

Future Facts: God's Absolute Plan for the World

Heaven and Hell Part 2

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"Now the dwelling of God is with men, and He will live with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." Rev. 21:3-4

What is Heaven Like?

Revelation 21-22

"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God." Rev. 21:1-2

How big is the new city?

- A cube approximately 1,500 miles long, high and wide.
- 2,250,000 sq. miles on the ground floor – from the Pacific rim to the Mississippi river
- Does this city have a vertical aspect/multiple floors?
- Population – estimated at 490 billion (70 times our current 7 billion)

Description of the city

- A HOLY city – Rev. 21:2, 10; 22:19
- Gates – 12 gigantic pearls - Rev. 21:17-21
 - 3 gates on each of the 4 sides
 - The names of the 12 tribes are on each gate
 - Each gate has an angel standing by it
 - The gates are never shut
 - Pearls are not kosher
- Walls – jasper – diamond-like crystal stone - Rev. 21:18-20
 - 12 foundations under the walls – each with the name of one of the Apostles.
 - 200 feet wide
 - Decorated with every kind of precious stone
- City and street are pure gold – like transparent glass – Rev. 21:18,21
- The Light of the City – Rev. 21:23
 - Jesus is the light source of the city
 - There is no night

“The sun shall no longer be your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you; but the Lord will be to you an everlasting light, and your God your glory.” Is. 60:19

River of Life/The Tree of Life – Rev. 22:1-2

- The River flows from the Throne of God down the middle of the city.
- The water is clear as crystal
- The Tree of life grows on either side of the river.
- 12 fruits are yielded every month.
- The leaves are for the healing (therapeia) of the nations

- The Throne of God and of the Lamb – Rev. 21:5; Rev. 4-5

What will we be doing in heaven?

“I make all things new” Rev. 21:5

- Work without toil
- Relationship without marriage
- Creativeness without disappointment
- Purpose without struggle
- All things in common without envy
- Nature without strife
- Perfect bodies without aging
- Worship without compulsion
- Life without decay

What about the babies?

“Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me.” 2 Samuel 12:20-23

“But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.” Matt. 19:14

“And the little ones what you said would be taken captive, your children who do not yet know good from bad – they will enter the land. I will give it to them and they will take possession of it.” Dt. 1:39

Denial to the City - Rev. 21:7-8; 25-27; 22:12-15

- Those who died in sin will not be allowed into heaven
- There will be no impurity or sin allowed in
- There will be no falsehood or selfishness

“For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.”

Heb. 13:14

“In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.” John 14:2-3

Discussion Starters for Your Groups InCommon

1. What is your mental image/description of heaven?
2. What is your mental image of life in heaven?
3. Does the reality of heaven move you to share your faith more eagerly?
4. Who in your life would miss out on heaven and suffer hell if they were to die today? What are you doing to prevent that?