

and employee; and rich and poor. To say Heaven will be small, is like calling New York small because it isn't larger than Tokyo, Japan. Who are you excited to meet in God's metropolis?

Heaven is a Restricted City.

Heaven's doors are open to anyone, but they will not welcome everyone. Heaven has borders, gates, and doors—you must first past the door before you can enter inside. A universalist's Heaven says the doors are Buddha, Allah, science, and self. But Heaven only has one door—Jesus (John 10:7, 9; 14:6). You cannot enter the city unless you pass His standards. Want to become a citizen? Here are the Mayor's stipulations: (1) Hear His words (John 5:24), (2) Believe His words (John 8:24), (3) Repent of your past and present sins (Luke 13:3, 5), (4) Confess the name of Jesus (cf. Romans 10:9-10), and (5) Subject yourself to being washed by the blood of Christ through immersion in water (Mark 16:16; cf. Acts 22:16; Revelation 1:5). Heaven will be populated with citizens, but its citizens will only be those who have met the requirements. Are you a citizen of God's metropolis?

When you get to Heaven, don't expect countryside living with a few people here and there. Heaven will be more like a downtown city with people at every turn. You should be sure that everyone God said He would save, He will. God is anticipating His metropolis and cannot wait to live with His people forever. Are you excited to enter the big city?

Endnotes

[1]<https://www.britannica.com/topic/list-of-the-worlds-largest-cities-by-population>

[2]Gu, D., Andreev, K., & Dupre, M. E. (2021). Major Trends in Population Growth Around the World. *China CDC weekly*, 3(28), 604–613. <https://doi.org/10.46234/ccdcw2021.160>. The statistic provided is between 2015 and 2020. This means that the population grew more than 70 million a year.

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Heaven- God's Metropolis



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The top five largest cities in the world are:

- Guangzhou, China (73,600,000).
- Shanghai, China (42,300,000).
- Tokyo, Japan (41,300,000).
- Delhi, India (36,900,000).
- Jakarta, Indonesia (29,800,000).[1]

Did you know that Heaven too will be a large city?

Jesus pertinently said, “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it” (Matthew 7:13-14). From this verse, some think that Heaven will be small and Hell large. They believe that Heaven may only include enough people to fill a room, while Hell will be filled with an innumerable amount of people. Hell will have a greater population than Heaven, but it doesn’t mean Heaven will be small. Jesus never said Heaven will be small, only when compared to Hell it will be few. While Heaven will be beautiful, it also will be big:

- “And I say unto you, That **many** shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 8:11, emp. mine, NO).
- “In my Father's house are **many** mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you” (John 14:2, emp. mine).
- “After this I beheld, and, lo, a **great multitude, which no man could number**, of

all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands” (Revelation 7:9, emp. mine, NO).

- “And after these things I heard a great voice of **much people in heaven**, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God” (Revelation 19:1, emp. mine, NO).

After reading these verses, how big do you think Heaven will be now? Let’s consider the subject further.

Heaven is a Large City.

Calvinists have God building a city only fit for a certain elect. They shrink the size of Heaven! But God made Heaven large enough for anyone to come inside its walls. The Gospel was sent so that every creature could be saved (Mark 16:15-16; Colossians 1:23; Revelation 14:6). The golden text of the Bible includes a universal call, stating that “Whosoever believeth” (John 3:16) could be saved. If God had a bucket list, it would be to have every soul in Heaven (1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9). According to researchers, the total human population in history is estimated to be around 100 billion and it grows at a rate of around 1% of the current number per year.[2] Heaven was never created with a specific number of seats—God made it big enough for any soul, of any period to come inside. When John was given an illustration of the church’s beauty, a special part of it was its size (Revelation 21:12-17). Heaven’s vacancy sign is always lit and the

doors always open. God’s metropolis is open and we cannot wait to enter.

Heaven is a Diverse City.

Racists limit Heaven to certain colors and radicals restrict Heaven to the perfect elite—both are stricter about who may enter than the Builder Himself! The United States is becoming more diverse year by year, allowing citizens of every country to experience its beauty. When John saw the spiritual abode, he saw people from every background, language, and nationality (Revelation 5:9; 7:9). Race, gender, nationality aside, Heaven’s citizens will consist of different groups.

- All patriarchal faithful gentiles (Genesis 25:8; 35:29; Matthew 8:11).
- All faithful Jews when the Law of Moses was in effect (Romans 3:24-25; Hebrews 9:15).
- All New Testament Christians (2 Timothy 4:8).
- Miscarried babies (cf. 2 Samuel 12:23).
- Aborted babies (cf. 2 Samuel 12:23).
- All infants/young children who died before the age of accountability (cf. 2 Samuel 12:23).
- Mentally handicapped people (cf. Romans 7:9).
- Angels (Revelation 5:11; Hebrews 12:22).

If we were to add up all the individuals in these groups, we would find a large sum. We will get to be with people we have never met, with different backgrounds, and with special stories. We will converse with people who were male and female; black, yellow, white, and red; CEO