

## Heaven is My Home -- Rev. 21:1-4 & 10-23

And I saw a new heaven & a new earth: for the first heaven & the first earth were passed away; & there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, & He will dwell with them, & they shall be His people, & God Himself shall be with them, & be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; & there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. (Skipping down to verse 10) And he carried me away in the spirit to a great & high mountain, & shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, Having the glory of God: & her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal; And had a wall great & high, & had twelve gates, & at the gates twelve angels, & names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; & on the west three gates. (Verse 16) And the city lieth foursquare, & the length is as large as the breadth: & he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. (that's 1500 miles) The length & the breadth & the height of it are equal. And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred & forty & four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel. And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: & the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass. And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. (And listed are all those many precious stones.)

(Verse 21) And the twelve gates were twelve pearls: every several gate was of one pearl: & the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.

And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty & the Lamb are the temple of it. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, & the Lamb is the light thereof.

The Bible assures us that **if** we die **"in Christ"** we will have an Eternal Home, a beautiful place called **heaven**; a place God has prepared for His very own! As Christians, we should remain focused on the fact that **Heaven is our home!** The song writer put it so well in the old hymn: **Heaven is My Home**  
I'm but a stranger here -- Heaven is my home; Earth is a desert drear, -- Heaven is my home.  
Danger & sorrow stand, round me on every hand; Heaven is my fatherland, -- Heaven is my home.

There at my Savior's side -- Heaven is my home; I shall be glorified, -- for Heaven is my home;  
There are the good & blest, those I love most & best; And there I, too, shall rest, for Heaven is my home.

Therefore I murmur not, -- Heaven is my home; What ever my earthly lot, -- Heaven is my home;  
And I shall surely stand, there at my Lord's right hand; Heaven is my fatherland, Heaven is my home.

Christians are not citizens of **earth** trying to get to heaven! Rather, Christians are citizens of **heaven** making their way through this world!

**Revelation 21** gives us a brief preview of our heavenly home! Heaven is just as real as Benson, AZ, or Tucson. Heaven will have as its inhabitants those who are redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ! No matter how we try to describe Heaven, our imagination will not be able to comprehend what God has prepared for us! Can you imagine, for a moment, the joy, the thrill, the excitement, the wonderment, that John must have felt when he was given this vision of Heaven recorded in the Revelation chapter 21? I am literally thrilled every time I read about **the place that God has prepared for His people!** Let's look at three facts found in Revelation 21 about Heaven: --

**1. Heaven is a Huge Place** -- vr. 16.

In verse 16 we are given the measurements of this Heavenly place. When the angel measured the size of heaven -- he found it was a square, as wide as it was long. In fact, it was in the form of a perfect cube, for its length & width & height were each 1,500 miles! I can visualize how wide & long that is, but the heights is beyond my ability to calculate! But God said it, & that settles it, & I believe it!

There has never been a city in the history of this world to compare with that which will be **the center of attraction through out eternity!** An engineer calculated that a city of that size would contain 2.25 million square miles, & could easily accommodate 100 billion people, **without any overcrowding!** There is enough room for all of us in that great city of God! No wonder Jesus said: "In my Father's house are many mansions (many dwelling places). *"A tent or a cottage, why should I care; He's building a palace for me over there."*

## 2. Heaven is a Holy Place! -- vr. 27

Verse 27 reads, "There shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie; but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life." That means there will be no Satan to deceive us! There will be no liquor sales; no drug dealers! There is nothing to remind us of the sorrows of life. Heaven will be absolute holiness, because it is the home & the abode of the Most High & Holy God! Advocating a holy life style may not be popular here on earth, but you had best get use to it, for Heaven is a holy place!

## 3. Heaven is a Happy Place! -- vr. 4

Verse 4 tells us that "God (Himself) shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; & there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain." There will be no memories of those things that brought tears to our eyes, nor grief to our hearts! All those memories will be gone! (praise God!) for God Himself shall wipe away all tears from our eyes! He won't have a secretary do it, nor will He allow the angels to wipe away our tears. It will be Almighty God Himself! He will remove all our sorrows, & there will be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying, nor pain! Death is gone for good! Tears gone; crying gone; pain gone! **Heaven is a happy place!**

I have been thinking lately about what I want to do when I get to heaven! **I like to anticipate what I am going to do when I get to where I am going!** When I get to heaven, there are some **happy** things I am planning to do; for **Heaven is a happy place!**

