

“Heaven” Part 2

Greg Wendschlag December 29, 2019

Bible-First Lifestyle reading: Isaiah 60-66; Revelation 9-22

“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 happens to people when they die?

- Intermediate place of the dead – The Grave
 - Old Testament –Sheol
 - New Testament - Hades
 - Believers in Jesus – Paradise/Abraham’s Bosom
 - Rejecters of Jesus –Hell/Torments/Tartarus
 - The Great Chasm – there is awareness, visual and even communication but no connection. Lk. 16:26
- Believers who have died and those still living are reunited at the rapture. 1 Cor. 15:50-57
- The remaining dead are raised after the millennium. Rev. 20:5
- The Millennial reign of Christ and final rebellion. Rev. 20:1-10
- Those in Christ will go before the Judgment Seat of Christ and on to Heaven. 2 Cor. 5:10
- Those without Christ will go before the Great White Throne and on to the lake of fire/Gehenna. Rev. 20:11-15
- Heaven and earth are destroyed and the heavenly city is revealed. Rev. 21:1-2

What is Heaven Like?

“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
- 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
- Gates – 12 gigantic pearls - Rev. 21:17-21 - slide
 - 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
- 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 of the nations
 - The Throne of God and of the Lamb – Rev. 21:5; Rev. 4-5

“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

Thoughts for Reflection

1. Does the reality of heaven give you hope for the problems of today?
2. Does the reality of heaven move you to share your faith more eagerly?
3. Who in your life would miss out on heaven if they were to die today?