

Descriptions Of Heaven

Heaven 4-Part 2

Rev. 21:9-22:5

Introduction.

- I. This is the final in a series of lessons on heaven.
- II. This lesson, like the previous lessons, will be devoted to "Descriptions Of Heaven."
- III. I am convinced heaven is the most beautiful and most perfect place in existence.
 - A. There is nothing in this world to compare to it.
 - B. All human descriptions fall short of the majestic beauty and glory of heaven.
 - C. The human mind could not comprehend all the adjectives it would take to describe heaven.
 - D. We will only fully appreciate it once we are there, and experience its wonders.
- IV. John is taken "in the Spirit" to a high mountain where he is show the Lord's bride, the holy city Jerusalem. (Rev. 21:10).
 - A. John is given another picture of the celestial city where God will dwell with His people.
 - B. The city of God in all its perfection and splendor is further described.

I. A Large City

A. John informs us the city is 12,000 furlongs in the length and the breadth. (Rev. 21:16).

1. This means the city is roughly 1,500 miles in length and breadth.

2. This makes the city 2,250,000 square miles.

Note: Gr. "stadion." Stadium or stadia plural is about 185 meters (607 feet). $12000 \times 607' = 7,296,000$ feet or 1381.82 miles. Many translations have rounded the number to 1500 miles.

B. John adds another important number

1. The height of the city is 1,500 miles (Rev. 21:16), and this means the city is 3,375,000,000 cubic miles.

2. Taken literally it is larger than all the large cities of the world combined.

3. It is a city much larger than the state of Texas, and staggers the mind to image such a large, majestic city.

C. What is the point?

1. The point is not to make these dimensions literal.
2. The point is that the city is large beyond our imagination and large enough to hold all who trust in Jesus from every tribe, nation, and tongue.
3. It will hold a multitude that no man can number. (Rev. 7:9).
4. The God who created man and an infinite universe will never have a space problem.
5. We should never be concerned about its size, but be concerned about getting there.

II. A City Of Precious Stones

A. The wall is a 144 cubits - 216 feet high. (Rev. 21:17).

REV 21:17 And he measured its wall, seventy-two yards , according to human measurements, which are also angelic measurements.	REV 21:17 He measured its wall and it was 144 cubits thick, by man's measurement, which the angel was using.
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1. An angel measured the wall, but he used the measurement of man.
 - a. It is not clear if the 216 feet is the height or breadth of the walls. **NIV** adds “thick” but this is interpretation.
 - b. If it is the height, the wall seems very low in comparison to the height of the city.
 - c. The purpose of the wall is unclear since there is no need for protection in the city of God - no devil, no evil, etc.
 - d. It may be symbolic to represent the beauty and majestic this glorious city.
2. The foundation of the wall of the city were adorned with all manner of precious stones. (Rev. 21:19, 20).
3. The twelve gates were twelve pearls. (Rev. 21:21).

REV 21:21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; each one of the gates was a single pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.
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- a. Each pearl was so large that a gate was cut in it.
- b. Imagine the beauty and value of such a pearl!
- c.. **Note:** Pearls are mentioned elsewhere in the New Testament (Matt. 13:46; 7:6; 1 Tim. 2:9), but are not mentioned in Old Testament

B. The city is pure gold. (Rev. 21:18).

REV 21:18 And the material of the wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass.

C. "The street of the city was pure gold, transparent as glass." (Rev. 21:21). RSV

1. John may see one street winding through the city.
2. The word "street" may be used in a generic or collective sense. See "sins" - Jn. 1:29.
3. Heaven is such a lavish place that even the streets are paved with gold.

III. A City Blessed By God's Presence

A. There is no temple there. (Rev. 21:22).

1. The temple is God and the temple is the Lamb.
2. Heaven does not need a temple in their honor since they are there in all Their glory.

B. The city has special illumination.

1. It is not lighted by the sun or moon. (Rev. 21:23).
 - a. They will no longer exist. (2 Pet. 3:10,12).
 - b. Even if they existed, there would be no need for them in heaven.
2. The glory of God and the glory of the Lamb light it. (Rev. 21:23).
3. "For there shall be no night there".
 - a. Night belongs to evil.
 - b. "And there shall no longer be any night" (Rev. 22:5).

IV A City For The Nations

A. The city is not limited to the Jews. (Acts 10:34,35).

B. It is for "the nations." (Rev. 21:24).

REV 21:24 And the nations shall walk by its light, and the kings of the earth shall bring their glory into it.

1. Those in heaven will not be from a single nation.

MAT 8:11 I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.

LUK 13:29 People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God.

REV 7:9 After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and

were holding palm branches in their hands.

