

Descriptions Of Heaven

Heaven 4 - Part 1

Introduction.

I. This series of lessons has focused on The Reality Of Heaven, and numerous questions Christians and others are asking about heaven.

II. This lesson, and one more to follow, will be devoted to "Descriptions of Heaven."

A. Most of the contents of these lessons will come from Revelation 21 & 22.

B. Some references will be made to other scriptures.

I. "A New Heaven And A New Earth" - (Rev. 21:1)

A. This same passage mentions "the first heaven and the first earth."

1. This is a reference to this world.

- a. The word "earth" [ge, gay] is referring to this "earth" - the planet on which we live.
- b. The word "heaven" likely refers to the heavens above the earth and at most the celestial bodies.
- c. The words refer to this world and perhaps the whole universe and indicates they will be no more.

2. Man's present dwelling place will be destroyed. (2 Pet. 3:10).

a. The Alexandrian manuscript has "burned up."

1) Gr. "katakai'ō" - "to burn down (up), consume wholly." See NASB, ASV, KJV. YLT

2) This reading fits the context. (2 Pet. 3:11,12).

2PE 3:11 Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

2PE 3:12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, on account of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! NASB

b. The Vatican and Sinaitic manuscripts have "discovered" or "manifested."

1) It has the future indicative passive of "heuris'kō" meaning "to find, to detect, to discover, to acquire, to obtain."

2) If this be the correct reading, the meaning is obscure.

3) Some scholars contend the text is corrupt here in regard to this word.

4) NIV has “be laid bare” with a footnote “burn up.” NASB has “burned up” with a footnote “discovered.”

5) ESV has “exposed.”

3. "The sea" is no more.

a. The sea represents the abyss, the bottomless pit, out of which the beast arises. (Rev. 13:1).

REV 13:1 And he stood on the sand of the seashore. And I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns were ten diadems, and on his heads were blasphemous names.

b. The devil, the beast, or any evil will not exist in heaven.

c. He will be in hell, and be there forever.

REV 20:10 And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and **they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.**

B. "The new heaven and the earth" has reference to the new dwelling place of the righteous. (2 Pet. 3:12).

2PE 3:12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, on account of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!
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1. It is not two places. (Jn. 14:1-2; 1 Thess. 4:18).

2. It is a comprehensive expression denoting the new abode of the righteous - heaven.

3. This is the place prepared for the righteous and is reserved for them. (1 Pet. 1:4).

4. The Greek word "kainos" means "new" in quality - not time.

5. Heaven is the abode of God and has always existed.

6. It will be new to man, and it is far superior to our present abode.

7. We do not have the vocabulary to describe this awesome and glorious place.

II. "The Holy City, New Jerusalem" - (Rev. 21:2).

A. The old Jerusalem was the capital of the Jewish nation.

1. It was the holy city, and it was the place where the temple of God was located.

2. If this book was written in about 96 A.D., as many think, the city and temple had been destroyed some 26 years earlier by General Titus and the Roman army in A.D. 70.

B. The "new Jerusalem" is the future abode of the righteous.

1. John sees a vision of this glorious city descending out of heaven.
2. He compares this city to "a bride adorned for her husband."

III. "A Place Without Sorrow - (Rev. 21:4)

A. There will be no tears or sorrows there.

1. This world is a place of tears -even the righteous experience many tears.
2. Jesus promised our tears would be turned into joy. (Lk. 6:21; Jn. 16:20; Matt. 25:21,23).

B. "Death shall be no more."

1. Death surrounds us in this world. - thousands die every hour.
2. It will not exist in the next world. (1 Cor. 15:25,26; Rev. 21:4).

1CO 15:25 For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. 1CO 15:26 The last enemy that will be abolished is death.	REV 21:4 and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death ; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away. "
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3. Jesus indicated there will be no more death - there will be no more physical or spiritual death.
4. Death is destroyed at the second coming of Christ. (1 Cor. 15:26).
 - a. Death is a part of this world.
 - b. It will not exist in heaven.

LUK 20:36 **for neither can they die anymore**, for they are like angels, and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.

5. We will never grow old or die in heaven, but will live forever. (Matt. 25:46).
6. Imagine the best days of your life and then multiply the feelings and experiences of those days many times for heaven.

C. "Neither shall there be mourning"

1. Jesus warned against those who laugh now in their folly. (Lk. 6:25).
2. Jesus taught those who mourn now over sin will be comforted. (Matt. 5:4).
3. In heaven there will be no reason to ever mourn again since it is a place of constant joy and comfort.

D. "Pain" shall be no more.

1. Pain is an ever-present part of this world.
2. There are so many physical and mental pains to bear, and some live in constant pain.
3. This is an awesome promise to those who have lived with constant mental and physical pain or both.

IV. "He That Overcomes Shall Inherit These Things" (Rev. 21:7).

A. Heaven is for the one who "overcomes." (Rev. 2:10).

1. The Greek in "nika'o" [nee kah' o]
2. The Christian life is not easy, but with the help of God and His Son we can overcome.

