
Part 3, What is heaven Like

Scripture Text: Revelation 21 NKJV

Supporting

Revelation 21

READ

Introduction

This sermon is Part three of a series which I call “Getting ready for heaven”. The first Part we talked about “Getting ready for Jesus from 1 Thes 1:1-10; the second on Dec 29th “Jesus is Coming soon” from 1 Thes 4:13-18; and Now the third Part “What is heaven like” from Revelation 21:1-8.

Everything in **THE BIBLE** points us toward HEAVEN. From the Garden of Eden to the New Jerusalem

BY FAITH Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would later receive as an inheritance, NOT KNOWING WHERE HE WAS GOING. For he waited for THE CITY which has foundations, whose builder and maker is GOD. (Hebrews 11:8, 10)

BY FAITH Moses forsook EGYPT, not fearing the wrath of the King: for he ENDURED as seeing Him who invisible. (Hebrews 11:27)

For forty years, the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness, on their way to the beautiful land of Promise, which flowed with milk and honey.

Like ABRAHAM and MOSES and THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL before us You and I are on a JOURNEY. Like them, we are just “STRANGERS and PILGRIMS on earth“. (Hebrews 11:13) And like them, we declare plainly that we are seeking a HOMELAND. (Hebrews 11:14)

TRANSITION INTO SCRIPTURE TEXT

As we go back to our scripture text in REVELATION CHAPTER TWENTY ONE, We’re going to consider 2 THINGS WE CHRISTIANS HAVE TO LOOK FORWARD TO WHEN THIS LIFE IS OVER.

First of all.....

1. We can look forward to a new heaven and a new earth vs. 1

Now I saw a NEW HEAVEN and a NEW EARTH, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. And there was no more sea.

1. What is JOHN referring to when he talks about THE FIRST HEAVEN and THE FIRST EARTH?

2. THE FIRST HEAVEN and THE FIRST EARTH is referring to the HEAVEN and EARTH God created in GENESIS 1:1 “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

So when JOHN speaks of THE FIRST HEAVEN he is talking about everything that is presently ABOVE us, THE SKY, THE SUN, THE MOON, THE STARS and all the HEAVENLY BODIES.

The first heaven and the first earth are replaced by a new heaven and a new earth, predicted by Isaiah (65 v.17; 66 v.22)

“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former shall not be remembered or come to mind.

“For as the new heavens and the new earth which I will make shall remain before Me,” says the Lord, “So shall your descendants and your name remain.

And by the FIRST EARTH, John is talking about this EARTH that you and I presently inhabit.

3. JOHN tells us THE FIRST HEAVEN and THE FIRST EARTH have “passed away.” What happened to them? We find our answer just a few pages back in our BIBLES in II PETER CHAPTER 3.

READ: II Peter 3:10-13

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up ¹¹ **Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what**

manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ¹² looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? ¹³ Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

4. What PETER is telling us here and what JOHN is telling us in REVELATION 21:1 is that everything you and I now see is one day going to be completely destroyed by fire.

† NO MORE **New York City**. NO MORE Chicago. NO MORE Los Angeles.

† NO MORE **White House**. NO MORE U.S. Capitol Building. NO MORE Statue of Liberty.

† NO MORE **Rocky Mountains**. NO MORE Great Smoky Mountains. NO MORE **Swiss Alps or Himalayas**.

† NO MORE **Atlantic Ocean**. NO MORE **Pacific Ocean**. NO MORE **Mediterranean Sea**.

† NO MORE **full moons**. NO MORE **Milky Way**. NO MORE **Big and Little Dipper**.

5. GOD has already set a **DEMOLITION DAY** for the HEAVENS above us and THE EARTH beneath us. The time is coming when they will have served their purpose and their usefulness and they will be forever vanquished.

6. While that may be somewhat depressing to think about, don't despair! JOHN has some wonderful news for all of us who have been SAVED by the PRECIOUS BLOOD OF THE LAMB.

7. John says,

"Now I saw a NEW HEAVEN and a NEW EARTH. And there was NO MORE sea" (Revelation 21:1 NKJV)

8. GOD is going to CREATE a BRAND NEW HEAVENLY SPACE above us and a BRAND NEW EARTH, with one noticeable exception there will be **NO SEAS.**

Right now 70% of this old earth is covered by oceans and seas. The constant churning and tossing of the seas is a reminder to us of the state of unrest in this world. The seas also separate us and divide humanity into continents.

There will be NO such division in HEAVEN for we will all be one UNITED PEOPLE. Where in Gen 11 God separated mankind from being united because of Sin. **NOW, He is uniting us because of Righteousness.**

ILLUSTRATION

9. When this life is over we will trade this "OLD EARTH KLUNKER" for a new, updated, deluxe model fashioned by the hands of GOD HIMSELF!

