

# A Day in Heaven

Based on *Continuation of the Last Judgement 37*

(A book of the Heavenly Doctrines)



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*“The spiritual world contains countries just as the natural world does, hills and mountains, plains and valleys; springs and rivers, lakes and seas; parks and gardens, woods and forests; palaces and houses; writing and books; official positions and businesses; precious stones, gold and silver. In short it contains everything that exists in the natural world of every kind, and those in the heavens are infinitely more perfect.”*

*Continuation of the Last Judgement 37*

When someone dies people say, “He’s gone to heaven,” or “She’s waking up in heaven.”

Someone waking up in heaven does just that—they wake up! It is like waking up in your own bed in the morning. You can hop out of bed, pull on your clothes and run downstairs to see what’s for breakfast. We know many things about heaven that the Lord has taught us in His Word.



Let’s pretend a little boy named Sam is just waking up in heaven. He hops out of bed and goes to pull on his clothes.



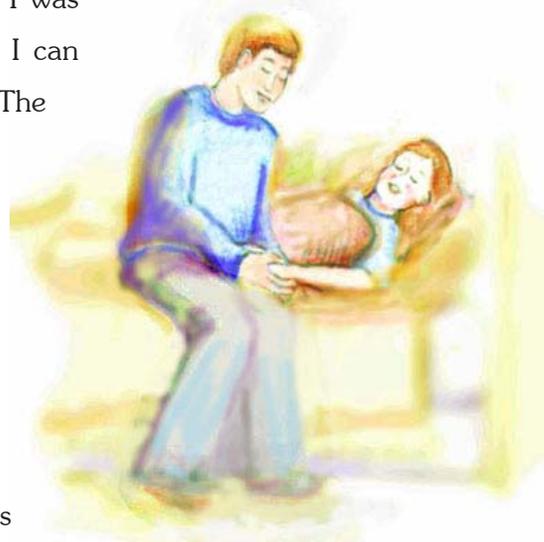
Surprised, he thinks, “These seem like new clothes! I don’t remember having a sweater this color. In fact, when I look out the window I can see flowers of all different colors. When did my mom plant those?”

Then Sam thinks, “By the way, where is my Mom? I thought I heard her call.”

Sam runs downstairs to see what is for breakfast. “Oh, look!” he thinks. “There’s a lady in the kitchen with some children. She looks like a very nice lady. She’s smiling at me, and the children are running up to hug me.”

“Welcome to heaven,” the lady says. “Did you have a nice sleep?”

“I did have a nice sleep,” Sam answers. “I had some dreams about angels watching over me. And now I feel fine. I remember now, I was very sick before and had a hard time breathing. I can breathe perfectly now.” Sam takes a big breath. “The air is soft and fresh.”



“Did I die?” he asks.

“Yes, you did,” the lady says. “You’ve come to live in heaven. You will be part of our family.”

You would think Sam might be afraid, but he’s not. He thinks, “The lady must be an angel.”

“So this is heaven,” Sam says. “Then people have houses in heaven and this is a very pretty house.”



There is food on the table, ready to eat. Sam tastes a muffin and drinks some juice. “Mmmm,” he says.

The other children in his new heavenly family are younger than Sam. One is a boy, the other a girl.

“Time for school,” says the angel mother to the other children. “But you stay with me,” she says to Sam. “I’ll show you around our town today.” The other children run off to school. They must like it because they go off eagerly.

Sam and the angel go outside into the garden. It is a bright day, brighter than any Sam can remember. The blooms on the flowers are of many different colors. He has never seen some of these colors before, but all of them seem to be glowing with light. Some hummingbirds are gathering nectar from the blooms. Other birds with brilliant feathers are welcoming the morning with their song. Sam sees some small animals chasing each other through the grass, playing like puppies.



“There are gardens around our houses,” the angel says. “There are other gardens and parks in the town, too. Some days, people gather in the central park to listen to the musicians play their instruments. Outside the town are fields where sports are played. But today is a working day.”

Sam looks around in the street where we have been walking. It is quiet in the town. The doors and the shutters on the windows are closed.

The angel explains, “People are working now. At noon, they will open their windows and doors and you will see them in the streets.”

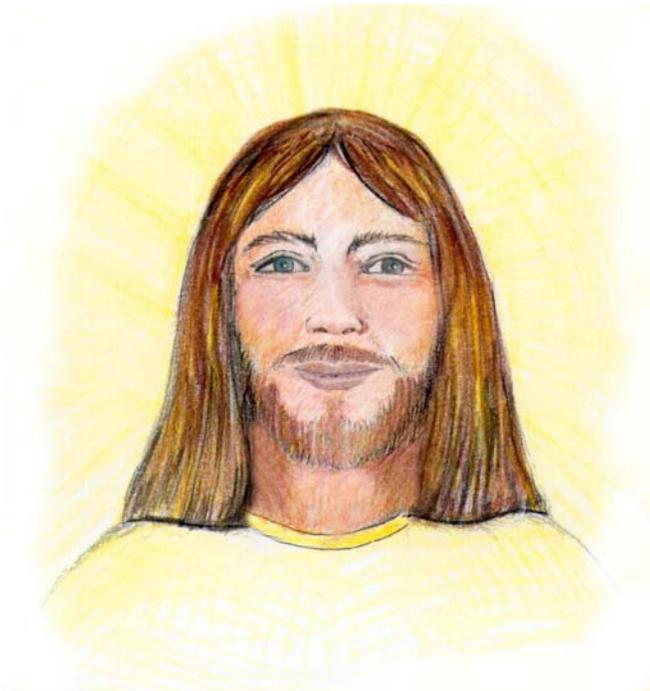
Sam wonders what work the people do. He knows some are teachers because the angel sent the other children off to school.

