

HEAVEN: O FOR A HOME WITH GOD

INTRODUCTION

1. Heaven is a place.
2. Heaven is a place of happiness.
3. Heaven is a place of eternal happiness.
4. Heaven is a prepared place.
5. Heaven is a place for prepared people.

I. IN THE CLOSING PARAGRAPHS OF THE BIBLE, GOD DESCRIBES HEAVEN.

- A. Rev. 21:1-7 "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the Holy City, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with me," and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there will be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying; and there shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.' Then He who sat on the throne said, 'Behold, I make everything new.' And He said to me, 'Write, for these words are true and faithful.' And He said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.'" (New KJV)

Verses 10:26 "And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. And her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west. Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. And the city is laid out as a square, and 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. Then he measured its wall: one hundred and forty-four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel. And the construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. And the foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. And the twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass. But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. And the city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God illuminated it, and the Lamb is its light. And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there), and they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it."

- B. Rev. 22:1-5 "And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. And there shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever."

II. WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE WILL FINALLY LIVE IN HEAVEN?

- A. God's children are to be a cut above the world:
1. Rev. 22:7 "Behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."
 2. Rev. 22:14 "Blessed are those who washed their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city." (NIV)
 3. Psalm 15:1-2 "Lord, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill? He who walks uprightly, and works righteousness, and speaks truth in his heart."

4. James 1:12 "Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been proved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him."
5. Rev. 2:10 "Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."
6. Rev. 3:21 "To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne."
7. Rev. 2:7 "To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."
8. Matt. 7:13-14 "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it."
9. Rev. 22:14 "Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city."
10. Heb. 12:22-25 "But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the first-born who are registered in heaven, to God the judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel ... See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they do not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven."

III. WHAT GROUP OF PEOPLE WILL BE TURNED AWAY FROM HEAVEN?

- A. "Everybody Talking About Heaven Ain't Goin' There."
- B. A person cannot live in rebellion against God and get to Heaven.
- C. The Bible is explicit about those who will miss Heaven:
 1. Psalm 1:4-6 "The ungodly are not so, but are like the chaff which the wind drives away. Therefore the ungodly shall

not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly shall perish."

2. "A highway shall be there, and a road, and it shall be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean shall not pass over it. But it shall be for others. Whoever walks the road, although a fool, shall not go astray." (NKJV) *ISA 35*.
 - a. A messianic prophecy concerning our blessed Lord who would walk this way and his followers after him.
3. Rev. 21:8 "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."
4. Rev. 21:27 "But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life."
5. Rev. 20:15 "And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire."
6. Rev. 22:15 "But outside are the dogs (homosexuals), and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie."
7. Rev. 22:19 "And if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."
8. 2 Thess. 1:7-9 "And to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power."
9. Rom. 1:18 "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness."
10. 1 Cor. 6:9-10 "Do you know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters; nor adulterers, nor homosexuals,

nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God."

a. Then Paul said a comforting thing in verse 11:

"And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God."

11. James 4:4 "Adulterers and adulteresses. Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God."
12. John 15:6 "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned."
13. Matt. 13:49-50 "So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth."
14. Matt. 13:41-42 "The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth."
15. Heb. 6:4-6 "For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame."
 - a. This passage teaches the possibility of apostasy.
16. 2 Peter 2:20-22 "For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A

dog returns to his own vomit,' and 'a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.'" (See: Prov. 26:11)

17. 2 Peter 3:17 "You therefore, beloved, since you know these things beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked."

CONCLUSION:

1. Heaven is the eternal home prepared for those who prepare to live there.
2. Hell will be the place for those who refuse to obey God.
 - a. The choice of the two destinations is a personal choice.
 - (i) We have to keep making that choice each day of our life.

"The things of my past life I put behind,
I am now pressing forward to the finish line,
That I might win that victor's crown of eternal life."

HEAVEN. Some time ago a California preacher announced that he would be speaking the following Sunday on "HEAVEN"/ During that week a beautiful letter was received from an old man who was very ill, and this is part of his letter:

"Next Sunday you are to talk about Heaven. I am interested in that land, because I have held a clear title to a bit of property there for over fifty-five years. I did not buy it. It was given to me without money and without price. But the Donor purchased it for me at tremendous sacrifice. I am not holding it for speculation since the title is not transferable.

It is not a vacant lot. For more that half a century I have been sending materials out of which the greatest Architect and Builder of the Universe has been building a home for me which will never need to be remodelled nor repaired because it will suit me perfectly, individually, and will never grow old. Termites can never undermine it, foundations for they rest on the Rock Of Ages.

Fire cannot destroy it. Floods cannot wash it away. No locks nor bolts will ever be placed upon its doors, for no vicious person can ever enter that land where my dwelling now stands, now almost completed and almost ready for me to enter in and abide in peace eternally, without fear of being ejected.

There is a valley of deep shadow between the place where I live in California and that to which I shall journey in a very short time. I cannot reach my home in that City of God without passing through this dark valley of shadows. But I am not afraid because the best Friend I ever had went through the same valley long, long ago and drove all its gloom away.

He has stuck by me through thick and thin, since we first became acquainted fifty-five years ago, and I hold His promise in printed form - never to forsake me or leave me alone. He will be with me as I walk through the valley of shadows, and I shall not lose my way when He is with me.

I hope to hear your sermon next Sunday from my home in Los Angeles, California, but I have no assurance that I shall be able to do so. My ticket to Heaven has no date marked for the journey - no return coupon - and no permit for baggage. Yes, I am all ready to go and I may not be here while you are talking next Sunday evening, but I shall meet you some day."

DO YOU AND I HAVE THIS KIND OF FAITH AND SET OF VALUES?

"On Jordan's stormy banks I stand
and cast a wistful eye,
To Caanan's fair and happy land
where my possessions lie
I am bound for the promise land.
O who will come and go with me
I am bound for the promise land?"