

WHY *heaven*

SEPARATING MYTH FROM REALITY

TALK IT OVER Living In Paradise November 21-22, 2020



"Then I saw a new sky (Heaven) and a new Earth, for the former sky and the former Earth had passed away (vanished), and there no longer existed any sea. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, descending out of Heaven from God, all arrayed like a bride beautified and adorned for her husband; Then I heard a mighty voice from the Throne and I perceived its distinct words, saying, 'See! The abode of God is with men, and He will live (encamp, tent) among them; and they shall be His people, and God shall personally be with them and be their God. God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and death shall be no more, neither shall there be anguish (sorrow and mourning) nor grief nor pain any more, for the old conditions and the former order of things have passed away.' And He Who is seated on the Throne said, 'See! I make all things new.' Also He said, 'Record this, for these sayings are faithful (accurate, incorruptible, and trustworthy) and true (genuine).'"
- Revelation 21:1-5 (AMPC)

From the beginning of man's sojourn on Earth, God's ultimate goal is to be one with His creation.

Relationship, intimacy, love, acceptance, affirmation, being vulnerable are all attributes of a great marriage.

God desires man's redemption above all else. For 6,000 years He has continually sought to restore man to his rightful place in God's Kingdom.

Beginning in Revelation 21, we are shown the elaborate, beautiful, magnificent splendor of our forever home.

God's purpose for us extends not just beyond this life, but beyond the entire created order. Nothing is too good for His children who served Him while on Earth.

Although Earth will be renovated for the Millennial Reign (righteousness), God will ultimately destroy the Earth and the Heavens above us by fire.

"But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the Heavens will vanish (pass away) with a thunderous crash, and the [material] elements [of the universe] will be dissolved with fire, and the Earth and the works that are upon it will be burned up. Since all these things are thus in the process of being dissolved, what kind of person ought [each of] you to be [in the meanwhile] in consecrated and holy behavior and devout and godly qualities, while you wait and earnestly long for (expect and hasten) the coming of the day of God by reason of which the flaming heavens will be dissolved, and the [material] elements [of the universe] will flare and melt with fire? But we look for new Heavens and a new Earth according to His promise, in which righteousness (uprightness, freedom from sin, and right standing with God) is to abide." - II Peter 3:10-13 (AMPC)

The temporal nature of this present world should be a powerful motivator for the Christian to invest in Heavenly priorities.

The main business of our sojourn on Earth is to invest eternity.

While our reign with Christ on the Earth for 1,000 years will be a glorious experience, it is not His ultimate plan for us.

The destruction of the First Earth results in all the dead being given up, and death itself cast into the Lake of Fire.

All sin and all sinners, demons and Satan Himself, are banished forever from God's presence.

Fire will cleanse the atmosphere and purify it for the coming of the New Jerusalem.

John describes it as a "bride adorned for her husband."

He calls it the holy city, the New Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is called –

- the city of the Great King (Psalm 48:2)
- the city of God (Psalm 87:3)
- the faithful city (Isaiah 1:21)
- the holy city (Isaiah 52:1)

“...you have come to Mount Zion, even to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to countless multitudes of angels in festal gathering, and to the church (assembly) of the Firstborn who are registered [as citizens] in Heaven, and to the God Who is Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous (the redeemed in Heaven) who have been made perfect, and to Jesus, the Mediator (Go-between, Agent) of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood which speaks [of mercy], a better and nobler and more gracious message than the blood of Abel [which cried out for vengeance].”
- Hebrews 12:22-24 (AMPC)

Jerusalem is called His bride. The church is His Bride, Israel is married to Jehovah, and Jerusalem is married to God.

New Jerusalem represents the ultimate consummation of these varied wedding motifs where all the people of God inhabit a city enjoying intimate communion with God face-to-face.

A loud voice proclaims from Heaven—“See! The abode of God is with men, and He will live (encamp, tent) among them; and they shall be His people, and God shall personally be with them and be their God.”

No living person has ever seen God in the fullness of His glory.

John 1:18 (AMPC) – “No man has ever seen God at any time...”

John 6:46 (AMPC) – “...He (Jesus, alone) has seen the Father.”

I John 4:12 (AMPC) – “No man has at any time [yet] seen God...”

Colossians 1:15 (AMPC) – “[Now] He (Jesus) is the exact likeness of the unseen God...”

In Exodus 33:20 (AMPC), God said to Moses, “...You can not see My face, for no man shall see Me and live.”

But in Heaven, Matthew 5:8 (AMPC) – “...the pure in heart...shall see God.”

There we will see and experience God’s glory in its fullness.

The word “see” in Matthew 5:8 denotes a future, continuous reality.

“And every curse will be broken and no longer exist, for the Throne of God and of the Lamb will be there in the city. His loving servants will serve Him; they will see constantly His face, and His name will be on their foreheads.” - Revelation 22:3-4 (TPT)

“As for me, I will continue beholding Your face in righteousness (rightness, justice, and right standing with You); I shall be fully satisfied, when I awake [to find myself] beholding Your form [and having sweet communion with You].” - Psalm 17:15 (AMPC)

Forever we will live in the living, abiding presence of God experiencing an intimate, personal relationship with Him.

Paradise at last.

Discussion Questions:

- God’s ultimate goal with man is to be _____ with him.
- Our main business while on Earth is to _____ our life in eternity.
- The New Jerusalem is described as a _____ adorned for her husband.
- No living person has ever seen God in the _____ of His glory.
- In our forever home we will _____ God face-to-face.
- God will make His _____ with us in the New Jerusalem.