Next, John tells us.....

ii. We can look forward to the New Jerusalem vs.2, 3

1. This NEW JERUSALEM, this HEAVENLY CITY will be GOD'S MAGNIFICENT centerpiece upon the NEW EARTH.

(A) Consider the DIMENSIONS of this city. Revelation 21:16. The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs, its length, breadth and height are equal to one mile is the equivalent to around eight furlongs. This means the NEW JERUSALEM will be 1,500 miles long, 1,500 miles wide and 1,500 miles high.

At 5.5 miles high, Mount Everest is the tallest mountain the world. The New Jerusalem will be 1,495 miles higher. That's like stacking 273 Mt. Everests on top of each other.

Go to presentation



Rev 21:10-11, that great city, the holy Jerusalem. This magnificent city is where the bride of Christ (the Church) will live forever. The most dominant characteristic of the holy city is the presence of God's Glory, which personifies God's presence with His people. The Glory that departed from the Old Jerusalem (see Ezek. Chapters 8 to 11) is restored to the New Jerusalem of the future.

John's incredible vision began when the angel carried him away in the Spirit in Rev. 1 where he received the visions that make up the book of



Revelation. John's visions were not dreams, but spiritual realities, like the one's Paul saw when he was also caught up to the third heaven.

From John's vantage point atop a great and high mountain, he repeats his observation of verse 2 that New Jerusalem came down out of heaven from God, emphasizing its divine origin.

What is described here is not the creation of heaven, but the descent of what already existed from eternity past. Now it's being situated in the center of the new heaven and the new earth.

"The Glory of God": The brilliance radiating from New Jerusalem caused by the full manifestation of God's glory will be so much, the city will have no need of the sun or the moon as the glory of God will illuminate it.

Chapter 21 Verse 12 The inclusion of the names of the twelve tribes of Israel and the twelve apostles in the foundations and gates of the city (see 21 v.14), indicates that both Jewish and Gentile believers will all be part of the family of God and share eternity as one. Although it would seem that the Jews are distinct from the Church during the Millennium, they will all be one as children of the living God for eternity.

If you have ever been to Jerusalem in Israel, you know the old city has a large wall around the city. The physical Jerusalem here has 12 gates. You see, this earthly Jerusalem is a replica of this heavenly Jerusalem.

Here we see their names (twelve tribes), celebrating God's covenant relationship with Israel, and the people of the promises, covenants, scriptures and the Messiah.

In Verse 13 This is reminiscent of the way the twelve tribes camped around the tabernacle in numbers 2 and the portion of tribal lands around the millennial temple. (Ezek. 48)

V 14 The foundation of Christianity was established by Jesus through the twelve apostles. You can easily see, this is not only a city but stands for the Christians as well.

These stones commemorate God's covenant relationship with the church of which the apostles are the foundation of. The layout of New Jerusalem's gates picture God's favor on all His redeemed people from both the old and new covenant.

In Verse 18 the massive walls a material called jasper. This is the same diamond like stone that was mentioned in verse 11. (Clear as crystal) the city itself was pure gold, like clear glass. Imagine how God's glory will radiate throughout and light up the entire city. O Lord I hope there will be sunglasses in Heaven or I will be blind by its radians.

In Verse 19-20 and the foundation of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones:

† Jasper	→	Diamond
† Sapphire	→	A brilliant blue stone
† Chalcedony	→	Sky blue with colored stripes
† Emerald	→	Bright green stone
† Sardonyx	→	Red and white striped stone
† Sardius	→	Various shades of Red
† Chrysolite	→	Transparent gold or yellow
† Beryl	→	Shades of green, yellow and blue
† Topaz	→	Yellowish green
† Chrysoprasus	→	Gold tinted green
† Jacinth	→	Blue or violet colored
† Amethyst	→	Purple stone

These brightly colored stones will divert the shining brilliance of God's glory into a spectrum of beautiful colors that will flash from New Jerusalem throughout the re-created universe.

V 21 The twelve gates were twelve pearls. Every gate will be one pearl, each large enough to cover the gateway to this huge city. In addition, the street of the city will be "pure gold, like unto clear glass," indicating that believers will walk on golden streets. The holy city of God will be so magnificent that believers will literally walk on precious metals that today are used for costly adornments. People will no longer say "He went to Jared, I live in the New Jerusalem" I can imagine women lining up to hug the doors, some will be hugging the streets...

There is no silver in the city. Silver means redemption and we have already been redeemed. These stones show us things that are important

here on the earth are plentiful in heaven. You see, God owns all the wealth in the world. God has so many rare stones He even puts them in the wall. Each gate is made of just one pearl.

And remember the height of the cube is 1500 miles. That makes for a very large pearl.

The streets in New Jerusalem is made of the highest quality of pure gold which is like everything else, transparent. We are not familiar with transparent gold here on earth, but everything in heaven is transparent to let the light of God's glory blaze unrestricted.

In Verse 22 No need to go to Church "No temple therein:" There will be no need for a temple in heaven to provide a means for a man to fellowship with God. Because of Jesus sacrificial death on the cross, sin will not exist there. God and the Lamb are the temple of the eternal city. This clearly emphasizes the deity of Christ as equal in essence to that of the father.

