

THE SPLENDOR OF HEAVEN

(Most Asked Questions #3)
Revelation 21-22:6

It is always exciting and fun to travel to new places and see all sorts of new things and people. Yet, all the while you know it is NOT home. Most people while away, begin to yearn to be home. “Going home” is still an expression that fills most of us with joy, comfort, and anticipation.

This is even more so for the Christian. We are told in the Bible that this world is not our home, and that home is in heaven with our Lord Jesus. Paul told us that heaven, “is much better by far.” (Phil 1:23)

The Bible is the only source of information about heaven. The details given are limited, but sufficient to tell us that “the best is yet to come.” Here is our permanent home... forever. No more moving!

FIVE FEATURES OF OUR BEAUTIFUL HOME IN HEAVEN.

“Heaven will not be boring...it will be endlessly fascinating just as God is infinitely fascinating.”

I. The Location of Heaven: The Glorious City Comes Down To The New Earth (1-2)

- A. The city of the living God, the great, new, holy, heavenly Jerusalem will be removed from hovering in the heavens to the earth. (21:2, 10)
This is the city the OT saints looked forward to. (Hebs 11:10, 16)
- B. The heavens and the earth will be renovated, purified by “fire.” (2 Peter 3:7-13)
This makes for a new order of creation. All the effects of the curse are gone!
The seat of God’s government for the universe will be located in the earth...forever.

II. The Size of This City: It Is Enormous...Big Enough For All. (21:16)

- A. The city is laid out like a square...a cube. It is 1500 miles squared.
If each story of the city is 20 feet, there will be 396,000 stories, each story... ½ USA.
- B. Henry Morris estimates that there are 100 billion human beings...if only 20% are redeemed...there will be 20 billion people in heaven. However, the majority of Earth’s population will not be there! Jesus told, “wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.” (Matt 7:13)

III. The Materials of This City: Absolutely Beautiful. (21:11-21)

Here we are told of the city’s wall, 12 gates, the foundation, and the streets of gold. WOW!!!

(v21) John Bunyon writes of this in Pilgrim's Progress, where he tells, "Christian and Hopeful, see the city of God, such beauty that they fell sick with happiness..." This city is of unimaginable beauty & brilliance.

IV. The Occupants of This City: God, The Angels, & The Redeemed Of All Ages.

- A. This city will provide a permanent home for those saved from Adam forward.
This is our new family. Jesus alludes to this, Mark 3:33-35, "who are my brothers & sisters?"
- B. What are we going to do there? Everyone in Heaven is happy and fulfilled.
 - 1. We will worship God. "Praise is the language of heaven." Start now!!!!
 - 2. We will serve God in whatever capacity assigned to us...based on faithfulness here...
 - 3. In heaven, we will "eat, drink, work, worship, learn, travel, and experience many things we do now." (Alcorn)

V. The New Order of Reality: All Things New.

Fortunately, heaven will not have everything! Note what will not be there:

- A. No more sea. (21:1) Is this literal or figurative? (the rebellious nations)
- B. No more death! (21:4) Death is a thief, it robs us. Death does not enter heaven... no good byes!
- C. No more sorrow. (21:4) Our newspapers are filled with sorrows. Heaven...uninterrupted joy!
- D. No more crying. (21:4) "buckets of tears are shed every minute in this hurting world."
We live in a crying world. We weep over the death of a child or parent and more...
"In heaven, He who wiped away our sins, now wipes away our tears."
- E. No more pain. (21:4) Today, hospitals have patients in great pain dying of cancer, etc. All pain came from sin (Gen 3) and it will be finally banished.
- F. No Temple or Church. (21:22) There is no need for these for we will worship God the Father and the Lord Jesus directly.
- G. No more sun or moon. (21:23; 22:5) The heavenly bodies created by God to give light to the earth have outlived their purpose. The Lord Jesus is the lamp. Wow!!!!!

LESSONS FOR OUR LIVES:
