


A PRELUDE TO *BIBLICAL* EVANGELISM



A large, ancient tree with thick, gnarled roots growing over stone ruins. The tree's trunk is massive and textured, with roots spreading out across the ground and over the stone structures. The background shows more stone ruins and lush green foliage. The scene is set in a natural, outdoor environment.

THE FRUIT OF
THE RIGHTEOUS IS A
TREE OF LIFE,
AND HE WHO IS WISE
WINS SOULS.

PROVERBS 11:30 NASB

PRINCIPLES FOR BIBLICAL *EVANGELISM* FOUND IN JOHN 4, “THE WOMAN AT THE WELL.”

TAKE

- TAKE THE INITIATIVE! JN. 4:6-9

OFFER

- OFFER GOD’S MERCY! JN. 4:10-14

IDENTIFY

- IDENTIFY SPIRITUAL NEEDS! JN. 4:9-10

CONFRONT

- CONFRONT SIN JN! 4:16-18

REJECT

- REJECT FALSE WORSHIP! JN. 4:19-24

REVEAL

- REVEAL CHRIST! JN. 4:25-26

SO, HOW MANY **RESURRECTIONS** ARE THERE?

1. CHRIST OUR LORD.

2. THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH.

3. OLD TESTAMENT SAINTS, AND TRIBULATION SAINTS.

4. THE DEAD IN CHRIST!

TYING ALL THESE ILLUSTRATIONS TOGETHER, **PAUL** CONCLUDES:

- So is it with the **RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD**. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. **(1 Cor. 15:42–44)**.
- All of that to say, **IN HEAVEN WE WILL HAVE REAL BODIES THAT ARE PERMANENTLY AND ETERNALLY PERFECT**. You will never look in a mirror and notice wrinkles or a receding hairline. You will never have a day of sickness. You won't be susceptible to **injury, disease, or allergies**. There will be none of those things in heaven. **THERE WILL ONLY BE ABSOLUTE, IMPERISHABLE PERFECTION**.

- We will no doubt have otherworldly abilities in heaven. Remember that the heavenly city is **FIFTEEN HUNDRED MILES HIGH**. Don't think you'll be waiting for elevators to get you to the top. You'll no doubt have the ability to take flight—or, if you desire, simply be transported there in an instant—in the same way that Christ's resurrection body could seemingly disappear and reappear in another place at will. **POOF!**
- Above all, we will be **CHRISTLIKE**. **PAUL** writes,
- Thus, it is written, ***“The first man Adam became a living being”***; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. **(1 Cor. 15:45–48)**.

THE PERFECTION OF HEAVEN

- It's well beyond the finite capacity of our minds to comprehend the perfection of heaven. The best we can do is attempt to understand it in terms of this life. All that's good and God honoring here will be perfected in heaven; everything else will pass away.
- In heaven there will be no *sin, suffering, sorrow, or pain*. We will never do anything to displease God. There will be **NO TEMPTATION** because the world, the flesh, and the devil will all be conspicuously absent. There will be no *persecution, division, disunity, or hate*. In heaven there will be *no quarrels or disagreements*. There will be no *disappointments*. *Prayer, fasting, evangelism, repentance*, and *confession of sin* will cease because the need for them will cease.

- There will be ***no weeping*** because there will be nothing to make us sad. With sin and its effects erased forever, it will be a life of unimaginable **BLESSING!**
- We will then know **PERFECT PLEASURE**. In **(Psalm 16:11)**, the psalmist addresses God: ***“In your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”***
- In heaven, everything that now makes us groan will be done away with. We will find ourselves in the very presence of God, where the purest and truest kind of pleasure is possible. Whatever pleasures we have known here on earth while living under the curse of sin will seem trivial, paltry diversions compared to the pure delights of heaven. When our souls are made new, we will finally be able to glorify God perfectly and enjoy Him perfectly, as He intended. ***SINCE NOTHING IS BETTER OR GREATER THAN GOD, THE PURE ENJOYMENT OF HIM MUST BE THE VERY ESSENCE OF BLISS.***

PERFECT KNOWLEDGE

- In **HEAVEN** we will also have *perfect knowledge*. **PAUL** writes, ***“Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known”*** (1 Cor. 13:12). Since we are known comprehensively by God (Psa. 139:1–3), this must mean that in some sense we will have comprehensive knowledge. It cannot mean we will have ***absolute omniscience***, for omniscience is one of the incommunicable attributes of God. To embrace all knowledge, one would have to *be* God. But it does indicate that our knowledge will be as complete as we could ever desire. We will have ***no more unanswered questions, no confusion, no ignorance***, and ***NO MORE NEED TO WALK BY FAITH RATHER THAN BY SIGHT.***

PERFECT COMFORT.

- We will live in *perfect comfort*. We will never experience one uncomfortable moment. In Jesus' account of the beggar **LAZARUS** and the **RICH MAN, ABRAHAM** says to the rich man in hell, *“Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish”* (Luke 16:25). **HELL IS AGONY; HEAVEN IS ETERNAL CONSOLATION.**

PERFECT LOVE

- We will finally know *perfect love*. (1 Cor. 13:13) says, *“Now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”* Why is **LOVE** the greatest of virtues? Because it is **ETERNAL**. In heaven all our hopes will be realized. *“For in hope we have been saved but hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?”* (Rom. 8:24). And all that we have laid hold of *by faith* will be ours to enjoy forever. **FAITH WILL BE SWALLOWED UP BY SIGHT**. But we will love perfectly and will be loved perfectly for all eternity.
- (John 13:1) says Christ loved His disciples *eis telos*—literally, *“to the end,”* to utter perfection. That same love will engulf us forever. And we will finally be able to love perfectly in return.

PERFECT JOY

- Heaven is a place of *perfect joy*. Our joy in this life is always mixed with sorrow, discouragement, disappointment, or worry. Sin, grief, and sorrow inevitably dampen happiness. An honest look at life in this world produces more tears than real joy. Our lives here begin with the joy of childbirth but are marked by trials throughout and inevitably end in the sorrows of death and separation. In heaven things will be different. **HEAVEN IS A PLACE OF UNDILUTED JOY**. At the end of the parable of the talents in **Matthew 25**, the master tells the faithful steward, ***“Well done, good and faithful servant. . . . Enter into the joy of your master”*** (**Matt. 25:23**).
- Jesus’ choice of that terminology indicates that one of the dominant characteristics of heaven is **JOY**. Best of all, it’s an unending and never-diminishing joy. ***IT MUST BE, BECAUSE HEAVENLY PERFECTION IS NEVER ALTERED.***

- **HEAVEN** is a place of utter *perfection*, but that perfection isn't limited to the mental and emotional realms. It is also a *real place* where *real people* will live in *real bodies*.



PERFECT RELATIONSHIPS: MARRIAGE

- The question of **RELATIONSHIPS IN HEAVEN** is one of the major issues Christians wonder about. Will we recognize our loved ones? Will we remember our earthly relationships? What kind of relationships will we have? Will we have family love and fellowship in heaven? Will our relationships in heaven be anything like they are here?
- And the most often asked question about heaven is, **“WILL I BE MARRIED TO THE SAME SPOUSE IN HEAVEN?”** Most are saying, “I don’t want to lose my relationship with my wife; I can’t imagine going to heaven and not being married to her.” **(OTHERS, HOWEVER, MAY BE SECRETLY HOPING FOR A DIFFERENT ANSWER!)** **Tune in next week for the answers! Love ya!**