

# 07/07/24 Message

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Part of Heaven vs Hell

July 6, 2024

## Message: Heaven is Real

### Series: Heaven vs Hell

This series is focused on two places, two destinations, heaven and hell. The dichotomy is polarizing, and the distinction is relevant. In reality, one can choose the journey and the destination. Beliefs in the afterlife and its destinations should be based on our source of truth, the Bible, God's Holy Word.

## Introduction

- Beliefs on the afterlife, heaven, and hell should be BIBLICAL
  - We should read Scripture praying, "God, speak to me"
- MANY AREN'T going to heaven and that means...
  - MANY ARE going to hell

## Heaven Was Made for You

### ***Matthew 7:21-23 (MSG)***

"Knowing the correct password—saying 'Master, Master,' for instance— isn't going to get you anywhere with me. What is required is serious obedience—doing what my Father wills. I can see it now—at the Final Judgment thousands strutting up to me and saying, 'Master, we preached the Message, we bashed the demons, our super-spiritual projects had everyone talking.' And do you know what I am going to say? 'You missed the boat. All you did was use me to make yourselves important. You don't impress me one bit. You're out of here.'"

### ***Matthew 7:21-23 (NLT)***

21 "Not everyone who calls out to me, 'Lord! Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter.

22 On judgment day many will say to me, 'Lord! Lord! We prophesied

in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.'

23 But I will reply, 'I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God's laws.'

Matthew 7:22 - on judgment day many will beg to enter heaven's gates, but many will be told you're out of here!

The Greek word for 'many' emphasizes the quantity involved, and specifically refers to a great number, a great amount... and in this verse it's talking about a great number, a great amount of people won't make it to heaven because of their sin debt.

### ***Romans 6:23 (NLT)***

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Heaven is an amazing, beautiful place, but it's incomplete until you get there.

## **What is Heaven Like**

*I say it's going to be like the Garden of Eden. God created this perfect, beautiful, amazing place without sin, without pollution, without natural disasters, without death... and that's where He placed the first two humans - in Eden. And we'd still live in this heavenly Eden today if Adam and Eve hadn't wanted more than they were given. Sin entered the picture - and where sin is, God ain't - so the world Adam and Eve chose - was polar opposite than Eden, it's the world we live in today.*

*—Pastor Chad*

- The Bible promises three new places:
  - New HEAVEN (Rev 21:1)
  - New EARTH (Rev 21:1)
  - New JERUSALEM (Rev 21:2)

### ***Revelation 21:1-2 (NLT)***

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

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.

- God lives AMONG His people (Rev 21:3)

***Revelation 21:3 (NLT)***

I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, “Look, God’s home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them.”

- No more (Rev 21:4)
  - DEATH
  - SORROW
  - CRYING
  - PAIN

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

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.”

- Everything will be NEW (Rev 21:5)

***Revelation 21:5 (NLT)***

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.”

- Never THIRST again (Rev 21:6)

***Revelation 21:6 (NLT)***

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.”

- The city is full of LIGHT (Rev 21:11)

***Revelation 21:11 (NLT)***

It shone with the glory of God and sparkled like a precious stone—like jasper as clear as crystal.

- The city has walls with GATES (Rev 21:12-17)

***Revelation 21:12 (NLT)***

12 The city wall was broad and high, with twelve gates guarded by twelve angels. And the names of the twelve tribes of Israel were written on the gates.

13 There were three gates on each side—east, north, south, and west.

14 The wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were written the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

15 The angel who talked to me held in his hand a gold measuring stick to measure the city, its gates, and its wall.

16 When he measured it, he found it was a square, as wide as it was long. In fact, its length and width and height were each 1,400 miles.

17 Then he measured the walls and found them to be 216 feet thick.

- The city sparkles like JEWELS (Rev 21:18-21)

### ***Revelation 21:18-21 (NLT)***

18 The wall was made of jasper, and the city was pure gold, as clear as glass.

19 The wall of the city was built on foundation stones inlaid with twelve precious stones: the first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald,

20 the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst.

21 The twelve gates were made of pearls—each gate from a single pearl! And the main street was pure gold, as clear as glass.

- No SUN and MOON (Rev 21:23)

### ***Revelation 21:23 (NLT)***

And the city has no need of sun or moon, for the glory of God illuminates the city, and the Lamb is its light.

- The gates are always OPEN (Rev 21:25)

### ***Revelation 21:25 (NLT)***

Its gates will never be closed at the end of day because there is no night there.

Even though the gates are always open, entry is restricted...

- EVIL cannot enter (Rev 21:27)

### ***Revelation 21:27 (NLT)***

Nothing evil will be allowed to enter, nor anyone who practices shameful idolatry and dishonesty—but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

It doesn't stop there - continuing in Revelation 22... The water of life was mentioned in Revelation 21:6 where he said, all who are thirsty can drink freely from the springs of the water of life. Revelation 22 tells us more about it.

- The river is CLEAR as crystal (Rev 22:1-2)

### ***Revelation 22:1-2 (NLT)***

1 Then the angel showed me a river with the water of life, clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb.

2 It flowed down the center of the main street. On each side of the river grew a tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, with a fresh crop each month. The leaves were used for medicine to heal the nations.

- The Genesis CURSE is gone (Rev 22:3)

### ***Revelation 22:3 (NLT)***

No longer will there be a curse upon anything. For the throne of God and of the Lamb will be there, and his servants will worship him.

## **What Will We Do in Heaven**

The church is people not a building, so when the church gathers, it's a taste of what heaven will be like. Not one giant church service, but one giant gathering of brothers and sisters - when the family is finally gathered together as one.

Choose Jesus today, so we'll be together in this place God has told us about.