

Heaven is

Rev. 21

1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

Human history began in paradise...the Garden of Eden. And it will all end in paradise...the New Jerusalem.

v. 5 sums up the last 2 ch's of Revelation...all things will be new.

v. 6 "it is done"

What began in Genesis is brought to completion in Revelation.

7 Facts about What Heaven is: (title)

1. Heaven is a Restricted Place

(if we were to have gone on and read... we'd come to this verse)

8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Right here in the middle of this **positive**, beautiful description of heaven in Rev 21, God gives us a list of some who won't be there.

Why does God include this info? Perhaps to show that the sin which has cursed and ultimately destroyed this world will NOT be allowed into the next!

The fearful—never accepted Christ, afraid to take the stand.

The unbelieving—didn't believe at all in Christ or the Bible.

The abominable—...these have committed abominations.

What are some abominations?

Lev. 18:22 says **homosexuality** is.

Deut. 17:3 says **astrology** and **horoscopes** are abominations.

Deut. 18 says **consulting a medium**, fortuneteller, a wizard, or somehow communicates w/ the dead, they have committed an abomination.

Prov. 20 says **cheating in business** is an abomination. "false balance"

Prov. 12 says **compulsive lying** is an abomination.

Prov. 16 says **a heart full of pride** is an abomination.

(you don't have to be a **homo or a druggie or an astrologer** to miss heaven... you just have to have just **enough pride to say**, "I can live like I want to and I don't need God in my life.")

And heaven is off limits to all of these things.

...and murderers.

This would include all forms of **homicide** as well as **suicide** as well as **abortion**.

- [it being legal doesn't make it moral]
- The true Supreme Court is in heaven, and has already decided this case!

...and whoremongers.

- Addicts of lustful thoughts and actions
- Addicts of pornography
- Premarital and extra-marital affairs
- Transgender, effeminate, homosexuals, lesbians

These are all people who died in their sins, never repenting!

...and sorcerers.

Could mean witchcraft, but there's a deeper meaning.

- The greek word here is **pharmacia**, and I believe it's talking about **drugs** and other **chemical dependences**. (there are people who are addicted to pharmaceutical drugs too!)

...and idolaters.

You have an idol if you love something more than God.

Matthew 6:33

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

- Lots of church folks putting other things first before God

...and all liars.

Bold-faced liars as well as those more crafty, who lie by **insinuation**, and **exaggeration**.

- Heaven is the ultimate truth and no liars will be there, praise God!

Now, most of us have fit into one or more of these categories at some point in our life.

but I Love what the bible says:

1 Cor. 6:11

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

Heaven will be a restricted place

But I love the last part of the last verse of Ch 21...

27 And 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.**

Such were some of us...

We were on our way to hell...

We were abominators, liars, lifted up in pride...

But one day, we came to Calvary!

Living he loved me

Dying he saved me

Buried he carried all my sins far away

Rising he justified me, freed me forever

One day he's coming back, glorious day

How do you get your name written in the lamb's book of life?

Take a trip to Calvary!

Isa 1:18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

Heaven is a Restricted Place

2. Heaven is a Real Place

liberals deny existence...say it's a state of mind/wishful thinking...but Jesus said "I go to prepare a PLACE for you...there ye shall be also" [Jn. 14]

It's literal, tangible, described in detail. The emphasis is on what John **SAW**...

And we'll have real bodies...glorified bodies!

Php 3:20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

21 Who shall **change our vile body**, that it **may be fashioned like unto his glorious body**, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

Heaven is no fairy tale, no fabricated story,
Just as real as HELL is real

Heaven is a Real Place

3. Heaven is a Remaining Place

v. 1 the first heaven and the first earth were passed away

Nothing you see on this physical earth is going to last...nothing will remain.

- We like to have nice things and we should enjoy them, but don't get too attached...they are not permanent.

In the end, all we have left is our soul!

All we will have **in eternity is the treasures** we send ahead.

Only one life, it will soon be past,
only what's done for Christ will last

III.—[fictitious] 2 women died. One was extremely wealthy. But she was stingy/miser. She was a Christian, but very greedy about her money...and when she gave it was grudgingly.

The other woman was also a Christian. She was the wealthy woman's maid...she didn't have much, but loved to give, and looked for opportunities to do so.

When both women died, an angel escorted the two woman around Heaven.

He said to the wealthy woman, let me take you to your new home, but first we'll pass by your maid's house. Down the golden street they went, and as they approached a great mansion she said wow, and that's just for my maid?! I can't wait to see my place!

The MAID went joyfully into her new mansion. Then the Angel and the wealthy woman moved on to a cardboard shanty. "What is this?"

"Sorry, we did our best w/ the materials you sent us!"

Mt 6:20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

This old earth is going to be destroyed! And all that will be left is our souls and our spiritual investments, stored up for us.

One of the most precious experiences we will have in heaven is **being approached by someone who says,** I got saved because of your witness, your testimony, your missions giving, your prayers, etc.!

Heaven is a Remaining Place

4. Heaven is a Readied Place

2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

I've officiated several weddings...and it takes the bride a long time to get ready...hours and hours...w/ someone just for dress, hair, etc.

And the Lord has spent a lot of time, and is sparing no expense in readying heaven for us. 2,000 years compared to 6 days of creation!

John 14: 1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

2 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.

