

The Glories of Heaven

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The Glories of Heaven

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Introduction

Today I want to share with you on the Glories of Heaven. I don't know about you, but I think Heaven is misunderstood by many people in today's society. Is Heaven an ethereal or mystical place? We have all types of people saying they've gone to Heaven. Some even claim to have been to Hell and back.

What does the God say about all this?

To start off, what will Heaven be like? God tells us that it will be a real place.

Many Christians today don't understand it. In ages past, the giants of our Faith talked about Heaven and understood it well. Charles Spurgeon, Jonathan Edwards, George Whitfield, Adrian Rogers, all, according to my understanding, grasped something of what the Bible said of Heaven. It came out in their preaching. It made their

words come alive with a living hope of eternity.

The Bible teaches that, yes, Heaven will be something real. Believers will receive resurrected bodies that live in the New Heavens and New Earth. All creation longs for redemption and one Day our Lord Jesus will return and redeem it all. He will complete our redemption to its fullest extent by giving us resurrected bodies to live in the New Heaven and Earth that will no longer be separate but will be one.

“These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they

desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.”

–Hebrews 11:13-16 (NKJV)

WE can take comfort!

Jesus is preparing a place for us!

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions [in the original language this means dwellings]; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself;

*that where I am, there you may
be also.”*

*–John 14:1-3 (NKJV), brackets
added*

Revelations Description of the New Heavens and Earth

In this book, I want to walk through Revelation 21-22, likely the most complete descriptions of Heaven anywhere in the Bible. Before we read through God’s description of Heaven to us, let me hit a few points we will see:

- A New Heaven (the present one will be no more)
- A New Earth, a redeemed Earth like Eden
- No more sea
- God will dwell with man
- Heaven and Earth will be one for eternity

- Tears wiped away!
- No more death!
- No more mourning, No more crying, no more pain
- The Fall will have reversed, creation restored to its original intent – man stewarding the earth and walking in relationship with God
- Those in Heaven will be God's children, fellow heirs with Christ of the literal Kingdom of Heaven
- God makes all things new, a new beginning
- All sin and those who would not Believe on Jesus Christ will be eternally separated not in Hell but in the Lake of Fire. The current Hell will be thrown into the Lake of Fire.

Hell at present is a holding cell for the more severe punishment which will come after the Day of Judgment. Much like how you can be in county jail in Hillsboro waiting for your court day and then be sent to the penitentiary in

Pacific or Bonne Terre after your sentence.

- The beauty of the Capital City of the New Earth – the New Jerusalem
- There will be nations and kingdoms—all of Believers—in the New Earth and New Heavens which will be one.
- We will have we will serve the Lord, have fulfilling work, learn, fellowship, eat, care for the creation, worship the Lord, talk with each other in Heaven—it will be far more than an eternal church service.
- O the Glory of Heaven. Paradise! No Curse! No Sin! Perfect Fellowship!

Comparisons of Eden and the New Heaven and New Earth

- There was one marriage in Eden, Adam and Eve
- In Heaven, there will be one marriage, Jesus Christ and His Bride, the Church
- In Eden, there was stewardship of the earth given to man; in Heaven there will

be stewardship of the New Earth: likely animals, plants, and a beautiful creation. The creation we live in is fallen and yet there is such beauty. What a beautiful place Heaven will be!

- In Eden man walked with God in the cool of the day and spoke with God face to face, in Heaven, we will be with God forever, worship Him and enjoy Him.

Now, take some time to read the glorious picture of Heaven the Lord gives us in His Word.

Revelation 21-22

Revelation 21 (ESV)

¹ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.

⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

⁵ And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down,

for these words are trustworthy and true.”

⁶ And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.

⁷ The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

⁸ But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

⁹ Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, “Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.”

¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God,

¹¹ having the glory of God, its

radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.

¹² It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed—

¹³ on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates.

¹⁴ And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

¹⁵ And the one who spoke with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city and its gates and walls.

¹⁶ The city lies foursquare, its length the same as its width. And he measured the city with his rod, 12,000 stadia. Its length and width and height are equal.

¹⁷ He also measured its wall, 144 cubits by human measurement, which is also an angel's measurement.

