



A Review of the Major Events in the Last Days Part Seven

Heaven

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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • When Pastor Joe's commentary is added, God's Word will be printed in regular faced text with commentary in the smaller faced text. • Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets. Pastor Joe's email is Joe@southreno.com.

The type of saint who is homesick for heaven is pretty scarce these days. The average Christian has driven down his tent pegs in this world, and is so comfortably settled in these lowlands that heaven does not have the attraction for those pilgrims and strangers who look for a City which has foundations whose builder and maker is God. "

- The late, Dr. Vance Havener

I. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT HEAVEN

- 1. Is heaven real? Answer: Yes!** - The most important fact is that heaven is a real place. Listen to the words of Jesus on the night before he was crucified: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am (John 14:1-3). Jesus told the thief on the Cross, "Today you will be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43).
- 2. What will heaven be like? Answer: Perfect!** – 1 Corinthians 2:9, NLT, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him." What would such a city look like? It would be a city with...No pollution, for the skies would always be crystal clear. No crime or violence, for no criminals would ever enter Heaven; no greedy politicians; no drug pusher; no child molesters; no potholes; and no power outages either in Heaven. In Heaven: There are no tears, no sorrows, no regrets, and no remorse; bitterness will be gone forever, failure will be left far behind, suffering will be remedied and rewarded; there are no eyeglasses, no braces, no wheelchairs, no false teeth, no bald heads, no hearing aids, and no crutches; there are no more hospitals, no more nursing homes, no more paramedics, and no CPR in Heaven. Doctors have to find a new job in heaven, they aren't

needed anymore; aspirin will be gone, accidents will be over, cancer will disappear, heart attacks will be banished, and AIDS will be a distant memory. There will be no cemeteries and no COVID-19 Coronaviruses, or any other virus in Heaven. No one grows old or feeble, in Heaven. No one will ever hurt again, in Heaven. No one will have any needs whatsoever, in Heaven. **Heaven will be perfect!**

- 3. Who is in heaven right now?** 2 Corinthians 5:7-8, NASB - "For we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord." God is in heaven because heaven is his dwelling place. The Lord Jesus has been in heaven ever since he ascended from the earth, shortly after His resurrection (Acts 1:9-11). The Bible tells us that angels are in heaven. In fact, there are myriads of angels-uncountable numbers of heavenly beings-all of them serving the Lord and the saints in various ways. And our loved-ones, who had put their faith in God, are in heaven right now.
- 4. Will we know each other in Heaven? Answer: Yes!** – Paul offers 1 Corinthians 13:12 to us, "Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then (in Heaven) we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known." In his very helpful book on heaven, W.A. Criswell makes the additional point that, "Our individual personality survives into eternity. I'll be the same person then that I am now-only with all the imperfections and limitations of sin finally removed. This is a wonderful thought-that the essence of who we are will remain throughout eternity-yet vastly improved by God's grace." Dr. Criswell also says, "In heaven, we can eat all we want and not get fat." I certainly hope he's right about that. He also feels that in heaven, "we will be 33 years old with perfect everything." [Quote Source: W.A. Criswell, "Heaven," pp. 33-38.]
- 5. What will we do in Heaven?** Dr. David Burns, in one of the greatest sermons ever preached on Heaven, based on his Ph.D. dissertation on Heaven says that we will do five things in Heaven. He puts it this way, "There are five things that will occupy us in heaven. We will ... Worship without distraction, Serve without exhaustion, Fellowship without fear, Learn without fatigue, and Rest without boredom."
- 6. How can I be sure I am going there?** This is the most important question of all. Here is a wonderful truth: God has made it easy for you to go to heaven. He did the incomprehensible part when he sent his Son to die on the Cross for you. He paid the price for your sins so that you could one day stand before God in heaven. Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). He also said, "I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he shall be saved" (John 10:9 NASB). Jesus is not only the way to heaven, he is also the door to heaven. If you want to go to heaven, you've got to go through the door marked "Jesus Christ." There is no other entrance.

Romans 3:23, NLT - ²³ *For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.*

Romans 6:23, NLT - ²³ *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Romans 5:8, NLT - ⁸ *But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.*

Romans 10:9, NLT - ⁹ *If you openly declare that Jesus [your] is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*

Romans 10:13, NLT - ¹³ *For "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."*

12 Things NOT in Heaven

1. No more sea—nothing to separate us.

Revelation 21:1, NIV -¹ *Then I saw a new* [Gk: καινός, kai-NOS, does not mean “remake”—it means “Different from the usual,” “impressive,” “perfect, superior in value and attraction”...“completely new apart from the old” (Kittel)] *heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.*

2. No more tears—nothing to sadden us.

Revelation 21:2–4, NIV -² *I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.* ³ *And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.* ⁴ *He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”*

3. No more death—nothing to steal our lives away.

Revelation 21:4, NIV -⁴ *He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”*

4. No more mourning—nothing to grieve us.

Revelation 21:4, NIV -⁴ *He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”*

Matthew 5:4, NIV -⁴ *Blessed are those who mourn [“to wail”], for they will be comforted* [παρακαλέω, para-ka-LA-ō; “para” means to come along side and “kalaō” means to “to be called by name:” Jesus and our loved ones will soon “come along side” and “call us by name.”]

5. No more crying—nothing to break our hearts.

Revelation 21:4, NIV -⁴ *He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”*

Isaiah 65:17, NCV -¹⁷ *“Look, I will make new heavens and a new earth, and people will not remember the past or think about those things.*

6. No more pain—nothing to hurt us.

Revelation 21:4, NIV -⁴ *He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain*, [Gk: πόνος, PON-os, means “medical suffering”] *for the old order of things has passed away.”*

7. No more thirst—nothing to long for.

Revelation 21:5–6, NIV -⁵ *He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then He said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”* ⁶ *He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the*

Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life.

8. No more wickedness—nothing to defile us.

Revelation 21:27, NIV -²⁷ *Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.*

9. No more temple—no more wondering where God is.

Revelation 21:22, NIV -²² *I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.*

10. No more night—nothing to scare us.

Revelation 21:23–25, NIV -²³ *The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.* ²⁴ *The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it.* ²⁵ *On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there.*

11. No more closed gates—nothing to distance us from God/family.

Revelation 21:25, NIV -²⁵ *On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there.*

12. No more curse—nothing to keep us from what God intended.

Revelation 22:3, NIV -³ *No longer will there be any curse* [cf., The Curse in the Garden of Eden because of sin]. *The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him.*

III. PASSAGE STUDY - MATTHEW 4:12–17

Matthew 4:17, NASB -¹⁷ *From that time Jesus began to preach and say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven (ie., Jesus Himself) is at hand.”*

Matthew 4:17, NLT -¹⁷ *From then on Jesus began to preach, “Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.”*

Matthew 4:17, The MSG -¹⁷ *This Isaiah-prophesied sermon came to life in Galilee the moment Jesus started preaching. He picked up where John left off: “Change your life. God’s kingdom is here.”*

Jesus has come to announce the beginning of the end of the present evil age and the dawning of the age to come—*Heaven or Hell.*



After the diving accident 28 years ago in which I became paralyzed, my perspective changed about heavenly glories above. Heaven was no longer a place where I would kneel on all fours to examine whether the streets were made of 18-carat or 24-carat gold. Heaven became my heart's home, the place where I will finally belong. The place where I will get a brand-new body, with hands that work and feet that walk. No other religion, no other philosophy guarantees that kind of hope but Jesus!

- Joni Eareckson Tada