

GREG'S NOTES

A NEW BEGINNING TEACHING OUTLINES

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THE BEST IS YET TO COME

Revelation 21 and 22

Heaven is a real place, for real people, where we will do real things. It is not some mysterious atmospheric realm of smoke and mirrors. It was the place that Abraham was searching for, and the place that we are searching for—a city with eternal foundations. This world is not our home. Our real home is heaven and the new earth that is to come.

In Revelation 21 and 22, we learn a lot more about what heaven is like. In these chapters we see a very graphic and vivid portrait of heaven and the new earth. John describes the glory of heaven, giving us a glimpse outside of the great city, the holy Jerusalem, and inside of the open gates of the city.

PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES

1. **Heaven shines with the glory of God.** There is no need for the sun, moon, and stars in this heavenly city. “But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light” (Revelation 21:22–23 NKJV).
2. **Heaven and the new earth are a place of sufficiency.** “In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations” (Revelation 22:2 NKJV).
3. **Heaven and the new earth are a place of service.** His servants shall serve Him. There is going to be work that we do for the Lord. We are ruling and reigning with Christ. “And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads” (Revelation 22:3–4 NKJV).

RELEVANT REMINDERS

- Heaven is being prepared for us and we are being prepared for heaven. The things that we go through in life are preparing us for the future.
- One day there shall be no more curse, which is what came to Adam and Eve and all of us as a result of sin. But, the curse will be lifted. Death will be gone.
- There will be restoration from the hardships of this life. The Bible says that in His presence there is fullness of joy and on His right hand pleasures forevermore.
- There is no point system in heaven. You can't do just enough good works to get you in. Even if you do all of those good things, you will fall short.

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APPLICABLE ACTIONS

The word *sin* means to fall short or to miss the mark. What is the mark that God has set for all humanity? Absolute total perfection. Who is going to measure up to that? No one! That is where Jesus comes in. He is God and He is man. He bridged the gap for us when He died on the cross and bore our sin. He died in our place. Then He rose again from the dead. The only way we are going to get to heaven is through Jesus Christ. The last thing God wants is for any man or woman, made in His image, to spend eternity separated from Him in hell.