B. Victory is in Jesus. (Rom. 8:37; 1 Jn. 5:4).

C. God promises to be the God and Father of those who conquer. (Rev. 21:7).

1. This is a promise Christians enjoy now. (Heb. 8:10).

HEB 8:10 "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel After those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their minds, And I will write them upon their hearts. **And I will be their God, And they shall be My people.**

2. This is a promise that will continue in heaven.
3. The all-powerful, all-seeing, all-knowing, all-loving Father will always be there for us.

V. A List Of Some Who Will Not Be In Heaven (Rev. 21:8).

A. Revelation 21:8 is not an exhaustive list of those who will not be in heaven

1. See Gal. 5:19-21; Rom. 1:18-31; Prov. 6:16-19; 1 Tim. 1:8-11, etc.
2. Other passages also list those who will not be in heaven. (Jn. 3:36; Jn. 14:6; Heb. 11:6).

B. **Let's take a brief look at those mentioned in this verse.**

1. "Fearful" - TCNT has "cowards"
 - a. We must not let Satan intimidate us and cause us to be afraid to do right.
 - b. Fear will keep many out of heaven.

Afraid to live the Christian life - criticism, persecution, too difficult.	Afraid to use talents - The one talent man used fear as his excuse.	Afraid to witness. - Willing to talk about most anything, but Christ.
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- c. We are not to fear those who can kill the body (Matt. 10:28), but must always dare to do right. (Acts 5:29).
2. “Unbelieving”
 - a. Victory is for the believing. (1 Jn. 5:4).
 - b. No one can please God without unwavering faith in Him. (Heb. 11:6).
 - c. No one can go to heaven without faith in Jesus. (Jn. 3:16, 36; 8:24).
 - d. Faith is not a subjective faith, but it comes from hearing God’s word (Rom.10:17), and from experiencing His blessings and protection.
 3. “Abominable”
 - a. The word “abominable” means “loathsome, detestable.” See Proverbs 6:16-19.
 - b. The above scripture is not an exhaustive list of things that God finds “abominable,” but is representative of the type thing that is repulsive to God.
 4. “Murderers”
 - a. The Bible forbids the anger that would lead to murder. (Eph. 4:26, 27; Matt. 5:22).
 - b. The Bible forbids hatred (1 Jn. 3:15).
 5. “Fornicators” - (Gal. 5:19, 20; 1 Cor. 6:18-20; 10:8).
 6. “Sorcerers” - Gal. 5:19-21
 - a. Greek “pharmakia” (far ma kee’ ah) - “magic, sorcery, witchcraft.”
 - b. NIV has “witchcraft.” Use of evil powers, enchantments.
 - c. See Exod. 7:22 (Egyptians); Isa. 47:9,15.(Babylonians).
 7. “Idolaters” - 1 Cor. 10:7, 14; 1 Jn. 5:21
 - a. Idolatry is a big problem in our country.
 - b. Many worship wealth, pleasure, power, sex, education, beauty, fame, etc.
 8. “All liars” - Col. 3:9; Eph. 4:25
 - a. The condemned liar is one who lies out of a motivation of greed , pleasure, power, and other selfish reasons.
 - b. It does not appear to include those who lie to save life.

- 1) Moses (Exod. 2:1-3).
- 2) Rahab (Jas. 2:25). Josh. 2:4, 6, 15.

c. Questions

- 1) What would you do if one comes to the door asking for your wife or child and wants to harm or kill them? Are you going to tell them where they are?
- 2) Someone wants a list of Christians to persecute them. They ask you if you know the names of Christians. What will you do?
- 3) A child is dying and asks if he is going to suffer agonizing pain. What do you do?
- 4) Are childhood myths and fairy tales to be avoided by Christians and their children? (These are not likely classified as a lie since they are not intended to do evil in any fashion.)

C. Others who will not be in heaven are listed in Revelation 21:27.

1. "Unclean"
 - a. Gr. (koinos, koy nos') - "common, defiled, unclean, unholy."
 - b. "any thing defiling" YLT, "any thing that defileth" KJV. See Gal. 5:19-21.
2. "He who makes an abomination and a lie"

D. Those who practice these things "shall be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone." (Rev. 21:8b).

1. This is called "the second death."
 - a. The first death is the natural death which all must experience unless Christ's coming prevents it. (Heb. 9:27; 1 Cor. 15:20-22; 1 Thess. 4:13-18).
 - b. "The second death" is not for the faithful Christian. (Rev. 2:10, 11).
2. "The second death" is hell and is an eternal separation from God and everything good. (Matt. 25:46; 2 Thess. 1:8, 9).
 - a. It is for the wicked. (Rev. 20:6, 14; 21:8).
 - b. The one who trusts in Jesus does not need to fear "the second death."
 - c. We can live with confidence because through Jesus we can know that eternal life is ours. (1 Jn. 5:13).

