

Well, we're moving toward the end of our spontaneous mini-series on HEAVEN - - This is our 4th Msg

I've been so blessed by this series - & even more blessed by your involvement in this subject & this series

My prayer has been that Heaven would become so much more REAL to each of us

That we could IMAGINE it - SENSE it - SEE ourselves THERE & Really SEE our loved ones who are Saved - WITH US there !

That, we would be more & more MOVED To Share Heaven, & God's ONLY WAY to get there, with others

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We ended last week in REV 21:22-23 - In V.22 we saw The New Jerusalem has NO Physical Temple in it

because the ENTIRE city IS the Temple - It IS the Place where the Presence of God Dwells - Where the people MEET with God

& then V.23 Again FOCUSES on the GLORY OF GOD saying:

**Revelation 21:23 (esv)**

***23 And the city has no need of sun or moon, for THE GLORY OF GOD illuminates the city, AND THE LAMB is its light.***

& I just need to KEEP Saying → →

The Most **VITAL** - **All Encompassing** - **Indescribable Truth**  
of the **New Jerusalem**  
Is the **Permanent**, **Full**, **Real**, **Tangible** - **Presence Of God**

It's **God Himself** - **Father**, **Son**, & **Holy Spirit** - In all of His  
**Full** Indescribable **GLORY** - That **MAKES** Heaven - **HEAVEN**

**& The best part of the New Earth (& New Jerusalem)**  
Will be **Enjoying** God's **Presence** -  
**Having Him Actually, Fully, Tangibly** - **DWELL** with us

& we **need** to **Never Forget** - that is the **Very Essence** of **Heaven**

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But **today** - we **continue our Tour** with John - of the **New Jerusalem**  
Which **we've described** as our **BASE of Operations** in Heaven

**Today** - John's **Angelic Tour** is coming **From OUTSIDE** -  
**To** more "**INSIDE**" - to the **CENTER** - of the **New City**

**Last week** we saw an **OVERALL VIEW**  
From Its **Size** - to the **Walls & Gates** & **Foundations** of the City

Now - **John** will give us a **glimpse** - **INSIDE** the **Eternal City**

We'll see - **The People of the City**  
then deeper inside **The River of Life** & **The Tree of Life**  
Then the **Throne of God** - with **Servants Worshipping**  
Then, **US** Seeing **the FACE of God**  
& Finally - We'll talk about **The Servants** of God **Reigning Forever**

**Let's Pray**

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Picking up John's incredible description -

We'll start (agn) in V.23 (where we ended last wk)

### Revelation 21:23–24 (esv)

*23 And the city has no need of sun or moon, for THE GLORY OF GOD illuminates the city, AND THE LAMB is its light.*

*24 By its light (the Glory of God & the Lamb) will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it,*

IN the Glory of God - will the NATIONS walk - & the

Kings of the Earth will bring their glory into The New Jerusalem

The GREEK Word for Nations is ETHNOS - from which we get Ethnic

In the Plural it means RACES, PEOPLES . . . NATIONS

### TURN over to Revelation 7:9–10 (esv)

*9 After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"*

THESE are the NATIONS - From Every Tribe & People & Tongue

Not only Worshipping At the Throne

But LIVING in the Continual (Real) Presence of God

Walking - Living - Relating - in The LIGHT of the GLORY OF GOD

<p><u>Is that YOU</u> - Have you <u>JOINED</u> the <u>NATIONS</u> of the <u>SAVED</u> - Soon to be <u>Walking</u> in the <u>Light</u> of <u>God's Glory</u> in the <u>New Jerusalem</u>?</p>
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If that's NOT You - YET - Make it You TODAY !!

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& then (Back in Rev 21:24) it says: ***The Kings of the Earth will Bring their GLORY into the New Jerusalem***

Do you remember the LAST TIME - The "Kings of the Earth" Brought their "Glory" to this Same King of Kings ?

Not in the NEW Jerusalem - But Just outside the OLD Jerusalem

It was in Bethlehem - & the MAGI of the Foreign Nations came to WORSHIP this Same King - Born as a Babe in a Manger

& they HUMBLY Offered Him the "Glory" of their Lands . . .

