on Planet Earth, all things made new! A perfect world with perfect people!

When Marco Polo returned home from China after 21 years, he had such incredible tales to tell, his friends thought he had gone mad. He said he’d traveled to a city full of silver and gold; he’d seen black stones that burned (they hadn’t heard of coal); he’d seen cloth that refused to catch fire even when thrown into the flames (they hadn’t heard of asbestos). He talked of huge serpents 10 paces long with jaws wide enough to swallow a man (no one had ever seen a crocodile). He told of nuts the size of a man’s head (they’d never seen coconuts). People just laughed at such stories. Years later, when Marco was dying, a devout man at his bedside
The description of that Holy city is breathtaking! While John the revelator was exiled on the little island of Patmos off Turkey’s coast, God showed him His city in vision. Then John wrote his eye-witness testimony in Revelation 21:1-2: “I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her wedding day! Few illustrations present such happiness and beauty as that of a bride preparing for her wedding day!

Revelation 21:14, 19 continues: “The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. . . . The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones.” Verse 16 specifies the magnificent size of the New Jerusalem: There’ll be plenty of room for every person who wants to be a citizen. Jesus promised in John 14:2 that in His Father’s house there are indeed many mansions! And He’s prepared a place there for us. Revelation 21:21 says, “The twelve gates were twelve pearls. . . . And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.”

This Earth made new, Earth II, will be the Garden of Eden restored. Isaiah 35:1 says, “The desert shall blossoms as the rose.” In this promised home, pain can’t exist. There’ll be no cancer, heart attacks, arthritis, or fevers—no illness, period—forever! Isaiah 33:24; 35:5-6 promise: “The inhabitant will not say, ‘I am sick.’ . . . The eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing.” Revelation 21:4 echoes this same wonderful picture: “God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

In the New Jerusalem, our relentless search for the fountain of youth will find fulfillment. We’ll find it at last in that Holy City. Revelation 22:1-2 tells us: “He showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.” Here is the fountain of youth! We’ll enjoy perfect bodies and boundless energy to explore the wonders around us.

But you may wonder, how will we channel all this energy? What will keep us busy in such a place of peace and tranquility? How will we occupy our hands, designed by God to work out the visions of our minds, will build and create freely. We’ll be able to produce anything we can conceive! And our energy will be renewed and refreshed week by week as we have wonderful worship and close communion with our Creator. In Isaiah 66:23 God tells us: “From one Sabbath to another, all flesh shall come to worship before Me,” says the Lord.” The Sabbath celebration brings us new life and vision even on this marred old earth, but it will energize us even more amid the splendors of heaven. Our sense of community, our experience of praise will exceed...
1. In that wonderful New Earth, “God will wipe away every ______________ from their eyes; there shall be no more ______________, nor ______________, nor _________________. There shall be no more ______________, for the former things are passed away.” (REVELATION 21:4)

2. Eternity is a long, long time, so there is the possibility that some might get bored. (1 CORINTHIANS 2:9; PSALM 16:11)

3. Some think we’ll be airy, wispy spirits in heaven, but the Bible teaches that our mortal bodies will be transformed like Christ’s “glorious _______________,” which had “______________ and ________________” after His resurrection. (PHILIPPIANS 3:21 AND LUKE 24:36-43)

4. Everyone will have a fabulous home in the Holy City, for ____________ builds this home for us. (A city home!) (JOHN 14:1-3)

5. The redeemed won’t just sit around and play harps—Scripture teaches: “They shall ______________ ______________ and inhabit them; they shall ______________ ______________ and eat the fruit of them.” (A country home—and no landlords!) (ISAIAH 65:21-23)

6. God promises that the tragedies of this present world will not come into the minds of the redeemed after sin is eliminated. (ISAIAH 65:17)

7. In the glorious New Earth, “The ______________ shall rejoice and ______________ as the rose. It shall ______________ abundantly and rejoice.” (ISAIAH 35:1-2)

Your Name: _____________________________ Date ____________