



Book of Revelation: A View of Heaven

Scripture: Revelation 21:1-27

Date: 10092022

Bible Version: NKJV

In this chapter we see that the history of time is finished; the history of eternity is about to begin. - Barnhouse

BOTTOM LINE: The only way to experience heaven is to place your faith in Jesus.

Citizens in Heaven:

1. They are God's People (vv. 1-5)

Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth - The idea is that of a new heaven and a new earth. The ancient Hebrew word for 'create' is bara and it means to create out of nothing. Biblically we see the word heaven used in three different ways. First, it refers to the atmosphere or blue sky, second, it refers to the cosmos or the night sky, and third, it refers to the place where God lives in glory. The heaven that is referred to here is not the dwelling place of God, it is a new atmosphere and night sky.

The old first earth and first heaven will pass away.

There was no more sea - If you recall from Revelation 13, the beast came out of the sea. The sea is generally associated with evil in the Jewish culture.

The absence of a sea indicates safety from enemies. - D.L. Moody

I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God - This is the city of our citizenship. This city is holy and new. A city like this could never be made by man. It was made by God and came down from heaven.

Man has never known a community unmarred by sin. Adam and Eve only knew a limited community, and community in a larger context only came long after the Fall. Here, in the New Jerusalem, we have something totally unique: a sinless, pure, community of righteousness, a holy city. - David Guzik

Behold, the tabernacle of God [is] with men - John declares that this city is the tabernacle of God and it is with men. This is the place that Jesus has prepared for His followers.

He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people - God will dwell with mankind and we shall be His people.

There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away - We can see a difference between this New Jerusalem and other cities. There will be no more tears, death, sorry, or pain. Those things have passed away. To the original audience (who were facing persecution) this must have been amazing to hear.

Behold, I make all things new. - God declares that He makes all things new. The original language is in the present tense so we can understand this to mean that He is making all things new. The destructive work of sin has been stopped.

God is now doing a greater work in making all things new.

Citizens in Heaven:

2. They are content and satisfied (vs. 6)

It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. - God's plan is now complete. The sum of the sin of the world has been dealt with in the fullness of Christ Jesus.

I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts - This is a picture of God providing for the needs of man. God is our supply and our portion.

Citizens in Heaven:

3. They are over-comers (vv. 7-8)

Inherit all things. - Those of us who overcome (put our faith in Jesus Christ) will inherit all things.

I will be his God and he shall be My son. - As over-comers we enjoy a special relationship with God.

shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death. - Those who have not put their faith in Christ Jesus will not enjoy this special relationship. They will instead be cast into the lake of fire.

If you reject Christ, you will never be able to enjoy citizenship in this city.

The Great Eternal City

1. The Bride (vv. 9-11)

I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife. - This angel wants to show John the Lamb's wife. The church is known as the bride of Christ. We get a sense that this new Jerusalem is a place where all of God's people are gathered and for that reason is like the bride of Christ.

The city is associated with the bride to awe us with a sense of its beauty. - David Guzik

he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain. - We have seen earlier in our study how John was taken to the wilderness. Now he would be taken to a high mountain. He needed this perspective to take in all of this great city.

showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, - This city came from heaven and is from God.

The eternal city is not only the home of the bride; it is the bride! A city is not buildings; it is people. - Warren Wiersbe

The Great Eternal City

2. Gates and Walls (vv. 12-13)

had a great and high wall with twelve gates - This city had great walls. These walls were not for defense, they showed its power and protection. It also had twelve gates and twelve angels. These twelve gates represent the 12 tribes of Israel.

God will never forget the tribes of Israel, even unto eternity. - David Guzik

The Great Eternal City

3. Foundations (vv. 14-15)

The wall of the city had twelve foundations - In addition to the twelve gates, we see that this city also has twelve foundations. The foundations would speak of this city's permanence. This would be an eternal reminder of the testimony of the apostles.

[Eph 2:19 NKJV] Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

[Eph 2:20 NKJV] having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner[stone],

The Great Eternal City

4. Capacity (16-20)

Its length, breadth, and height are equal - The new Jerusalem appears to be in the shape of a square. One side was equal to 12,000 furlongs or approximately 1,500 miles. This is a large city.

Measured its wall: one hundred and forty-four cubits - The thickness of the wall would equal approximately 217 feet.

The construction of its wall was [of] jasper; and the city [was] pure gold, like clear glass - We can understand that this wall had a stunning beauty. The reference to glass lets us know that this city would transmit the glory of God.

The foundations of the wall of the city [were] adorned with all kinds of precious stones - The idea here is not a city of luxurious wealth but of the holiness of God.

The Great Eternal City

5. Streets (vs. 21)

And the street of the city [was] pure gold, like transparent glass - Our streets are made of asphalt but the streets in heaven are made of pure gold.

The Great Eternal City

6. No Temple. (22-27)

But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple - During Biblical times, every city had a temple. It would seem odd to the original audience for a temple to be absent. For us it would be like seeing a city without a bank or grocery store.

Here, the temple was not removed, but expanded. Everything and every place is holy and the dwelling place of God. - David Guzik

no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it - There was no need for a sun or moon because the glory of God was all that was needed.

There will be no need for the sun or moon at all because the glory and brilliance of the Lord will illuminate the entire city. - Jon Courson

the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it - This is a great mystery. There is great debate among the commentators as to who this refers to.

Its gates shall not be shut at all by day - Because there is no evil there is no reason to shut the gates.

there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie...only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of life. - This is a reminder that only those whose names are written in the book of life can enter this city. This is a warning to those who would read this.

3D Guide

DO.

BOTTOM LINE: The only way to experience heaven is to place your faith in Jesus.



DIG DEEPER

1. What does this study reveal to you about God?
2. What does this study reveal to you about yourself?
3. Based on this, what changes do you need to make?
4. What is your prayer for today?



DISCUSS.

1. What do you think Heaven will look like? How have you heard it described by others?
2. Has this block of scripture changed your perspective on what Heaven will look like?
3. What are some ways you can apply this scripture to your life?

DO.



Anytime you read God's word you have to put things into perspective. You also have to realize that the terms, not words, have meanings. As a group re-read the scriptures that was studied. Try the Amplified Version and compare that to the NJKV, NIV, ESV, or NASB. Pick a few words and have a group member look that word up on blueletterbible.com or with their app.