How much MORE SO - to the Glorified KING of KINGS in the NEW Jerusalem ??

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But this kinda brings up a New Question, Doesn't it ?  
***Will there BE "Kings of the Earth"?***

YES - There WILL - It says it Right there in Rev 21:24  
***the kings of the earth will bring their glory into the New Jerusalem***

We've discussed before - the problem we have  
GRASPING the MILLENNIUM Vs's the NEW EARTH

We can IMAGINE real LIFE in the Millennium - But then we somehow SWITCH to Clouds & Harps for Eternity

But SO MANY of the Scriptures we use  
to understand WHAT Life LOOKS Like in the in the Millennium . . .

**ACTUALLY Refer to ETERNITY!**

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**Consider the Famous Vision in the Book of Daniel re: End Times**

In **Dan Ch 7** - Daniel is **seeing** a **Vision** of the **Antichrist's Rule** during the **Last Half** of the **Tribulation**

**& Daniel 7:21–22 says (esv)**

***21 As I looked, this horn (Antichrist) made war with the saints and prevailed over them,***

***22 until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom.***

& then - Right there - **WHAT** do we **THINK ABOUT?**  
**The Millennium, Right?**

But **THEN** - in the **SAME Vision** - we **read** . . .

**In Daniel 7:27 (esv)**

***27 And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; his kingdom shall be AN EVERLASTING kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.***

& we think, **YEAH** - **Everlasting** - That's the **Millennium, Right?**  
**NO** - **1,000 years** is **NOT Everlasting**

**Hear it again in the NLT - Daniel 7:27 (NLT)**

***27 Then the sovereignty, power, and greatness of all the kingdoms under heaven will be given to the holy people of the Most High. His kingdom will last forever, and all rulers will serve and obey him.***

The **KINGDOM** that is **GIVEN** to the Saints of God -  
Under the **RULE** of **Jesus Christ - Will last FOREVER**

That **Forever Part** - Can only be **Referring** to - **Eternity** (New Earth)

**AND** - **All RULERS** will **Serve & Obey HIM**

& These are **NOT Kingdoms of Clouds** with **HARP Players**  
These are **REAL Kingdoms** of **Nations** - on a **REAL New Earth**

& There are **MANY** of these **TYPES** of Vs's  
- - - **What about** that **FAVORITE** Christmas Vs

**Isaiah 9:7 (esv)**

**7 Of the increase of his government . . . there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, . . .**

The **INCREASING** of His **Government - Over His Kingdom**  
Will **NEVER END** - - - That means - it's for Eternity

So - **YES** - There is a **KINGDOM** - & there are **NATIONS**  
& there are **CITIES** - All on the **NEW EARTH** that we call **HEAVEN**

& **YOU** May **very well** have a **PART**  
in **helping GOVERN** those **NATIONS** !!

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**Maybe** this is a **Good time** to talk about **OUR OWN** Responsibilities  
in **Heaven** - which **May** very well **INCLUDE** Some **GOVERNING**

When **God Created** this **Earth** - & **Mankind** - He **started out** by giving  
Man **DOMINION Over** all of His **Creation** (His Kingdom), **Right?**

## **Randy Alcorn - Heaven**

*God is by nature a creator and ruler. He is glorified by what he creates and rules. He delights to delegate authority and dominion to his children to rule his creation on his behalf.*

**THAT** is Exactly what **God DID** in the **Beginning** with **Adam & Eve**

& the **Bible's clear** - **THAT** is the **State** -  
that **God** is going to **RETURN** the **Earth TO**

It's **NOT** that this Earth **BELONGS** to **Someone Else**  
& **God** is going to **TAKE IT** - & Give it **TO US . . .**

This **Earth** was Created **FOR US** to **Rule** & **Have Dominion** Over

But **Satan USURPED** our **Authority** over this Earth  
& **TOOK** the **RULE** of this Earth - **FROM** Us

## **But God's PLAN - IS a Plan of REDEMPTION**

Where **We** are **REDEEMED to God**

& this **Earth** is **REDEEMED to Our Rule & Dominion**

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## **The Apostle Paul says in 1 Corinthians 6:2–3 (esv)**