“There are many different things people do in heaven,” the angel says. “They love their work. It makes them happy to be doing things. The Lord gives everyone something useful to do. There are jobs, businesses and trades where people work. Some angels are preachers; others teach children who have died; some are the welcoming angels; others watch over people on earth and keep them safe from evil spirits.”



“What will I do?” Sam asks.

“You will be going to school first. When you grow up, you will find a place to live and work in one of the societies of heaven. The Lord will lead you there when you are ready.”

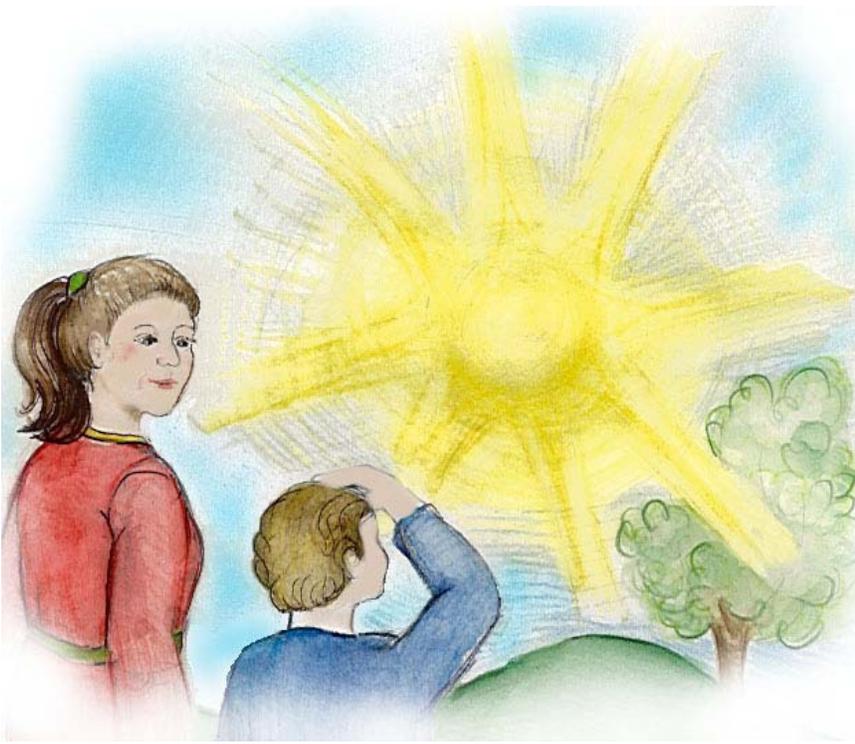


“Can you tell me about the Lord?” Sam asks.

“He is our heavenly Father,” the angel says. “He always watches over us and wants to make us happy.”

“Will I ever see Him?” Sam asks.

“Perhaps,” the angel says. “He is always in the sun that shines above heaven.”



Sam squints up toward the sun. It is too bright for him to look at.

“The Lord appears as a Man in the middle of heaven’s sun,” the angel mother says when she sees Sam looking up. “Not everyone can see the Lord in the sun. Some of the very best angels see Him there, but

His brightness is covered with bright clouds, so they will not be blinded by the direct sight of Him. (See *Apocalypse Explained* 412:16; *Arcana Coelestia* 7173, 10809.)

“Sometimes,” the angel continues, “the Lord appears in heaven in the form of an angel. People know He is the Lord and not another angel because of the Divine light that shines from His face.” (See *Heaven and Hell* 121.)

“I hope I will see Him, someday,” Sam says.

“Perhaps you will,” says the angel. “I have seen Him here in our society.”

As Sam and the angel walk back home, they pass some beautiful buildings and a palace.





“That palace is where the prince of this society lives,” the angel says. “He is very wise and all of the people living here love him.”

“One of the other buildings is our library. Our most precious book is the Word. You will have a copy of your own at our house. I’ll show you where it is when we get there. The other building is our temple of worship. On certain days when we wake up we hear singing and know it is a day for worship.”

Sam feels very happy and comfortable with the angel as they walk along and talk. She takes him by the hand. “Come along,” she says. “It’s time for us to go home. The others will be coming soon. You will meet my beloved husband and play with the children staying with us. I’m sure you will like them. And tomorrow, I will take you to see your teachers so you can begin your heavenly school.”

As they head for home, the windows and doors are beginning to open and people are coming out into the sunshine. It is a beautiful day, Sam’s first day in heaven.