**First of all, I will Take a Sightseeing Tour!** I enjoy going to places & looking around! Last year, Jeannette & I traveled all Summer visiting friends, & enjoying a whole lot of sight-seeing! It would take far too long to explain all the new things & places we enjoyed seeing; it seems there is **so much** we want to see. **When I get to heaven,** time, money, or the lack of energy will not be a factor! Let me tell you about some of the things I want to see when I get to heaven: --

(A). **I want to see the Book of Life with my name in it!** Verse 27 tells us that only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life, shall enter into heaven! My name was recorded there the day I was born again! My race, color or creed, did **not** place it there! My dear saintly mother & her salvation did **not** place it there! The One who saved me from my sins on a Sunday afternoon at an old fashioned altar in the hills of Eastern KY, on Feb. 16, 1958, **He is the One who placed it there in the Book of Life!**

(B). **I want to see the Bottle with all my tears!** You may ask, "What are you talking about, preacher?" The Palmist David prayed in Psalms 56:8, "You keep track of all my sorrows. **You have collected all my tears in**

**your bottle. You have recorded each one in your book.**" My friends, God saw that tear that flowed down your cheek! He saved it in a bottle! **We all have had our heartaches!**

Until we die, or the rapture takes place, we will have sorrow. Children bring sorrow & tears; families bring sorrow & tears; even friends bring sorrow & tears; sometimes Christians bring sorrow & tears! **But our Savior has collected them all!** God keeps all our tears in a bottle! He notes how many drops there are in His register! Our tears are a sweet smelling offering to Him! I do not know why He saves our tears; that will be revealed to us someday! But be sure that God has saved our tears! I want to see that bottle that contains all my tears!

(C). **I want to see the Bride dressed for the wedding!** I love weddings! What celebrations they are! Usually, when the bride comes down the aisle, everyone stands! They want to see her in all her beauty & glory! Rev. 21:2 reads: "I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven prepared **as a bride adorned for her husband.**" In that great Marriage Supper of the Lamb, **we** (the redeemed), yes, **we are the bride** that is adorn for her groom! In this wedding, everyone will stand when the **Groom** comes! The Blood of the Lamb of God will dress the church (the Bride of Christ) in a white spotless garment that is typical of the washing away of her sins! I want to see the Bride dressed for the wedding!

(D). **I want to see the Saints of all the ages!** I will see my Jesus & worship Him first of all! I will see my brother, my father, my mother, & so many other dear family members & friends! All those dear saints in **this church** who have died over the past several months will be there, waiting & watching for you & me! Oh, how I am looking forward to seeing them once again! But then I want to also see some of my heroes in the faith! Men & women like D. L. Moody, Fanny Crosby, Charles Spurgeon, John Wesley, Phineas F. Bresee, the Apostle Paul & Peter & Mary Magdalene, & on & on! **So many wonderful saints!**

I am anticipating a grand & happy time, as I take a sightseeing tour of heaven, with all its spender & glory & beauty! I will not need to be in a rush! I can take my time! I don't have to hurry home to go back to work, **for I am home**, & my labor is past! When I get to heaven, there will be many wonderful things to see & do! **Heaven will be a happy place!**

**2ndly, when I get to heaven, I want to sing in the Heavenly Choir!** In Revelation, chapter 5, I read that the elders fell down before the Lamb; each one had a harp, **& they sang a new song** with these words: "You are worthy ..." "Then (John writes), I looked again, & I heard the singing of thousands & millions of angels around the throne, & they sang a mighty chorus: 'The Lamb is worthy ...'" John continues to write: "And then I heard **every creature** in heaven & on earth & under the earth & in the sea. They also sang, Blessing & honor & glory & power belong to the One on the throne And to the Lamb forever & ever."

I have not personally had the gift, nor the talent, to be able to sing well here! I love good music, but it just is not my gift! But up there, I will join in that great heavenly choir, **& I will sing:**

*Saved by the blood of the Crucified One! Now ransomed from sin -- & a new work begun,  
Sing praise to the Father -- & praise to the Son, Saved by the blood of the Crucified One!  
Glory - I'm saved! -- Glory - I'm saved! My sins are all pardoned; -- my guilt is all gone!  
Glory - I'm saved! -- Glory - I'm saved! I am saved by the blood of the Crucified One!*

I don't know all the songs we will be singing, but we will have a **good & happy time** doing it! I am pretty sure one of the songs will be this one!