*2 Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? . . .*

*3 Do you not know that we are to judge angels? . . .*

& **Paul says** to be saying this **Kinda** with **ATTITUDE** -

Like, *“Haven't you learned ANYTHING from the scriptures”*

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## **2 Timothy 2:12 (esv)**

*12 if we endure, we will also reign with him . . .*

& look down at the last line of our last Vs today

## Revelation 22:5 (ESV)

5 . . . *and they* (the saints) *will reign forever and ever.*

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& then - there's the Famous Parable of the 10 Servants (10 Minas)

In LUKE 19 Jesus tells a Parable about the Kingdom of God  
& He said - Before a King left on a Journey - he called 10 Servants  
& gave them each 10 Minas (3 mo's wages) - & told them,  
"Do Something with what I've given you, until I return"

Luk 19:15 Says, *When he returned, having received the kingdom,*  
He called the servants - to see how they'd done  
with what had been entrusted to them

## & Reading from Luke 19:16–19 (NLT)

*16 The first servant reported, 'Master, I invested your money and made ten times the original amount!'*

*17 " 'Well done!' the king exclaimed. 'You are a good servant. You have been faithful with the little I entrusted to you, so you will be governor of ten cities as your reward.'*

*18 "The next servant reported, 'Master, I invested your money and made five times the original amount.'*

*19 " 'Well done!' the king said. 'You will be governor over five cities.'*

The 3rd Servant did NOTHING with what had been entrusted to him -  
& the King called him a Wicked Servant - took what he'd been  
given - & gave it to the Servant who had done the most for the King



## TWO KEY Lessons in this Parable (in Luk 19)

- 1) One of the Rewards Jesus has for us - is GOVERNING in Heaven
- 2) It's BEST to DO SOMETHING with what God has GIVEN YOU

SO - Yes - The Saints WILL be Ruling & Reigning on the New Earth  
In REAL Cities & Nations - in a REAL KINGDOM of GOD

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But - Let's Get Back to our Text . . .

Let's RE-READ V. 24 for Context - Thru V. 26

### Revelation 21:24-26 (esv)

*24 By its light (the Glory of God & the Lamb) will the nations walk,  
and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it,*

*25 and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no  
night there.*

*26 They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations.*

That's what we've been dealing with - REAL Nations - REAL Kings  
of the Earth - Bringing Glory & Honor to the REAL King

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But Now - Just in case someone Mistakenly thinks EVERYONE  
gets to Automatically be part of this Glorious Eternity in Heaven

### Revelation 21:27 says (esv)

*27 But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does  
what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the  
Lamb's book of life.*

The Holy Spirit will NOT allow us - to begin to think  
everyone will just automatically be here

The **Bible** is **PERFECTLY CLEAR** - Your **name** is written  
in the **Lamb's Book of Life**  
**when** you put your full **Faith & Trust**  
in **Jesus Christ** as your **Savior & Lord**

& **THIS vs** (& many others) **Makes it Clear**  
This is the **ONLY way** we are **going** to **be in Heaven**

So **my encouragement** is - **DON'T Argue** with God -  
**Don't try** to tell Him that **ALL ROADS** should **lead to Heaven**

**Instead** - **Seriously Consider** God's **Claim** - that **ONLY** those  
**Who've** put their **Faith** in **Jesus Christ** will be **in Heaven**

& **then** - **DO THAT** - **Put your faith** in **Jesus** as **Savior & Lord**  
& **you will** be **Eternally GLAD** you did

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**Moving On** - the **first 5 vs's** of **Ch 22** - Go with **Ch 21**  
Cont'g **John's Tour** of the **New Jerusalem** (*Moving inward*)

**Revelation 22:1–2(a) (esv)**

**1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb**  
**2 through the middle of the street of the city . . .**

John is **Now** going to see - **at the Center** of the **New Jerusalem**  
Is **what** we might call - "**A GARDEN**" - w/ a **THRONE** at the Center

**1st he sees** - The **River of Life** - **Sparkling Clear** as **Crystal**  
**Flowing FROM** the **Throne of God** & **The Lamb**

**Back** in the **Original Garden** - Where **God DWELT** w/ Man  
There was **also a RIVER**

& this is a REAL River - CLEAR (bright) as Crystal -  
It also is the Symbol of Eternal Life

