### Rev239 - HEAVEN IS REAL! - Rev 21:1-8

## God originally created THIS Earth to be a perfect paradise

for mankind to live & have fellowship with GOD - & with each other

But Sin (& the Devil) - Had other plans

Sin Separated us From God & from the Life God created us to have

But - <u>Jesus</u> Christ <u>RECONCILED US</u> to <u>God</u>
By <u>Providing</u> the <u>ONLY True Victory</u> over <u>SIN</u>

& THRU the Work of Jesus Christ

one day God will completely restore
ALL of His Creation - to its SINLESS perfection

#### At the Fall of Mankind

**ALL of creation** was **subjected** to **the curse** of **SIN** 

& since that <u>dreadful day</u> - in the <u>Garden of Eden</u>
ALL of Creation has been <u>groaning</u>

Waiting to be Set-Free from the corruption sin brought

## Romans 8:20-21 (NLT)

20 Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope,

21 the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay.

### & THAT Day - IS Coming

When <u>ALL of creation</u> will join US - as <u>God's Children</u> in glorious freedom from death and decay

## **Let's Pray**

Guys - The BEST is YET to come It REALLY, REALLY IS

God Ends the entire Bible with Two MASSIVE CH's on HEAVEN

Because The BEST is Yet to come

HEAVEN is what KEEPS us
Pushing toward Tomorrow

HEAVEN is what KEEPS us

"Looking Forward" to better days

Because The BEST is Yet to come

## As Believers - we need to ALWAYS be looking forward to the Great things God has in store for us

- & the <u>Greatest</u> of <u>ALL those Great Things</u> is <u>All reserved</u> for us <u>in HEAVEN</u>
- & that's what we begin looking at today as we start to wrap up the incredible study of Revelation

# We're going to spend the NEXT 5 MSG'S Talking about HEAVEN

So today we're going to do some BIG PICTURE TRUTHS
& then we'll get into more detail - in Each Message

## These Ch's about Heaven are the BEST Ch's in REVELATION

& if you have given your life to Jesus as Savior & Lord They will Be the **BEST Ch's** of **YOUR LIFE** 

<u>Heaven</u> is the <u>BEST of everything</u> you can <u>imagine</u> in <u>THIS life</u> - <u>WITHOUT</u> the SIN

It's the <u>Absolute BEST</u> of <u>What God created</u> this <u>life</u> to <u>be - - without Sin</u>

### & So - We need a More Accurate View of Heaven

#### Here is a HUGE TRUTH - We need to GRASP

Heaven is going to Radically IMPROVE, & INCREASE all that is from God - in this life

<u>CS Lewis</u> says - We are now in the "Shadowlands" - we're looking into a mirror dimly - We see & experience only a shadow of what God has created for us - And what he has created us to be

& Heaven is where

ALL that God created US FOR

& ALL that God created us - TO BE

Will Become a Very REAL - REALITY

### We need to blow out the Incorrect View of Heaven

Of us being a **<u>DisEmbodied</u>** Spirit **<u>Only</u>** - **<u>Floating</u>** on a cloud - **<u>strumming a harp</u>** for **<u>eternity</u>** 

#### That is NO WHERE in the Bible

There will NOT be ONE GODLY GOOD THING that will be missing there

**Including** the **GODLY BEST** 

of your Relationships & Experiences HERE - Without SIN

SIN - & its Effects
are ALL that will be Missing in Heaven

Because SIN brings DEATH
& there will be NO DEATH in HEAVEN

There will be ONLY LIFE

& that Life will be - ETERNALLY ABUNDANT

You're going to KNOW
The People you love (who are saved)

You're going to <u>LIVE</u>
<u>in Relationship</u> with them - <u>AND with GOD</u>

You're going to **BE PRODUCTIVE Doing Things** & **Serving** & **Worshipping the Lord** 

We are going to be part of Jesus "Have dominion over" ALL of creation

& that means the entire Universe of Creation

& most of all, we are going to LIVE in the Continual Presence

of our loving Eternal Father & our Savior Jesus Christ

## <u>It's CRITICAL</u> - we <u>get this RIGHT</u> in our <u>Minds</u> <u>AND</u> it's IMPORTANT - we <u>get EXCITED</u> About it

## **Believers** have **always looked** to the **Glory of Heaven**

for <u>strength</u> & <u>encouragement</u> to "<u>Press On</u>" Thru this "<u>Not so Heavenly</u>" World

#### In fact - Revelation was initially written

to **encourage believer's** to **keep** their **eyes set** on **Heaven** 

they were **TRIALS** & **persecution** they were **experiencing** - in the World

### Unfortunately - the Devil has had some REAL success

getting our eyes OFF of Heaven
& getting them SET on THIS world

The devil has convinced us
THIS WORLD is our Real Life

& <u>Heaven</u> is <u>just someplace</u> <u>we go</u> when this <u>REAL LIFE</u> is <u>OVER</u>

### Nothing could be further from the truth

& <u>nothing could be further</u> <u>from</u> what <u>the Bible</u> actually <u>SAYS</u> about <u>Heaven</u>

The **Apostle Paul gives** us **GLIMPSE** - of **just ONE PART** of **what** we **have** to **look forward to** in **Heaven** 

## in - Philippians 3:20-21 (NLT)

20 But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. 21 He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control.