2. Innumerable people from countless nations will be there.

C. Heaven is for all who accept Jesus. (Mk. 16:15,16; Matt. 28:19,20; Acts 10:34,35; John 14:6).

D. It is for all who have their names written in the Lamb's book of life. (Rev. 21:27; 3:5)

1. It is urgent that we have our names written in this important book.

2. Our names will be there if we trust and obey Jesus.

3. It is disastrous not to have our names written in this book. (Rev. 20:15).

V. A City Having A Pure River Of Water Of Life

A. The river is "clear as crystal." (Rev. 22:1).

REV 22:1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb NASB
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Rev 22:1 And I saw a river of water of life, clear as glass , coming out of the high seat of God and of the Lamb, BBE

B. It proceeds out the throne of God and of the Lamb.

1. "Street" is again singular. See Rev. 21:21

2. John may be using it in a collective sense or he may see one street winding throughout the city.

VI. A City With The Tree Of Life

A. Adam and Eve were driven from "the tree of life." (Gen. 2:9; 3:22).

GEN 2:9 And out of the ground the Lord God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
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GEN 3:22 Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, lest he stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever "--
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B. "The tree of life" will be in heaven. (Rev. 2:7; 22:2,14).

REV 2:7 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life , which is in the Paradise of God.'

REV 22:2 in the middle of its street. And on either side of the river was the tree of life , bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. REV 22:14 Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life , and may enter by the gates into the city..
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C. There will not be just one tree of life. (Rev. 22:2).

1. "On either side of the river was the tree of life."
2. "It produced twelve kinds of fruit, yielding a fresh fruit every month" - Wey.
3. Even "the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations."

a... served as medicine for...-Wey.....served to heal...- Mof.

b. What is meant by "healing" is not clear. "The tree of life" [tree, fruit, leaves] may be symbolical to refer to the fact that those who access to it will have eternal life. It denotes spiritual healing - salvation.

VII. A City Of Service

A. "And his bond-servants shall serve Him." (Rev. 22:3).

1. God will give us challenging work to do.
2. Boredom will not be a problem.

Note: The Greek word "latreu'ο" can be translated "worship" or "serve." It is often rendered 'serve." ASV, KJV, NASB, NIV, YLT, RV, Darby, Webster. Some translations have "worship." ESV, BBE, NRSV. Worship and service are not mutually exclusive ideas. Rendering service to God is also involves worshipping Him, and worshipping God involves service.

ACT 27:23 "For this very night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve [latreu'ο] stood before me,

MAT 4:10 Then Jesus said to him, "Begone, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship [proskune'ο] the Lord your God, and serve [latreu'ο] Him only.'"

LUK 1:74 To grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, Might serve [latreu'ο] Him without fear,

LUK 2:37 and then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. And she never left the temple, serving night and day with fastings and prayers.

LUK 4:8 And Jesus answered and said to him, "It is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.'"

ROM 1:9 For God, whom I serve in my spirit in the preaching of the gospel of His Son, is my witness as to how unceasingly I make mention of you,

ROM 1:25 For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

B. How thrilling and challenging it will be to serve and worship the Awesome God of heaven.

1. Worship or service will no longer be through the eyes of faith, but worship and service will be in His presence.
2. With our new bodies we will joyfully and tirelessly render praise and service to God.

VIII. A City Of Special Privileges

A. God's children "shall see His face." (Rev. 22:4).

1. No one has seen God as He is in this world (Jn. 1:18), but we shall see God in heaven. (Matt. 5:8).
2. We shall "see him even as he is" (1 Jn. 3:2), but no one can do this now. (Exod. 33:20; 1 Tim. 6:16).

B. "His name shall be on their foreheads." (Rev. 22:4). See Revelation 14:1

1. This is a sign of ownership.
2. We are God's children. (Gal. 3:26, 27; 1 Jn. 3:1,2).
3. We have been redeemed - purchased by the blood of the Lamb. (1 Cor. 6:19,20; Rev. 7:13, 14).

Note: The worshipers of the beast had the mark of the beast on their foreheads, but believers have the name of God :on their foreheads.”

IX. A City Whose Blessings Will Last Forever

- A. "And they shall reign for ever and ever." (Rev. 22:5).
- B. Jesus taught heaven will be without end. (Matt. 25:46; Mk.10:30).
- C. See Tit. 1:2; Rom. 6:23; Gal.6:8; 1 Jn. 2:25; 5:13.

Conclusion.

- I. Yes, heaven is beautiful and wonderful beyond our comprehension.
- II. Let us walk in the light and confess our sins that the blood of Jesus might cleanse us of all sin. (1 Jn. 1:7,9).
- III. Let us set our eyes on the heavenly city and keep on marching by faith to that celestial city. (Col. 3:1,2).
- IV. Let us practice the Christian graces that will richly supply us entrance into heaven. (2 Pet. 1:5-11).

Summary

1. I want to go to heaven because God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit are there.
2. I want to go to heaven because the angels and all the redeemed will be there.
3. I want to go to heaven because there will be no evil there.
4. I want to go to heaven because it is place more wonderful and beautiful than we can even imagine.
5. I want to go to heaven because there will be no pain or suffering there.
6. I want to go to heaven because we will have perfect bodies that are immortal and incorruptible there.

7. I want to go to heaven because of the exalted privilege and experience of worshiping God and His Son.
8. I want to go to heaven to be re-united with my loved ones who were in Christ.
9. I want to go to heaven because of the excitement and challenge of serving God.
10. I want to go to heaven to see my God and Savior face to face and to thank them for my salvation.
11. I want to go to heaven because it is a place of “rest.” (Rev. 14:13).
12. I want to go to heaven because it will last forever.

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