

Who gets to live with God for all eternity? Would you like to know? I know. Go ahead, ask me. Ask me!

I am introduced in the book of Revelation¹ as one of the seven angels who had seven bowls full of the seven last plagues.² Revelation is the last book in the Bible. For good reason. It's about the end. In Revelation chapter 21: verse 9, I carry the Apostle John away in the Spirit to show him the everlasting Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

I give an extensive description of this new dwelling of God, I twice reveal who is there and will live with God forever. Imagine me, standing in the middle of this immense golden city. I look around and see unending multitudes of God's creatures. All of them have one thing in common. Want to know what that is? Go ahead, ask me. Ask me.

Take a moment and think about it. Maybe you guess all of them went to a certain kind of church, every Sunday, had a particular doctrinal stance on a complex topic, or, maybe, they were good people with good intentions. None of those.

Since you asked, this is what I saw: endless multitudes of God's servants. Those who have already served him intently and will continue to serve him throughout all eternity.³

Your English Bibles don't do justice to the word "servant." I am not talking about someone who gets paid a fair wage and works whenever they choose. I am talking about a servant who is owned by his master, and has no other job but to please his master.

I know that is a potentially triggering subject. But I'm not talking about a human being owning another human being. About greed and power and malicious intent in enslaving others. No, I'm talking about something vastly different. I'm talking about the Creator of the Universe, the very beginning and end of all time, the author and embodiment of love itself. That is the master that I refer to.

You can have no higher goal than to be a servant of God. A servant who has no other ambition than to serve him alone. Let that sink in. No higher goal than to be God's servant. Of course, if you think back through the Bible, you probably already knew that

¹ Revelation 15:6

² Rev. 21:9

³ Rev. 22:3

on some level. Who do you suppose was the first person in the Bible described as God's servant? Go ahead, ask me.

Abraham is the first person in the Bible described as God's servant.⁴ When the Lord came to give him the news that Sarah would have a son, Abraham described himself as his Lord's servant. He trusted God and obeyed him.

Moses is the second person described as God's servant.⁵ When Moses has his first encounter with God at the burning bush, he has enough self-awareness to describe himself as God's servant. Many months later, during the incident with the golden calf, Moses observes that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were God's servants.⁶ When God calls Moses his servant, it is always a compliment to Moses. At the death of Moses, he was called the servant of the Lord.⁷ From then on, he was often called "Moses the servant of the Lord." Not, Moses the Lawgiver, or Moses who led the Israelites out of Egypt, but Moses the servant of the Lord!

Caleb is the next person whom God called his servant. God gave Caleb the highest praise when he said, "My servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly."⁸ Something to look into, wouldn't you agree?

That description of Caleb shines more light on what it means to be a servant. A servant is not just obedient when he or she feels like it, he or she is obedient wholeheartedly all the time.

Here is a partial list of others mentioned as servants of God in the Old Testament: the Israelites, Joshua, Samson, Hannah, Samuel, David and Solomon. "Servant of God." The highest title anybody could achieve in the Old Testament.

What about the New Testament? Who was called a Servant of God, or a Servant of Jesus Christ? Here is a partial list: Mary, the apostles, Paul, Apollos, Tychicus, and Epaphras.

I've saved the very best for last. Jesus. Yes, Jesus. He described himself as coming to earth to serve instead of to be served.⁹ In one of his last prayers, Jesus told God the

⁴ Genesis 18:3

⁵ Exodus 4:10

⁶ Exodus 32:13

⁷ Deut. 34:5

⁸ Numbers 14:24

⁹ Matthew 20:28, Mark 10:45

Father that he had finished the work he had given him to do.¹⁰ Jesus viewed himself as a servant of God.

As me who called themselves a friend of Jesus, I can tell you the list is very short. Nobody, zilch, nada, zero. Everybody wanted to be known as a servant of Jesus, a servant of God.

I suspect I've convinced you that being a servant of God is the highest goal you can attain. But, I don't want to mislead you...it isn't easy being a servant of God.

In the world today, the word "servant" implies a voluntary, paid occupation. If you get tired of being a servant, you just quit and go do something else. That is quite different from what is described in the Bible.

God's servants follow God, and him only. They worship God, and him only. Don't be so quick to say you already do this. If you think back through the Old Testament, you will find that the Israelites failed to consistently do this. And you have so many other false gods and temptations to follow than they did.

Think back to Mt. Sinai where God told the Israelites if they would obey him and keep the covenant that they would be his treasured possession. The Israelites concentrated on being treasured, but they often forgot they were God's possession. He owned them.

God's servants put his interests above their own. They don't blindly follow a list of rules, but thoughtfully consider how best to be obedient to God. They are obedient to him all of the time, not just when it is convenient or easy. It is a permanent, life-time role.

God's servants love him and love his family. There is an example of this in the Old Testament.¹¹ Hebrews in desperate circumstances were allowed to sell themselves into servanthood for six years. In the seventh year, they were to be released from their bond. But, God gave a special exemption.

If the servant didn't want to leave his master and the master's family because he loved them, he was allowed to stay. As a sign of the new, life-time bond, the master pierced a hole in the ear lobe of the servant.

As an angel, one of my favorite activities is watching people enter their new life. You cannot fathom their wonder and happiness as they are welcomed into their new heavenly home.

Do you want to know the first words they hear? Ask me, go ahead, ask me.

¹⁰ John 17:4

¹¹ Deuteronomy 15:16-17

Well, I'm not allowed to reveal that to you in detail, but let me give you a little hint found in a parable Jesus often told.

A very rich man needed to go away on a long journey. He called his servants together and split up his riches among them, based on how he evaluated their abilities. They knew their master and how he expected them to take care of his wealth.

After a long time, the master returned and called his servants together to find out how they performed. The first one had taken five bags of gold and gained five more by investing wisely. His master was pleased and said:

“Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness.”

“Well done, good and faithful servant.....”