Numerous times Jesus referred to Eternal Life as "Living Water"

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& Not only is the RIVER OF LIFE Restored  
But ALSO the TREE OF LIFE

Cont'g - Revelation 22:2(b) says (esv)

*2 . . . also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.*

Back in the Garden of Eden - There were TWO critical trees

- 1) The Tree of LIFE
- 2) The Tree of the KNOWLEDGE of Good & Evil

When Adam & Eve Ate of the Tree of the KNOWLEDGE of  
Good & Evil - they were BANNED from the Tree of Life . . .

To SAVE THEM from Living Forever in their fallen state

& it may sound "Over-Simplified" - But SINCE that DAY  
God has been RESTORING Mankind . . .

to be able to Eat from the Tree of Life - & Live Forever -  
In True Relationship with Him

& so HERE - At the GARDEN - Which is at the CENTER -  
of the Place where God will DWELL with Man

Is BOTH - The River of Life - & the Tree of Life  
BOTH Symbols - of God Restoring us to the Eternal Paradise

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Cont'g the COMPARISON of the Garden of Eden  
With the Garden at the Center of the New Jerusalem

Revelation 22:3 says (esv)

*3 No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him.*

No longer will The CURSE be there - Again referring  
to the Garden being RESTORED to its EDEN Paradise

The CURSE will be GONE -

And the THRONE of God & of The Lamb - will BE THERE

*& His SERVANTS will WORSHIP Him*

That's US - we will be SERVING & WORSHIPPING God

In a GREATER way - & more TANGIBLE Way - than we can NOW  
Because God will Actually, Physically, Tangibly - BE THERE

as Revelation 22:4 says (esv)

*4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.*

Here on earth - Under the Curse -

No one can see the Full Glory of God without Dying

But in Heaven - Not only will we LIVE in the Full Glory of God -

We will SEE HIS FACE !!

When you LONG to BE with someone you Love -

When you haven't seen them in SO LONG . . .

You just want to SEE their FACE -

You just want to LOOK into their EYES - & be WITH them

& **THAT** - is what you'll be **able to Do** - **with GOD** -  
Looking into the **FACE of GOD** - & of **The LAMB** (*being with them*)

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& **then** V.4 says - ***His NAME will be on our FOREHEADS***  
**maybe** like **Moses' face** would **SHINE** after meeting with God

Maybe **God's "Name"** will be **HIS GLORY** shining on us  
after us **being** in His **presence**, & **seeing** Him **face-to-face**

**This** is the **Eternal Evidence** - **that** we are **HIS**

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To **wrap up** - John **reiterates AGAIN** - the **Phenomenal Truth**  
of us **Walking & Living** in the **Full GLORY of God**

**Revelation 22:5 (esv)**

***5 And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.***

The words **THEY** here - **Refer** back to the **End of V.3**  
***His servants will worship him . . .***

That's **US** - **IF** we Serving Him & Worshipping Him today

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**So - Here's what the last 3 Vs's of our text say - About US**

We will **SERVE God** - & **WORSHIP Him**

We will **SEE His FACE** - & **His NAME will be ON us**

We will **Need NO Light** - We'll **Walk** in the **Glory of God**

We will **REIGN forever & ever** with & For Jesus Christ

Guys - Heaven is REAL - It is SO MUCH - MORE REAL  
Than we have been influenced to THINK

Let's Get Rid of our MIS-Assumptions & Mis-Understandings

Heaven will be MORE REAL - than the life you Live TODAY  
It will be THIS LIFE, THIS EARTH - RETURNED to PERFECTION

We will REALLY - SERVE God - & WORSHIP Him

We will REALLY - SEE His FACE - & BE With Him

We will REALLY - Walk, & Live, in the Full GLORY of God

We will REALLY - REIGN forever - With, & For, Jesus Christ

DON'T MISS IT !!

Have your Name written in the Lamb's Book of Life - TODAY . . .

By Putting your Full FAITH & TRUST - in Jesus Christ  
As your SAVIOR - & as your Eternal LORD

Let's make sure we see each other - On the Streets of Gold

Let's Pray