

God originally created **THIS Earth** to be a **perfect paradise**
for **mankind** to **live** & **have fellowship** - w/ **each other** & w/ God

But Sin (& **the Devil**) - Had **other plans**

Sin Separated us **From God** - & **from the Life** God **created** us
to **have** - both with **Him** - **AND** with **One Another**

But **Jesus** Christ **RECONCILED US** to God - & **one day** He will
completely restore - **ALL** of **God's Creation**

& **it wasn't** just **mankind** **cursed** by **Sin** & **the Fall**
ALL of creation was **subjected** to **the curse**

& **since** those **perfect days** with **God** in the **Garden of Eden**
ALL of Creation has been **groaning**

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 **ALL of creation** will **join US**,
as **God's Children**, **in glorious freedom from death and decay**

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 - "Looking Forward" to better days - The BEST is yet to come

This past week I went thru a Traumatic Experience with a Young Faithful Couple - & I was really hurting for them

**& when I asked How they were getting thru it
This young man, with Strong Faith - said to me,**

"We know God has great things in the future for us, & we're holding on to that, looking forward to that" - & then he said - "We'll get thru this - by looking forward to the good things God has in store for us"

& Guys - THAT is Picture of HEAVEN

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

& the Greatest of ALL great things - More than we could ever Hope or Imagine - is All reserved for us - in HEAVEN

& that's what we begin studying today as we start to wrap up the incredible study of Revelation

Let's Pray

We're going to spend our last FOUR MSG'S in Revelation Talking about HEAVEN

So today we're going to do some BIG PICTURE Truths As we begin these last two Ch's (*& some more each msg*)

The Ch's about Heaven - are the BEST Ch's in REVELATION

They're **the BEST Ch's** in **THE BIBLE**

They're **the BEST Ch's** of **YOUR LIFE**

Heaven is the **BEST of everything** you can **imagine in THIS life** -
WITHOUT the SIN

It's the **BEST** of **RELATIONSHIPS** you can imagine

The **BEST** of **LOVE** you can imagine

The **Absolute BEST** of this life - **without Sin**

& **We need** a **More Accurate View** of Heaven

Not a view where we (out of obligation) **say**,
"Well yeah, Heaven will be nice"

but inside were **actually thinking**

we're going to **MISS something** about **THIS LIFE**

Heaven is **NOT** going to **TAKE anything GOOD** from us

Heaven is going to **Drastically IMPROVE**, & **INCREASE**
all that **we know** in **this life** that is **from God**

CS Lewis 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 - & created us TO BE***

Heaven is **where all** that **God created FOR us** -

& created us **TO BE** - comes into a **Very REAL - REALITY**

We need to blow out this Incorrect View of Heaven

Being a **DisEmbodied - Spiritual Only** -

Floating around **strumming a harp** type of **eternity**

That is NO WHERE in the Bible

Heaven is going to BLOW YOUR MIND

There will **not be ONE THING GOOD** that is **missing** there

Including the GODLY BEST

of your **Relationships & Experiences HERE** - Without **SIN**

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

& if you are still under the Deceiving influence of the Devil

that the **only** things **exciting & fun** involve **sin**

Then you are in a **“dangerously deceived”** place

Because **SIN actually - brings DEATH** - & there will be **NO DEATH**
in **HEAVEN - ONLY Life** - & that Life **More Abundantly**

& AGAIN - when I say Abundantly - DON'T let your mind say,
“Yeah, I know - floating around as a spirit,
singing hymns from the 1700's for all eternity”

NO - Heaven is gonna ROCK - It's gonna BLOW your mind

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

You're going to **Have Cont'g Relationships** with them, & **GOD**

You're going to **Be Productive - Doing Things & Being Challenged**

We're **gonna help** Jesus **“Have dominion over” ALL of creation**
that's the **entire Universe** of Creation

& **most of all**, we are **going to be** in the **Very** (& continual) **Presence**
of our **loving Eternal Father**, & our **Savior Jesus Christ**

It's **SO CRITICAL** that we **get this RIGHT**
AND that we **get EXCITED** About it

Believers have **always looked** to the **Glory of Heaven** for **strength & encouragement** to "**Press On**" Thru this "**Not so Heavenly**" World

In fact - **Rev** was **initially written** to **encourage** believer's to **keep** their **eyes set** on **Heaven** - to survive the persecution

Unfortunately - in our **Christian Culture** - the **Devil** has had some **good success** in getting our **eyes OFF of Heaven** - & getting them **SET** on **THIS world**

The devil's convinced us - our **friends** are **going** to be **partying** it up in **HELL** - while **we're floating** around on a **cloud** w/ a **HARP**

& **Nothing** could **be further** from the **truth** - & **nothing further from** what **the Bible** actually **SAYS** about **Heaven**

In **Phil 1:23** - The **Apostle Paul** says that **being** with **Christ** **IN HEAVEN** - is **FAR BETTER** than **staying HERE** on **EARTH**

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.