### THAT is Some GOOD NEWS!!

Guys - we need to EXCHANGE our own thoughts

For God's ETERNAL TRUTH of What Heaven will be like

## **Heaven is Very REAL!!**

<u>If you</u> are a <u>follower</u> of <u>Jesus</u> Christ today - It is <u>CRITICAL</u> that you have your heart & your mind set

On a **VERY REAL** - **Resurrection Life** 

In a VERY REAL - Resurrected Body

With a **VERY REAL** - **Resurrected Jesus** 

On a **VERY REAL** - **Resurrected Earth** 

### A Resurrected Earth that includes

# ALL of the things GOD Created WITHOUT the effects of the Curse of SIN

## God WANTS You to "Set Your Sights" on the Incredible Realities of Heaven

& The Devil wants to KEEP YOU - from doing that

## Colossians 3:1-2 (NLT)

1 Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, <u>set your</u> <u>sights on the realities of heaven</u>, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand.

2 Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth.

set your sights on the realities of heaven
Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth.

If the Enemy CAN'T convince you that Heaven doesn't exist

Then He wants to at least - ROB you of the Excitement - the Passion - & the Drive

that God wants to GIVE You
THRU the TRUE knowledge of HEAVEN

# If you have Given your Life to Jesus Christ today Then this LIFE - is NOT your REAL LIFE

## Cont'g in Colossians 3:3-4 (NLT)

- 3 For you died to this life, and <u>your real life</u> is hidden with Christ in God.
- 4 And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.

#### Your life today

is a SHADOW of your REAL LIFE with Christ

In your **Relationships** - in **Creation** - & **With God** 

& one day - when you SHARE in the Glory of Christ

You will experience those things
as God - FULLY Created them to be

Let me recommend a Great Book
HEAVEN - by Randy Alcorn

<u>..., ..., ...</u>

<u>Please</u> – <u>DON'T</u> <u>watch</u> <u>crazy YouTube videos</u> about <u>Heaven</u>

& <u>Don't</u> get <u>sucked in to certain RELIGIONS</u> <u>teachings</u> on <u>Heaven</u> – that you <u>CANNOT find</u> in the <u>Bible</u>

#### My encouragement is

**BUY** the **book** – "**HEAVEN**" - By **Randy Alcorn** 

Then read the Bible vs's as you come to each one

& <u>allow it</u> to <u>inspire you</u> to <u>think deeply</u>
<u>about what</u> the <u>Bible actually says</u> about <u>heaven</u>

& THEN - get EXCITED

Because - HEAVEN IS REAL!

And (as a Believer) - God is SAVING for you an Indescribable Eternal Life - With Him - THERE

So (Finally) - let's start the Last TWO Ch's in The Bible

which are ALL ABOUT

the **GLORY** - & the **TRUTH** - & the **REALITY** - of **Heaven** 

We start - with the NEW HEAVEN & the NEW EARTH

### Revelation 21:1 (NLT)

1 Then I saw a <u>new heaven</u> and a <u>new earth</u>, for the <u>old heaven</u> and the <u>old earth</u> had disappeared. And the sea was also gone.

The New Earth - (which is PART of New Heaven) will NOT BE a spirit-only kind of place

It will be a Tangible, Physical Place - Like we know it now

With <u>Ground</u>, & <u>Water</u>, & <u>Trees</u>, & <u>Vegetation</u>, & <u>Animals</u>, & <u>People</u>, & <u>Natural Wonders</u> - <u>ALL OF IT</u>

The <u>Greek word</u> used for the <u>New Earth</u> is spelled - <u>"GE"</u> <u>from which</u> we get the word <u>GEOLOGY</u>

It speaks of the Physical, Tangible EARTH'S SURFACE

& the word used for - OLD (or FIRST) Earth is PROTOS - from which we get - PROTO-TYPE

THIS Earth - that we live on NOW is the Proto-Type - of the New Earth

<u>Much like</u> our <u>Bodies</u>
<u>are</u> the <u>Proto-Type</u> - for our <u>Resurrected Bodies</u>

We are talking about - a TANGIBLE New EARTH
For us to TANGIBELY LIVE ON - with each other
& God will TANGIBLY BE THERE

God is creating a NEW EARTH

That Is MORE REAL than this Current Earth

Because THIS 'Current Earth' - Is going to PASS AWAY
But the NEW EARTH - will NEVER pass away

#### The TANGIBLE NEW EARTH

will remain Perfect - Forever

## with you LIVING on it - EXPERIENCING LIFE In it & SERVING GOD in it

### **AS PART of the NEW ETERNAL HEAVEN**

& this **NEW EARTH** - **Has** a **Capital City** in it

- It is a **REAL City**
- It is a **Perfect CITY**
- It is the City of GOD in its Perfect, Eternal form

## Revelation 21:2 (NLT)

2 And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

This is a REAL - Incredibly AWESOME - CITY (The New Jerusalem)

**BUT** - We are **going to look** at The **New Jerusalem** - **NEXT week** 

So (for today) we'll move on

## What we know so far is - God has made a NEW Heaven - a NEW EARTH - & A NEW JERUSALEM

## Revelation 21:3 (NLT)

3 I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, <u>God's</u> <u>home</u> is now <u>among</u> his <u>people!</u> He will <u>live</u> <u>with them</u>, and they will be his people. <u>God himself</u> will be with them.

