



# A Study of Revelation

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## Week Eleven – The New Heaven and Earth

There are various ways of denoting the future condition of the righteous. The most common, of course, is “heaven.” Yet the term itself needs to be examined before we can truly grasp the magnitude of this place.

◆ *shamayim (Hebrew); ouranos (Greek) - heaven, sky*

These terms for heaven are used in basically three different ways in the Bible.

- \_\_\_\_\_ . The expression “heaven(s) and earth” is used to designate the entire universe.
  - *Genesis 1:1; Matthew 5:18; 6:26; 11:25; 24:29, 35; Luke 4:25; 16:17; 17:24*
- \_\_\_\_\_ **for God.**
  - *Matthew 21:25; Luke 15:18, 21; John 3:27*
- **The \_\_\_\_\_ of God.**
  - *Matthew 5:16, 45; 6:1, 9-10; 7:11, 21; 10:32-33; 12:50; 16:17; 18:10,14, 19; 28:2; Mark 13:32; Luke 2:13, 15; 22:43; John 3:13, 31; 6:42, 51; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 4:16-17; 2 Thessalonians 1:7<sup>i</sup>*

### I. HEAVEN & PARADISE: THE \_\_\_\_\_ DESTINY OF THE REDEEMED

- **Heaven is the created place where God most \_\_\_\_\_ makes His \_\_\_\_\_ known.**
  - It’s a created place (Gen. 1:1).
  - It’s the place where God and Jesus dwells (Isa. 66:1; Matt. 6:9; Acts 1:11; 1 Pet. 3:22).
- **Heaven is the designated place for our eternal \_\_\_\_\_ with God.**
  - Jesus promises to bring us to where He is (John 14:1-3).
  - When we leave this body, we are immediately in the presence of the Lord (2 Cor. 5:6-8).

- In heaven, we find Paradise—the place God specifically created to \_\_\_\_\_ with humankind.
  
- ◆ **Paradise** (*Merriam-Webster*): Paradise ultimately comes from an Iranian word that the Greeks modified into *paradeisos*, meaning “enclosed park.” In Hellenistic Greek, *paradeisos* was also used in the Septuagint in reference to the Garden of Eden. Early Christian writers also used *paradeisos* for both Heaven and for the place where righteous souls await resurrection.
  - **Genesis 2:8-9** – The \_\_\_\_\_ is the centerpiece of the Garden of Eden.
  
  - **Revelation 2:7** – The Tree of Life is the centerpiece of \_\_\_\_\_.
  
  - **Genesis 3:22-24** – Adam & Eve were \_\_\_\_\_ from the Garden of Eden to avoid partaking of the Tree of Life.
  
  - **John 3:13; Luke 16:22-26; 23:43** – Paradise was not in heaven at first but was where the \_\_\_\_\_ saints (and even Jesus temporarily) dwelt before Jesus \_\_\_\_\_.
  
  - **Matthew 27:50-54; 1 Corinthians 15:20-24** – When Jesus resurrected, He opened the \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ so all of God’s saints could enter.
  
  - **2 Corinthians 12:2-4** – Now, Paradise is in \_\_\_\_\_ with God, Jesus, and His saints.
  
  - **Revelation 22:2** – The Tree of Life (Paradise) will be in the \_\_\_\_\_.

## II. THE NEW HEAVEN, EARTH, & JERUSALEM: THE \_\_\_\_\_ DESTINY OF THE REDEEMED (Revelation 21:1-22:5)

Human history begins and ends with Paradise, first in a garden and finally in a city. What began in Genesis is brought to completing in Revelation:

<u>GENESIS</u>	<u>REVELATION</u>
1:1 – heavens and earth created	21:1 – new heavens and earth
1:5 – night established	22:5 – no night there
1:10 – seas created	21:1 – no more seas
1:16 – sun created	21:23 – no need of sun
3:14-17 – curse announced	22:3 – no more curse
3:17 – sorrow and pain begin	21:4 – no more tears or pain
3:19 – death enters history	21:4 – no more death
3:24 – man driven from Tree of Life	22:14 – mankind restored to eat from Tree of Life

God promised His people a new heaven and earth (Isa. 65:17; 66:22). The old creation must make way for the new if God is to be glorified. Jesus called this even “the regeneration” of the earth (Matt. 19:28), and Peter explained that the old heaven and earth would be destroyed by fire (2 Pet. 3:9-13).

In contrast to the current heaven, the Bible gives much detail on our final destiny (although it may not answer everything we want it to). Here are some major points of description.

- **The \_\_\_\_\_ of Heaven**

- \_\_\_\_\_ of God

- **Revelation 21:3** – *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.”*

- **Perfect \_\_\_\_\_**

- **1 John 3:2** – *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.*

- **Removal of All \_\_\_\_\_**

- **Revelation 21:4** “*And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.*”

– **Place of Great \_\_\_\_\_**

- **Revelation 21:18-23** – <sup>18</sup>The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. <sup>19</sup>The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, <sup>20</sup>the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. <sup>21</sup>The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass. <sup>22</sup>But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. <sup>23</sup>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.
- **Revelation 22:5** – There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.