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

III.—little girl born blind/only beauty she knew came from her mother's descriptions/flowers in spring, trees in fall, snow in winter, ocean in summertime/girl could only imagine/

at 10 years of age, had experimental surgery to help her see/bandages for several weeks/moment of truth came...bandages removed and she saw/ran to the window and stood breathless/ **"mother, why didn't you tell me it was so beautiful?"**/ **"I tried to, but words just wouldn't suffice!"**

I believe that in heaven we'll run around breathless, **and when we see the apostle John we'll say**, "why didn't you tell me?" and he'll say, I tried, but words wouldn't suffice!

1 Cor. 2:9

But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

Heaven is a Readied Place**5. Heaven is a Relationship Place**

3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

This is what makes heaven heaven!

If the streets were not gold but gravel,
if the walls were particle board and not jasper,
if mud was knee deep and weeds over our heads,

it will still be heaven because Jesus is there!

Heaven is a place of relationship...

- there are times now we go through valley's...
- spiritual droughts
- times when we "don't feel Him"
- wondering where He is
- wondering if He really hears us

1Co 13:12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face:

There... we'll never feel separated

- Never feel alone
- Never feel desolate
- Never feel forsaken

And he walks with me
 And he talks with me
 And tells me I am his own
 Oh the joy we share
 As we tarry there
 None other has ever known

Heaven is a place of relationship

6. Heaven is a Place of Refreshing

6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

Ever been really thirsty?...sometimes a coke or sprite tastes good.... but even those won't do when you're **REALLY thirsty**...you want what? Water!

How satisfying! And in heaven, every righteous desire that we have will be perfectly and completely satisfied, once and for all!

Here on earth we pursue happiness, but don't ever completely find it, but in heaven that thirst will be quenched!

We'll have answers to our questions..."why?"

Pastor, have you ever had any of your people in the midst of tragedy ask you WHY?

Poem

I have heard the white-tipped tapping cane,
 Which leads a blinded eye.
 And then a darkened, lonely voice
 Cries, "Pastor, show me why."

I have seen a fiancée's burning tears,
And heard her lonely cry.
She held an unused wedding gown,
And cried, "Pastor, why?"

I have heard the cancer patient say,
"Tis gain for me to die;"
Then look into his daughter's face,
And mutely whisper, "Why?"

I've heard an orphan faintly say,
Who gazed into the sky,
"Tho Mom and Dad have gone away,
My pastor will know why."

I have sat beside a tiny crib,
And watched a baby die,
As parents slowly turned toward me,
To ask, "Oh, Pastor, why?"

I tiptoed to my Father's throne,
So timid and so shy,
To say, "Dear God, some of Your own
Are wanting to know why."

I heard Him say so tenderly,
"Their eyes I'll gladly dry,
Tho they must look through faith today,
Soon, they'll know why."

And so I've found it pleases Him
When I can testify,
"I'll trust my God to do what's best,
And wait to find out why."

And in heaven, ...we will know WHY

Songwriter wrote:

1. Trials dark on ev'ry hand, and we cannot understand
All the ways that God would lead us to that blessed promised
land;

But He'll guide us with His eye, and we'll follow till we die;
We will understand it better by and by.

2. Oft our cherished plans have failed, disappointments have
prevailed,

And we've wandered in the darkness,
heavy-hearted and alone;

But we're trusting in the Lord, and, according to His Word, We will
understand it better by and by.

3. Temptations, hidden snares
often take us unawares,
And our hearts are made to bleed
for some tho'tless word or deed,

And we wonder why the test
when we try to do our best,
But we'll understand it better by and by.

By and by, when the morning comes,
When the saints of God are gathered home,
We will tell the story how we've overcome;
We will understand it better by and by.

Heaven is a Place of Refreshing

7. Heaven is a Place of Relief come to music

4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new.

no more crying, sighing, or dying!
 No hospitals or graves!
 And No more goodbye waves

There will be **no aging**, wrinkles.

Illust: A husband was watching his wife putting some fancy expensive cold cream on her face one night. "Why do you put that stuff on your face anyway?" he asked. "To make myself beautiful." she said, while removing the cream with a tissue. "What's the matter..." he said, "are u giving up?"

- Nothing will ruin, rot, or rust.
- No more **aids**: walking aids, seeing aids or hearing aids.
- **No physical limitations**
- If you **want to run**, you'll run.
- Shout, shout... jump, jump...sumersault...
- There will be no **thirsting**, or hungering.
- No itching, no blindness, no deafness, no diabetes, no cancer, or heart attacks, or scars, no witchcraft, no drugs, no alcohol, or tobacco! No divorce, child abductions, accidents...and no more bills!

III.—5 year old girl had never stayed the night w/ a friend before/was nervous, but gave it a try/she did fine during the daytime, but when it got dark she got nervous in a strange place/ friend's mother perceived this: "honey, are you getting homesick?**"/with childlike innocence she replied, "no ma'am, **I'm getting here sick!**"**

And the more you may go thru down "here", the sweeter

heaven will be for you THERE!

Romans 8:18

For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

1Pe 4:12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

Some call it heaven/new Jerusalem/pearly white city/Glory/ but I call it "home".

I'm kind of homesick for a country

to which I've never been before
no sad goodbyes will there be spoken
and time won't matter anymore

Beulah Land I'm longing for you,
and someday on thee I'll stand
There my home shall be eternal.
In Beulah Land, Sweet Beulah land

I'm looking now across that river,
to where my faith will end in sight
Theres just a few more days of labor,
then I will take my heavenly flight

We'll finally be home...Heaven is a place of relief.

ARE YOU GOING?

IS YOUR NAME WRITTEN IN THE LAMBS BOOK OF LIFE?

Heaven's real, it's the New Jerusalem. And Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life...no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."