

Kingdom Come

5) A New Heaven and a New Earth

'Now 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'

(Rev.21:1-2)

Heaven is mentioned in 53 books of Bible

What is heaven?

There are 3 kinds of heaven:

**1)The atmospheric heavens, where birds fly
and weather forms and functions**

*'Who covers the heavens with clouds, Who
prepares rain for the earth, Who makes grass
to grow on the mountains'*

(Ps.147:8)

This is the realm of humanity

2) The celestial heavens

'When I consider Your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and stars which You ordained...'

(Psa.8:3-4)

This is the realm of Satan

3) The eternal heaven (the third heaven)

'Look down from heaven and behold, and from the habitation of Your holiness and glory...'
(Isa.63:15)

This is the eternal dwelling place of God

'The Lord looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of men. From the place of His dwelling He looks on all the inhabitants of the earth'
(Psa.33:13-14)

Earth is our home; heaven is God's home

But, Jesus didn't want heaven without us...

**As the Mediator between God and mankind,
He will unite both in one**

***'...that in the dispensation of the fullness of
the times He might gather together in one all
things in Christ, both which are in heaven and
which are on earth—in Him'***

(Eph.1:10)

- ✓ **First, God had to prepare us for heaven by giving us a new body, 'Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither does corruption inherit incorruption' (1 Cor.15:50). The first body is suited for earth. The new body fits us for heaven**
- ✓ **Then He had to prepare heaven for us. He never takes His people anywhere He didn't first prepare for them. E.g. Eden, the Promised Land, etc.**

*'In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to **prepare** a place for you. And if I go and **prepare** a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also' (Jn.14:2-3)*

*'Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has **prepared** for those who love Him'
(1 Cor.2:9)*

*'But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has **prepared** a city for them'
(Heb.11:16)*

**Because God had to prepare (i.e. to provide,
or make ready) heaven for us, there needed
to be changes**

**These changes make it possible for God and us
to dwell together in the closest possible way**

That's why it's called a new heaven...

**...and that's why the New Jerusalem is called
the Bride of Christ**

*'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 heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God"'*

(Rev.21:2-3)

**This city is referred to 15 times in
Revelation 21&22**

**God's people have always wanted a holy city,
because this world is not our home
We are citizens of heaven**

***'...for he waited for the city which has
foundations, whose builder and maker is God'
(Heb.11:10)***

***'...you have come to Mount Zion and to the city
of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem'
(Heb.12:22)***

***'Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the
camp, bearing His reproach. For here we have
no continuing city, but we seek the one to come'
(Heb.13:13-14)***

'Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb'
(Rev.21:14)

'...having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone'
(Eph.2:20)

'According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ'
(1 Cor.3:10-11)

The gates

The city has gates, but they will never be shut because there is perfect security

'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'

(Rev.21:24-26)

And we will leave and enter the city as angels do today

'The city is laid out as a square; 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'
(Rev.21:16)

1,400 miles long, wide and high (a cube)

The holy of holies was also a cube

The New Jerusalem is the holy of holies for eternity

What will the New Jerusalem be like?

1) Negatively, it consists of the absence of things which hinder happiness now, e.g. no hunger or thirst, sickness or pain, sin, sorrow, death, etc.

'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' (Rev.21:27)

The nail prints in Jesus' hands will remind us that our sin has been forgiven by His amazing grace. But it will not possible for us to want to sin

2) The glory of God is the main feature of heaven

'...showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God'
(Rev.21:10-11)

'The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light'
(Rev.21:23)

It is the glory of the Burning Bush, the glory which lit up Moses' face, was on Mount Transfiguration, blinded Paul, etc.

***'They shall see His face...'* (Rev.22:4)**

Our faith will be turned to sight

Moses saw God, but not His face

'...who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see'

(1 Tim.6:16)

Seeing God is the climax of our hope...without climax!

***'And this is eternal life, that they may know
You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ
whom You have sent' (Jn.17:3)***

- ✓ **The joy and glory of heaven consists in God Himself. It will be joy unspeakable**
- ✓ **This is what Jesus redeemed us for**
- ✓ **Seeing God will be like seeing for the first time. Because we will see everything else thereafter through the lens of His glory**
- ✓ **We will no longer question His wisdom, His ways or His goodness**

In contrast, the nations will experience God indirectly

'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. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations'

(Rev.22:1-2)

God in liquid form. Wherever the river flows there is life and health

**Our souls will only be happy when He is the
centre and fullness of everything**

**Wherever we go in heaven we will be in
the immediate presence of the full glory of
God**

**It will be like swimming in an ocean of
pure love**

We will never have had enough of God

3) The joy of being with, and being like, Jesus

'Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me'

(Jn.17:24)

'Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure'

(1 Jn.3:2-3)

4) Spontaneous worship

'And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!" Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever'
(Rev.5:13-14)

5) Untold pleasures and delight

No bucket list needed!

**We shall drink of the pleasures of life
forever**

***'In Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your
right hand are pleasures forevermore'***
(Psa.16:11)

**6) Sweet fellowship with our loved ones, all
the saints and the angels**

*'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 firstborn who are registered in
heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the
spirits of just men made perfect'*

(Heb.12:22-23)

**Relationships will no longer be difficult or
painful, but harmonious**

There will be perfect love

7) Unceasing, yet untiring service

'Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them' **(Rev.7:15)**

There was work in Eden before the Fall. Work is not a product of the curse. Rather the curse made it difficult and tiring

We will assist God in running the universe!
'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'
(Rev.22:3)

8) Increased knowledge and understanding

We won't know all things, even as angels don't. Only God is omniscient

Eternity will be an endless unfolding discovery

'...that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus'
(Eph.2:7)

Summary

We will worship without distraction, serve without exhaustion, rule without failure, fellowship without division, rest without boredom

This is our inheritance given to us by God, purchased by the Son and kept safe by the Spirit

'But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance'
(Rom.8:25)