There will be no need for anyone to go anywhere to worship God. Believers will constantly be in His presence. There will never be a minute when they are not in perfect, Holy Communion with the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. Therefore there will be no need for a temple, cathedral, church, chapel or any other house of worship. Believers will

be the true worshipers God has always sought. And all preachers will Say Hallelujah no more sermons to prepare, we are free...

In Verse 23 No more day and night but there will be one eternal day. The Glory of God will illuminate New Jerusalem and its lamp will be the Lamb Jesus, who is the Light, and does away with darkness.

In Verse 24 the reference to "nations" reminds us that our national distinctions, like our personal appearances, are God-given. Revelation 7: v.9 refers to "a great multitude of all nations," and Revelation 5: v.10 refers to believers as "kings and priests" who reign with Christ.

Not that any national identities will be preserved in the eternal state, but rather just the opposite. People from every tongue, tribe and nation whether Jews or Gentiles, will be united as God's people. Every believer will be fully equal in the eternal Capital City.

This just means that God doesn't care whether you are Chinese, African, or American. If you accept Jesus, you will be in heaven regardless of what country you're from.

In Verse 25 Its gates will never be closed. This shows the city's complete security and that there is no need to close them.

New Jerusalem is a place of rest, safety and refreshment where God's people will "rest from their labors." Never again will anything have to be

shut up for fear of losing it by thieves and robbers. None of that will ever exist again.

(B) Consider the DESCRIPTION of this city. Revelation 21:17-25. There is no way I can even begin to put into words the indescribable beauty of this heavenly city John is describing for us here.

Perhaps the apostle Paul said it best in **I CORINTHIANS 2:9** “**Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.**”

But far more wonderful than the physical beauty of the New Jerusalem is the beauty of **GOD’S HOLY PRESENCE. CAN YOU IMAGINE THE RADIANT GLORY OF GOD’S PRESENCE WITH US WILL BE SO BRILLIANT THERE WILL NO LONGER BE ANY NEED FOR A SUN AND A MOON, THERE WILL NEVER BE ANY DARKNESS OR NIGHT!**

Consider the following short list:

- † No more sea (21 v.1)
- † No more tears, death, sorrow, crying or pain (21 v.4)
- † No more sinners (21 v.8)
- † No more fear (21 v.12)
- † No more sun or moon (21 v.23)
- † No more night (21 v.25)
- † No more sin or evil (21 v.27)

† No more disease or injuries (22 v.2)

† No more curse (22 v.3)

It would be enough to call this place "heaven" just from that list of what it lacks. But that wouldn't tell half of the story! Now consider some of the remarkable features eternity will boast:

† Unending fellowship with God (21 v.3, 7, 22)

† Unending newness (21 v.5)

† Unending water of life (21 v.6; 22 v.1)

† Unimaginable beauty (21 v.11, 21)

† Uncompromised security (21 v.12)

† Unbroken unity between believers (21 v.12, 14)

† Unlimited holiness (21 v.16)

† Unparalleled size (21 v.16)

† Untold wealth (21 v.18-21)

† Unending light (21 v.23; 22 v.5)

† Unrestricted access (21 v.25)

† Unending fruit from the tree of life (22 v.2)

† Unceasing service to God (22 v.3)

† Unending reign (22 v.5)

Beyond these thrilling descriptions from the book of Revelation, we know from other Bible texts that heaven will be a place of:

- † Rest (Heb. 4 v.1-11; Rev 14 v.13)
- † Full knowledge (1 Cor. 13 v.12)
- † Holiness (Heb. 12 v.14; Eph. 2 v.21)
- † Joy (1 Thess 2 v.19; Jude 1 v.24)
- † Glory (2 Cor. 4 v.17)
- † Worship (Rev. 7 v.9-12; 19 v.10)

With all that heaven and eternity have to offer, it is hard to see why anyone would deliberately choose to miss it.

Yet many will, according to Rev. 21 v.8, 27 and 22 v.11, 15. Make sure you're not one of them!

And to finally be in the very presence of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the ONE who gave His own life to make it all possible.

We can look forward to A NEW JERUSALEM, THE HOLY CITY OF GOD.

CONCLUSION

Oh brothers and sisters, we have so much to LOOK FORWARD to when LIFE ON EARTH has ended.

When this life is over WE CAN LOOK FORWARD TO A NEW HEAVEN and A NEW EARTH.

WE CAN LOOK FORWARD TO THE NEW JERUSALEM, WHERE WILL LIVE ETERNALLY IN THE PRESENCE OF OUR HEAVENLY FATHER AND CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD.

These are the wonderful things every Christian has to look forward to when this life is over. What about those of you who aren't Christians? What do you have to look forward to?

(NO GREATER GIFT YOU CAN LEAVE BEHIND FOR YOUR LOVED ONES THAN THE HOPE AND ASSURANCE THEY WILL SEE YOU AGAIN IN ETERNITY!)

Do you have that hope and assurance?