Man - **THAT** is **GOOD NEWS!!**

But **maybe** we've been **DUPED out** of our **Excitement** - by that **boring, floating on a cloud** with a **harp** (non-Biblical) **vision**

Listen - we **need to EXCHANGE** the Devil's **SUBTLE LIES**
For God's **ETERNAL TRUTH**

Heaven is Very REAL !!

If you are a follower of Jesus Christ today - It is CRITICAL that you have your heart & your mind set . . . :

On a REAL Resurrected Life
In a REAL Resurrected Body
With a REAL Resurrected Jesus
On a REAL Resurrected Earth

A Resurrected Earth - that includes all of the things that are REALLY of GOD - That we only see a SHADOW of here

God WANTS you to "Set Your Sights" on the 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, set your sights on the realities of heaven, 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.

It's the ACCURATE REALITY of Heaven
that your enemy wants to KEEP you IGNORANT of

If he CAN'T convince you that Heaven doesn't exist
He's ok with Convincing you heaven will be BORING
or that you'll be MISSING something there

& if he can convince you of that - he will ROB you of
the Excitement - the Passion - The Drive -
that God wants to GIVE us - THRU the knowledge of HEAVEN

Maybe the Enemy has convinced you - that THIS is your actual Life & that heaven is just a better alternative than Hell

But **NOTHING** could be further from the truth

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

3 For you died to this life, and your real life 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 Relationships - in Love - With God . . .

It's **only a SHADOW** of what **God** has **designed** those things to REALLY BE

& **one day** - when you **SHARE** in the **Glory of Christ** - You'll **experience** those **things** as God **FULLY Created them** to be

The Parts of **this life** that are actually **GOOD** - & **GODLY** will **BE** in Heaven - **Only AMPLIFIED & GLORIFIED !!**

So - **Before** we **get started** - Let me **recommend** a **Great Book**
HEAVEN - **by Randy Alcorn** (amazon.com)

I've **often heard** of his book, & **seen it** referenced by **other writers** - but in **the last two days** I actually **read it**

& **the more** I read about the **Biblical Heaven** - the **more excited** I got & **the more** I **wanted YOU** to be **excited about it**

BUY this book - & **allow it** to **inspire you** to **think deeply**
about what the **Bible actually says** about **heaven** (& *get excited*)

Because (as a Believer) - if you're **Not Really Excited** about **HEAVEN** it's **either** because you **simply Don't Know** what **the Bible** says . . .

OR, The Enemy of your **Soul** has **somehow** got you **to believe** **FALSE information** - about the **most exciting subject** in **the Bible**

So - **let's start** the **Final TWO Ch's** in **God's Word** - **which** are **all about** the **GLORY** - & the **TRUTH** - of **Heaven**

We start - with the **NEW HEAVEN** & the **NEW EARTH**

Revelation 21:1 (esv)

1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

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

It will **be the Earth** *Like we know* - **Dirt, Water, Trees, Vegetation, ANIMALS, People, & Natural Wonders**

The **Greek word** used for the **New Earth** is **"GE"** - **from which** we get the word **GEOLOGY**

It **speaks** of the **Physical, Tangible EARTH'S SURFACE**

& **the word** used for - **FIRST** (*first earth*) is **PROTOS** - from which we get - **PROTO-TYPE**

THIS Earth - is the **Proto-Type** of the **New Earth** - **Much like** our **Bodies** are the **Proto-Type** (blueprint) for our **Resurrected Bodies**

But Far too often, we don't see Heaven
being "As REAL" as THIS Earth & Life are

& often that leads to us having more Passion for THIS life
than for the HEAVENLY LIFE God has in store for us

But we need to be careful not to Belittle God's Creation of Heaven

God is creating a NEW EARTH

an ACTUAL New EARTH

For us to ACTUALLY LIVE ON - with each other

& with God ACTUALLY THERE

The New Earth (PART of Heaven) is REAL !!

MORE REAL than this Current Earth

Because THIS earth Is going to PASS AWAY

But the New Earth - will NEVER pass away . . .

It will remain Perfect - Forever - with you LIVING in it !!

NOT you somehow floating above it on a cloud -

LIVING in it - WORKING in it - SERVING in it . . .

