

Session 5: Life with God in Heaven

Review

Heaven is the dwelling place of _____. It is a real place, with both _____ and _____ aspects. The _____ heaven is wonderful, though not our ultimate hope: God will not abandon the earth, but fully _____ it. The most important aspect of heaven is satisfying our souls by finally _____ God.

Seeing God

Last week, we focused on the biblical promise that we will finally “see” God. Old Testament saints longed to see God! This “beatific vision,” or “happy-making sight” will finally satisfy our soul’s longings:

We will finally see God _____ and know God _____ (1 Cor 13:14)

We will finally believe God’s perfect _____ and enter his _____ (1 Jn 4:8; Matt 25:23)

We will finally _____ like Jesus as we _____ him (1 John 3:2; 2 Cor 3:18)

But does this “happy-making sight” mean we spend all our time in heaven absorbed in contemplating God? Even if they never say so, many sincere Christians imagine heaven as terribly _____. We need a richer view of life with God!

Unhindered Fellowship with God

The 1998 movie *What Dreams May Come* tells the story of a man who arrived in heaven. It was a beautiful place, but he was terribly lonely without his wife there. One Person was conspicuously absent from this movie’s vision of heaven: _____.

In Eden, God came down to Earth, the home of mankind, whenever he wished, and “_____” with them (Gen 3:8). What does “walking” with someone imply?

Sin disrupted humanity’s fellowship with God, but the Lord repeatedly promises to _____ this intimate relationship again: to “make his dwelling” with his people, and “walk among you and be your God.” (See Lev 26:11–13; Ezekiel 37:27; 2 Cor 6:16–18). This promise is always only _____ fulfilled in this life.

Many New Testament passages about Heaven emphasize that we will be “_____” Jesus: John 14:3; Luke 23:43; 2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23; *John 17:24. What will this mean? Well, how did Jesus relate to his disciples when they were on earth?

Our relationship with Jesus in the new earth will be a _____ of that kind of relationship. We spend our Christian lives here trusting and loving Jesus from a _____, by _____; in the New Earth, we will _____ the Lord and _____ be with the Lord (1 Pet 1:8; 1 Thes 4:17)!

Our home with God

The Bible does not describe heaven as gazing at God in a bright light, but God bringing his heavenly _____ down to us on earth: (Heb 11:16; Rev 3:12; 21:1–3).

What does the image of living in a “city” tell us about our life with God in heaven?

Right now, our home is here on earth, God’s home is in heaven, and we relate to one another from a distance. But when God completes his plan, there will be no _____ between heaven and earth! He will accomplish his plan to “_____ all things in [Jesus], things in heaven and things on earth (Eph 1:10).”

Feasting with God

The Bible consistently describes our fellowship with God as sitting down at a feast with him. What does the image of sharing a meal with God imply about the relationship that he intends to have with us?

The following passages provide with a preview or a direct promise of the “feast” God has promised to prepare for his people at the end of the age:

Exodus 24:9–21

Isaiah 25:6–9

Mathew 8:11–12

Revelation 19:9

(Jesus builds many of his parables around the heavenly feast, as in Luke 14:12–24, Matthew 22:1–14, etc.)

One of the most amazing aspects of the “heavenly feast” is that God himself will _____ us! See: Luke 12:35–40; John 13:3–17

What does this tell us about the heart of God?

How should the Bible’s teaching about heaven’s feast affect our lives now?

Worshiping God

“When I was a boy, the thought of Heaven used to frighten me more than the thought of Hell. I pictured Heaven as a place where time would be perpetual Sundays, with perpetual services from which there would be no escape.” - David Lloyd George

Many passages emphasize the centrality of worship in Heaven:

Revelation 4–5

Revelation 7:9–12

There will be nothing boring about our worship in the new earth! _____ that we do on will be worship to God! This is how God calls us to live right now: Colossians 3:17; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Romans 12:1–2, etc.

Next Week....

Next week, we will explore one of the most exciting and encouraging biblical teachings about life with God in heaven: we will rule the new earth with Jesus!