¹⁸ The wall was built of jasper, while

the city was pure gold, like clear glass.

¹⁹ The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every kind of jewel. The first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald,

²⁰ the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst.

²¹ And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

²² And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.

²³ And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.

²⁴ By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it,

²⁵ and its gates will never be shut by

day—and there will be no night there.

²⁶ They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations.

²⁷ But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Revelation 22 (ESV)

¹ Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb

² through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

³ No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him.

⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

⁵ And night will be no more. They will

need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

⁶ And he said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true. And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place.”

⁷ “And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.”

⁸ I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me,

⁹ but he said to me, “You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.”

¹⁰ And he said to me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near.

¹¹ Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous

still do right, and the holy still be holy.”

¹² “Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done.

¹³ I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”

¹⁴ Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates.

¹⁵ Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

¹⁶ “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”

¹⁷ The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

¹⁸ I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book,
¹⁹ and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

²⁰ He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.”
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

²¹ The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

The Way to Heaven

All types of people have said they’ve been to Heaven and seen this or that but you know what they never mention? -they never mention the Gospel: that Jesus is the only way to Heaven. From the outset of addressing those questions of “after-death-experiences,”: I must say what the Bible says, there is only one way to Heaven, one road to eternal life.

You can't earn, accomplish, or deserve Heaven. Jesus Christ died on the cross as our substitution to pay the penalty for our sin. Will you receive His free Gift of salvation? Will you surrender all and trust Him alone to save you? By God's Grace and power, may you be saved for today is the day of salvation.

The Paradise Garden of Eden was very real. Heaven is likewise a very real place. Humans were created to serve God, to live bodily lives. There is a temporary heaven today where Believers go, to be absent from the Body is to be present with the Lord, but the eternal Heaven will be on the New Earth, Heaven and Earth renewed. Earth will be redeemed and made new, like the paradise of Eden again. That is the Gospel message, that in Christ, all God's people and ALL CREATION will be redeemed from the fall Adam and curse of sin. If Creation will not one day be redeemed, then God is a liar. ***“For what if some did not believe? Will their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect? Certainly not! Indeed, let***

God be true but every man a liar.” –Romans 3:3-4a (NKJV)

There is an intermediate, a temporary Hell right now. How Do we know that? Scripture tells us: ***“Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.” –Revelation 20:14 (ESV)*** Death and Hell were thrown into the Lake of Fire. Satan and His demons are not yet in Hell. They won't be cast in until the end, into the Lake of Fire. ***“and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.” –Revelation 20:10 (ESV)***

The first heaven will pass away. New Heavens and New Earth - a redeemed universe! – will come. Believers will serve the Lord, dwell in His presence, enjoy His creation, the lion will lie down with the lamb, no more death, no more sorrow, no more pain, no tears, fellowship with God's people, a heavenly city where Christ literally reigns from on the Throne, it is not an eternity of

sitting in a heavenly church service forever. There will be praises and worship but there will be occupation. We will serve the Lord with joy and gladness, we will have perfect rest, we will not grow weary, we will enjoy food—feasting with the Lord. Hell is the opposite—solitary confinement, eternal torture, absolutely no pleasure or anything to occupy your time. O what a joy Heaven will be, the future, the dwelling Christ is preparing for His Bride! My beloved, today rejoice and be glad in your Savior! O the Glories He has prepared for you!!

Closing

Heaven will be glorious—a perfect paradise. But are you ready? You will only have eternal life if you know Jesus. Jesus says this in the Gospel of Matthew, ***“Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’”***

—Matthew 7:22-23 (NKJV)

Jesus desires that you be in Heaven with Him but you have to Believe in Him. That word means surrender. You must recognize that you are a sinner and deserve Hell. Jesus Christ died in your place graciously taking the punishment you deserve. By placing your Faith in Jesus, trusting Him alone to save you because He said He would if you believe in Him.

“If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”

–Romans 10:9-13 (NKJV)

But the journey is not over when you surrender. It has just begun. You have a new life which will continue for eternity with Jesus Christ. Continue in the Lord’s Word (John 8:31-32) and live dependent on Him (Galatians 5; Romans 7-8; John 14-16).