What <u>makes Heaven</u> - <u>Heaven</u> - is that <u>God DWELLS</u> with Man <u>There</u>

THAT is what Really - Makes Heaven - HEAVEN!

JUST LIKE God 'Lived With' Adam & Eve In the Garden of Eden

God is LIVING WITH US
ON THE New Earth - IN THE New Heaven

& we will be His people - Really, Tangibly, Physically God himself will be with [us]

& we'll talk MORE about God LIVING with us - as we cont

But What I want us to see today

is that <u>HEAVEN IS REAL !!</u>
It is <u>MORE REAL</u> than <u>This Earth</u>

& it <u>has ALL</u> the <u>BENEFITS</u> of God - Actually <u>BEING WITH US</u>

## **Revelation 21:4 (NLT)**

4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever."

Our <u>Heavenly Father</u> will <u>personally wipe away every tear</u> & <u>Death</u> - will be <u>DONE AWAY WITH</u>

No More Sorrow
No More Crying
No More Pain
these things are GONE FOREVER

All of the Effects of Sin - have Been Removed for Eternity
By the Work of Jesus Christ

#### This New EARTH & New HEAVEN & New JERUSALEM

Will be NEW - in the Best Sort of Way

### Revelation 21:5 (NLT)

5 And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new!" And then he said to me, "Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true."

The Lord - On the Throne says "Look, I am making everything new!"

## BUT - this Word translated "NEW" Does not necessarily mean - something we've never SEEN

But it **DOES MEAN NEW** as **to** - the **QUALITY** & **NATURE of a thing** 

It is **NEW** in **QUALITY** - **NEW** in **NATURE** 

Is NEW AS IN - "How it was originally Made to be"

## God is restoring All of Creation to its Originally Created Quality & Purpose

With ALL the Wonder of God & NONE of the Effects of Sin

& then God makes it Very clear to John "Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true."

God doesn't want us DUPED by our own THINKING
God doesn't want us DUPED by the Influence of this World
God doesn't want us DUPED by the Influence of the Devil

God's Word is Trustworthy & True & you can take that - to the Eternal BANK

## Revelation 21:6-7 (NLT)

6 And he also said, "It is finished! I am the Alpha and the Omega—the Beginning and the End. To all who are thirsty I will give freely from the springs of the water of life.

7 All who are victorious will inherit all these blessings, and I will

7 All who are victorious will inherit all these blessings, and I will be their God, and they will be my children.

On the cross Jesus FINISHED the Work of our Salvation

Here <u>He is saying</u> - The <u>New EARTH</u> & <u>New HEAVENS</u> are <u>FINSHED</u> <u>being created</u>

He has <u>returned</u> <u>all of Creation</u> <u>back</u> to its <u>original sinless state</u>

the **only difference** now is that **WE** get to **be PART** of it

### & Jesus Christ WILL GIVE FREELY

This **WATER** of **ETERNAL LIFE**To **ALL** who **THIRST For it** 

& we who are VICTORIOUS in Jesus Christ

Will INHERIT - ALL these Blessings
As Sons & Daughters of GOD

& <u>it will be</u> the <u>most Thrilling</u> - <u>Fulfilling</u> - <u>Mind-Blowing</u>

<u>Eternal Life</u> that you <u>could ever imagine</u>

### But then -we have an ABRUPT Reminder - to all Unbelievers

## Revelation 21:8 (NLT)

8 "But cowards, unbelievers, the corrupt, murderers, the immoral, those who practice witchcraft, idol worshipers, and all liars—their fate is in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."

This is a list of those whose lives

are <u>Characterized</u> by <u>these Sins</u>
WITHOUT the cleansing forgiveness of Christ

This is a Graphic list of all UNBELIEVERS
There are NO TRUE Believers here

BUT - Eph Ch 2 says
WE TOO were once DEAD in our Sins

**Separated** from **God's Presence** in **HEAVEN** 

But God made a way - Thru FAITH in Jesus Christ

For us to be Forgiven, Justified,
& Raised to New Life - - New ETERNAL Life

## **Ephesians 2:8 (NLT)**

8 God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God.

Your **Eternal Entrance** to **HEAVEN** Is **ALL by God's Grace** 

BUT you <u>RECEIVE it</u> - By <u>Putting your Full Faith</u> in <u>Jesus Christ</u> as your <u>SAVIOR & LORD</u>

To BE THERE (in Heaven)

You MUST begin the Adventure HERE (on this Earth)

TURN from your sin - Put your Full Faith & Trust in Jesus Christ - as your Savior & Lord

& <u>begin</u> this <u>Incredible</u> - <u>Eternal - Heavenly Adventure</u> <u>with God</u> - <u>TODAY</u>

**Let's Pray**