

Heaven

The Inhabitants of Heaven

Revelation 7:9-12

April 29, 2018 am

HDBC

Continuing our series on Heaven. This morning I want talk with you about the **inhabitants of heaven**. One of the great joys that we anticipate in heaven is the presence of all who will be there. **But just who will be there?**

Read Text: Revelation 7:9-12

1. Angels

First of all, angels will be in Heaven. We find that in our text in verse 11. One of the great misconceptions among the non-believing world is the nature of angels. Too many people outside the faith and even many believers tend to believe angels are people who used to live on earth. If a person has been good on earth, he or she will go to Heaven, where they will become angels. But this is not correct.

Angels are created beings who are completely separate and distinct from humans. They do not have the same attributes or characteristics as us. They are spirit creatures, whom God has made to do His will. The word itself means “messenger.”

They are constantly identified with Heaven throughout the Bible. It could be that one of the first things that will catch your eye when you get to Heaven will be the angels. And the Bible clearly states that the number of angels in Heaven is great.

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, Heb 12:22

And I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, Rev 5:11

Myriad can be used to describe a group of ten thousand, but it is also used of an extremely large, unnumbered group. In other words, a group who's number is too large to count. That is likely the meaning here.

Jesus told Peter that if he wanted to, he could call for help and easily have 12 legions of angels come to his rescue. That's 72,000 angels. **What do we know about angels?**

1) Angels have intelligence.

They can think and reason. They desire to fully understand salvation. But they cannot because it is something they cannot experience.

2) Angels have capacity for worship and praise.

There is some debate on whether or not angels can sing. The places where it seems to indicate that they sing, the Greek word actually means, "they said." I believe they will sing. Singing is a vital part of worship. And the angels are clearly seen engaging in worship and praise.

3) Angels are aware of the salvation of individuals on earth.

Rejoicing in the presence of angels. This certainly means the Lord Himself is rejoicing, but it also likely means the angels are joining in that act of rejoicing.

4) Angels have the power of choice.

1/3 chose to follow Lucifer and reject God. Forever separated from God. 2/3 chose to remain true. Forever confirmed in their commitment to God.

5) Angels have names.

Gabriel. Michael. Lucifer. Assume that the others do, as well.

6) Angels belong to different orders.

Seraphim. Cherubim. Michael is an arch-angel. Chief angel.

7) Angels have different assignments.

They revealed information. Guided people. Defended people. Deliver from Jail. Destroyed ungodly. Contended with Satan. Ministered to Christ.

Angels will be in heaven, continuing to do their things. But they are not the only ones who will be in heaven.

2. God

Not only are the angels there, but also the Lord will be there. We know that the Lord will be there. But, **how will we observe Him?** Will we see God the Father, Son and Spirit as three separate persons? Great question. We know we will see Jesus and in seeing Him we are seeing God.

*Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and {yet} you have not come to know Me, Philip? **He who has seen Me has seen the Father;** how do you say, 'Show us the Father'? John 14:9*

And He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation. Col 1:15

*God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in {His} Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. And **He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature**, Heb 1:1-3*

We will see God revealed in the person and body of the Lord Jesus. When we see Him he will still bear the scars on his hands, feet and side.

But, will we also see God, the father in a different way? The Bible has some interesting things to say about whether or not we can see God.

To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen 1 Timothy 1:17

He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶ who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen. 1 Timothy 6:15-16

No one has ever seen God; 1 John 4:12

These verses certainly seem to indicate that we will not see God. However, there are other verses that present a different perspective.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Matthew 5:8

And his servants will worship him. 4 They will see his face. Revelation 22:3-4

And after my skin has been destroy, yet in my flesh I shall see God. Job 19:26

As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness. Psalm 17:15

So, what are we to make of these?

- 1) I can say definitively that we will see Jesus, and in him we are seeing God.
- 2) It seems that we may also see the Father, in some way, unique from the Son. It could be in the sense of seeing his glory in ways that we could never have seen in this life.

David wrote, in Psalm 27:4,

One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek Him in his temple.

3. People

All of the redeemed will be in Heaven as well. Look back at verses 9-10 of our text. The saved will gather in heaven from every part of the earth.

People from every tongue, tribe and nation will be there. Every person who has been born again will be there.

But what will we be like?

There are some things that we can discern about people in heaven from this one scene. Let me point out a few things:

1) Heaven will be full of people.

A great multitude that no one could number

There will be many, not few. Heaven will be well-populated with people who were the recipients of God's salvation.

2) Heaven will be multi-ethnic.

From every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages

The people in heaven will not come from one ethnic group or one language. The population of heaven will be as multi-ethnic as the population of the earth.

One of the great travesties of the American church is that it still tends to be so segregated. Heaven is going to look a lot more multi-cultural than the average Baptist church in America, including HDBC.

3) Heaven will include worship times

Standing before the throne and before the Lamb . . .

All of our time heaven will not be consumed in organized worship services. The Bible makes it clear that our lives in heaven will consist of a great variety of activities, functions, responsibilities and opportunities. But, worship will be included. Personal worship will be part of our consciousness on a continual basis. But the Bible also indicates that there will be times of group worship, as well. These will be unlike anything we have every experienced in group worship in this life.

Our worship in this life, even when offered with great sincerity and heart, always falls short of the kind of worship God desires. This will not be the case in heaven. There, we will experience worship in ways that we have never experienced in this life.

4) The people in heaven will be forgiven and sinless

Clothed in white robes

Those white robes are a picture of the purity that we will have in heaven because of the forgiveness of our sins and the righteousness of Christ.

We will be wearing and experiencing His purity for all eternity.

Imagine a world of people where . . .

No one says an unkind thing to another,

No one puts another person down,

No one takes advantage of another person,

No one gossips about another person,

No one is excluded,

No one is envious or jealous of another person,

Can you imagine that kind of world?

We don't have to imagine it. We anticipate it.