& Being in Relationship - with God & With Others

In some ways - LIKE we do NOW - but without Sin

AND - with the actual, physical presence of God

& this NEW EARTH (PART of Heaven) - Has a Capital City

A REAL City - A Perfect CITY

The City of God - in its perfect, eternal form

Revelation 21:2 (esv)

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

This is a **REAL City** - & it is **REALLY Incredibly AWESOME**
& It's **coming down out of Heaven** from God - **TO** the **New Earth**

BUUUTTT - We're **gonna look** at The **New Jerusalem** - **Nxt week**
So (for time's sake) **we'll wait till then** to **get into it**

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

& now - the BEST part of it all - Revelation 21:3 (esv)
3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.

What **makes Heaven** - **Heaven** - is that **GOD is there**
- **God DWELLS** with Man **There**

& I really want you to see the connection
of **the NEW Earth** - the **NEW Jerusalem** **Coming Down**
& **God dwelling with US**

There **is no description here** of Heaven being **"Out There"**
somewhere - or **"Up There"** **somewhere**

Heaven involves a **REAL EARTH** - & a **REAL HOLY CITY,**
Where the **REAL God** will **Dwell** with **REAL US**

& notice - it seems God's Dwelling place COMES to Man -
NOT Us floating on Clouds up to God
God Dwelling with us on the New Earth

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

& we'll talk MORE about God DWELLING with us
as we cont in these MSg's

What I want us to see today - is that HEAVEN is NOT
ethereal cloud floating - HEAVEN IS REAL !!

It is actually MORE REAL than this Earth
& it has ALL the Promises of God actually being WITH us

Such as - Revelation 21:4 (esv)

4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

H.A. Ironside says here (no video): *This passage is beautiful in its simplicity, and comment would only seem like an attempt to paint the rose. How longingly must every believing heart look forward to that glorious day!*

Our Heavenly Father will personally wipe away every tear
Death has been 'done away with' - & There is No More Mourning

There is No More Crying - & No More Pain
For the Former things have passed away

All of the "Fallen-ness" of this world - has PASSED AWAY
All of the Effects of Sin - have Passed Away with it

The NEW EARTH (Part of Heaven)

Will be the BEST of All GODLY things on this earth - Glorified -
With the Removal of Sin & ALL its destructive effects

Revelation 21:5 (esv)

5 And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

Next - As Exclamation Points - God says FIRST
"I am making ALL things NEW"

Not the NEW as in something we've never seen or heard of -
but NEW as in - *"As it was originally Made to be"*

God is restoring All of Creation - to its Originally Created purpose
Which is ALL the Wonder of God - & NONE of the Effects of Sin

& then God makes it Very clear to John - *"Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."*

God doesn't want us DUPED by our own skewed thinking
or the influence of this world or the Devil

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

Revelation 21:6–7 (ESV) → →

Revelation 21:6–7 (ESV)

6 And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.

7 The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

On **the cross** Jesus **FINISHED** the **work** of **our Salvation**

Here **He is saying** - The **New EARTH** & **New Heavens**
are **DONE being created**

He has **returned all of Creation back** to its **original sinless state**
the **only difference** now - is that **WE** get to **be PART** of it

Jesus Christ IS the **Beginning** & **the End**

He IS the **one** who will **give you** the **Water** of **Eternal Life** - **FREELY**

& **the one** who **Conquers IN HIM** will have this **Eternal heritage**
& **GOD** will be **YOUR God** - & you will **BE his Son**

& **it will be** the **most Thrilling** - **Fulfilling** - **Mind-Blowing**
Eternal Life that you **could ever imagine**

But then -we have an **ABRUPT Reminder** - to **all Unbelievers**
who **find themselves hearing** these **words of scripture**

Revelation 21:8 (esv)

8 But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

This is a **Graphic list** of all **UNBELIEVERS** -

There are **NO TRUE Believers** - Referred to **in this list**

This is a list of those **whose lives** are **Characterized** by **these Sins**
WITHOUT the **cleansing forgiveness** of **Christ**

BUT REMEMBER Please - Ephesians 2 says (ESV)

1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins

2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world . . .

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us,

5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—

BY GRACE you have been Saved

BY God's GRACE - & THRU YOUR FAITH - ALONE

ASK - & you will Receive God's GRACE for Forgiveness

Commit your life to Jesus Christ

& a VERY REAL HEAVEN will be your home

i'd **like to close** this 1st msg with **a quote** from **Randy Alcorn**

who has **inspired me** to be **more excited** than ever - about **Heaven**

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Here's how Randy Alcorn closes his book - Heaven:

We were all made for a person and a place. Jesus is the person. Heaven is the place. If you know Jesus, I'll be with you in that resurrected world. With the Lord we love and with the friends we cherish, we'll embark together on the ultimate adventure, in a spectacular universe awaiting our exploration and dominion. Jesus will be the center of all things, and joy will be the air we breathe. And right when we think "it doesn't get any better than this" - it will.

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
& **begin** this **Eternal Adventure** with Him - **TODAY**

Let's Pray