*Amazing grace! -- How sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost -- but now am found; Was blind -- but now I see.*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear The hour I first believed.*

*Through many danger -- toils & snares, I have already come;  
Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.*

*When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise Then when we'd first begun.*

**There is one more happy thing I want to do when I get to heaven! I want to SHOUT all over God's Heaven!** Psalm 47:1 says: "Come, everyone, & clap your hands for joy! **Shout to God with joyful praise!**"

**What** am I going to shout about, in that happy heavenly place? I'm anxious to shout for **joy** about some things that **won't** be in Heaven! **What will not be in heaven?**

There will be no more adversaries -- aggravation -- agitation -- annoyance -- athlete's foot -- adultery -- abortions -- or AIDS -- or ACLU! There will be no more bunions -- baldness -- backaches -- bitterness -- broken bones -- broken homes -- beer -- boring business meetings -- bad breath -- or bad debts -- & no more blindness. There will be no more cancer -- cemeteries -- confusion -- crime -- cussing -- complaining -- crying -- car wrecks -- crutches or canes. There will be no more doctors appointments -- dope -- divorce courts -- dandruff -- deceit -- disappointments -- death -- or devil. There will be no more evil -- earwax -- enemies -- or eyeglasses! There will be no more funerals -- false teeth -- fads -- fear -- failing -- falling -- fightings -- fussing -- feuding -- or faultfinding! There will be no more garbage dumps -- good-byes -- gangs -- gripping -- or guilt! There will be no more heart attacks -- hearing aids -- hatred -- hospitals -- hurricanes -- headaches -- or high blood pressure! There will be no more insurance -- insane asylums -- Internal Revenue Service -- immorality -- idolatry -- insects -- or itch! There will be no more jails -- or jealousy! -- or judging. There will be no more kidney stones -- or killings! There will be no more liars -- or liquor -- or locks! There will be no more misunderstandings -- mice -- or mosquitoes! There will be no more newspapers - nastiness - nudity - or needs! No more obscenity -- opposition -- obstacles or obituaries!

There will be no more policemen -- political ads -- pornography -- pain -- pills -- or problems! There will be no more quarreling -- or quitting! There will be no more rap music -- rebellion -- or roaches! There will be no more sickness -- sorrow -- snobs -- sinus infection -- sweat -- selfishness -- shacking up -- stealing -- shots -- or **sin!** There will be no more tooth aches -- tobacco -- television aids -- tears -- or trials! There will be no more ulcers -- or undertakers! There will be no more vomit -- violence -- or vengeance! There will be no more wayward children -- wheelchairs -- wigs -- whores -- witches -- or wickedness! There will be no more X-rated movies! There will be no more yielding to sin -- or youthful lust! There will be no more zigzagging from the truths of the Bible! **All of that, my friends, is enough stuff to make even a quiet Presbyterian shout!**

By the way, what happy things are **you** anticipating on doing when you get to Heaven? -- for **Heaven is a happy place!**

**Conclusion:** -- God has prepared a wonderful heavenly home for His people! Our finite minds cannot fully comprehend the magnitude of God's provision for His people! For sure, Heaven is a **huge** place; Heaven is a **holy** place; & Heaven is a **happy** place!

Remember dear friends, Heaven is **not** the reward of merit! You cannot **earn** nor **buy** your way into heaven! Rather Heaven is the **inheritance of the saints!** Rev. 21:7 reads: "He that overcomes shall inherit all things; & I will be his God, & he shall be my son." Heaven **is** the **inheritance of the saints!** According to the Bible, only the redeemed, the born again, those who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord & Savior, will enter Heaven!

**There is a heaven to be gained & a hell to be shunned!** There is a place called Hell where the unsaved will end up! It does not matter today if you are a Baptist, a Nazarene, a Pentecostal, a Lutheran a Methodist, a Catholic! **But it does matter if you have been born again, born from above, by the blood of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ!**

My friend, I ask you in closing, have you invited Jesus Christ into your heart & life? Have you been forgiven of your sins? Do you know for sure you have been **saved**, that you are a child of God, & that you are **ready** for heaven -- that your heart is right with God?

**How can we know? How** can we know for sure if we are going to Heaven? The Bible says that “the Spirit of God bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God; & if children, then heirs of God & joint heirs with Christ” (Romans 8:16-17). **Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people! The Christ who went away to prepare the place for us, sent the Holy Spirit to prepare us for the place!** Do you have that witness of God’s Spirit in your heart? Do you have that witness in your heart this morning?

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