• **The \_\_\_\_\_ of Heaven (Rev. 21:1-8).**

- Our \_\_\_\_\_ are recreated to match our spiritual being and divine birthright (1 Cor. 15:39-54).
- Therefore, this new creation will be a place where \_\_\_\_\_ sorrow, suffering, or sin exists (2-8).
- This new creation will be a place where we can forever \_\_\_\_\_ the company of all God’s people from \_\_\_\_\_ nations and all periods of history (Matt. 8:11; Mark 9:4-5; Zeph. 3:20; Rev. 7:9; 21:3, 24-26).
- This new creation will be a place of good \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Sam. 12:22-23).

• **The \_\_\_\_\_ of Heaven: The New Jerusalem (Rev. 21:9-22:2).**

- The heavenly city is not merely the home of the bride—it \_\_\_\_\_ the bride (vs. 9-10)!
- “God’s \_\_\_\_\_” dwelt in the tabernacle and then the temple during the Old Testament times, and it dwells in His church and believers in the New Testament and today. However, in eternity, the glory of God will be seen in His holy city as the only light needed.
- The saints of the Old and New Covenants (“Testaments”) will be \_\_\_\_\_.
  - *The twelve gates = twelve \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel (vs. 12-13).*
  - *The twelve foundations = twelve \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 14; see Eph. 2:20).*

- The \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of the city are supernatural, having enough room for all the redeemed.
  - *1 cubit = @ 18 inches; the city walls are \_\_\_\_\_ feet high*
  - *1 furlong = @ 600 feet; the city is about \_\_\_\_\_ miles wide, long and high.*
- This new creation will be a place of great \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (Rev. 21:18-21)
  - The walls are jasper, which is a clear crystal.
  - The city itself is made of gold, so pure it looks like crystal.
  - Each separate foundation will have its own jewel, and the blending of the colors will be magnificent as God's light shines through.
  - The gates are made of a pearls (a single pearl/gate), and are \_\_\_\_\_.
- This new creation will be a place where we will enjoy God's presence and fellowship without \_\_\_\_\_ (Rev. 21:22-23; 22:5). Paradise is now here (Rev. 21:9-21; 22:1-2).
- ***The \_\_\_\_\_ of Heaven (Rev. 22:3-5).***

We are told relatively little about the activities of the Redeemed in heaven, but there are a few glimpses of what our future existence is to be, including:

- **Rest (Heb. 4:9-11; Rev. 14:13)**
  - *Hebrews 4:9-11 – <sup>9</sup>There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. <sup>10</sup>For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His. <sup>11</sup>Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.*
- **Fellowship with others (Heb. 12:22-24)**
- **Learning & Growth? (Rev. 22:2)**
- **Singing & Worship (Rev. 5:9; 15:3)**
- **Service to God (Rev. 22:3)**

- \_\_\_\_\_ *Regarding Heaven*
  - **Is Heaven a place or a state?**
  
  - **How much will we remember?**
  
  - **Will there be varying rewards in heaven?**

### III. FINAL ADMONITIONS (REV. 22:6-21)

Heaven is more than a destination; it should also serve as motivation. Knowing that we will dwell in the heavenly city in eternity ought to make a difference in our lives here and now. It motivated the Old Testament saints as they walked with and served God (Heb. 11:10, 13-16), and it encouraged Jesus as He was preparing to face the cross (Heb. 12:2). In the same way, assurance of heaven (and a right understanding of the “Day of the Lord” in general) should not lull us into complacency, but will spur us on to fulfill our responsibilities as children of God and the bride of Christ:

- *To keep* \_\_\_\_\_ *(vs. 6-11, 18-19).*
  - To “*keep* the sayings of the prophecy of this book” basically means to “guard, watch, and preserve.” We must not add to the Word of God or take anything from it (see Deut. 4:2: Prov. 30:5-6).

It was customary in ancient days to put a warning such as in verses 18-19 at the close of their books, because people who copied them for public distribution might be tempted to tamper with the material. What is interesting in Revelation, however, is that John’s writing is not addressed to the writer but to the reader and hearer. While we may not completely understand the penalties warned in these verses, we do know one thing clearly: It is a dangerous thing to tamper with the Word of God. The one who reads, obeys, and cherishes God’s Word will be blessed; on the other hand, the one who ignores, dismisses, or distorts God’s Word will pay the consequences.

- ***To remain \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord Jesus (vs. 12-16).***

This is a reminder that Jesus is coming and His reward is with Him. Those who have followed Christ will enjoy His reward and the heavenly city, but those who have not are not welcome. Therefore, we must be about serving and sharing the Lord, so that those who are still outside might be allowed inside, having been saved by Christ.

- ***To expect Jesus' return at \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 17, 20-21).***

Three times in this last chapter John wrote on behalf of Christ, "I come quickly" (vs. 7, 12, 20). Although Christ has "delayed" His return for almost 2,000 years, Peter tells us that this delay was actually longsuffering. God wants to give this sinful world opportunity to be saved (2 Pet. 3:1ff). Nevertheless, in the meantime, the Spirit of God through the Church of Christ calls on the Savior to come (vs. 20).

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<sup>i</sup> Erickson, Millard J. *Christian Theology*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1985. 1226-1234.