

“The Study of Heaven – Part 3”

Dr. Geoffrey Plummer
Calvary Baptist Church

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Scripture

Matthew 22:23-33

“Some Sadducees (who say there is no resurrection) came to Jesus and questioned Him, asking, "Teacher, Moses said, IF A MAN DIES HAVING NO CHILDREN, HIS BROTHER AS NEXT OF KIN SHALL MARRY HIS WIFE, AND RAISE UP CHILDREN FOR HIS BROTHER.' "Now there were seven brothers with us; and the first married and died, and having no children left his wife to his brother; so also the second, and the third, down to the seventh. "Last of all, the woman died. "**In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife of the seven will she be? For they all had married her.**"

29But Jesus answered and said to them, "**You are mistaken, not understanding the Scriptures nor the power of God.** "For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage but are like angels in heaven. "But regarding the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God: I AM THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, AND THE GOD OF ISAAC, AND THE GOD OF JACOB? He is not the God of the dead but of the living." When the crowds heard this, they were astonished at His teaching.”

Last Time we looked at 5 questions

Five Questions:

What happens the moment we die?

- Will we see Jesus and when do we see Him?
- Where do we go?
- What kind of body will we have?
- Will we look like we are when we die or will we look younger (I hope)?
- When will we return to earth?

This Week

New Questions:

1. Will we recognize our family and friends?
2. Will I have the same relationship with my spouse?
3. What will we do in Heaven?

Good questions to begin Part 3 of the Heaven series

1) Will we recognize our family and friends?

Let's return to something we covered in our 1st session

1 John 3:2

“Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. **We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.**”

We will have a form in our resurrection bodies like Jesus had in His resurrection

Peter, James, and John recognized Moses and Elijah:

Matthew 17:1-3

“Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother and led them up on a high mountain by themselves. And **He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light.** And behold, **Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.**”

This is Jesus how He is

The Disciples knew who He was – even though it was a blinding light

They were able to recognize Moses and Elijah

They saw His supernatural being, if only for a few minutes

That is what we will see in the future

Jesus described a future event where NT saints will meet up with OT saints:

Matthew 8:11

“Many will come from the east and the west and will **take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.**”

Jesus also shared with the disciples that they would meet up with Him:

Matthew 26:29

“I will not drink of this fruit of the vine until that day **when I drink it new in a new way in my Father’s kingdom with you.**”

We learn a good bit about the future in this passage

First, there is still eating and drinking in the Kingdom

Second, there is reunion with loved ones

But we have to understand when these events occur

When Jesus refers to “the kingdom,” He could mean a spiritual kingdom or the Millennial kingdom

The Millennial Kingdom, that 1000-year reign is on earth BEFORE a new Heaven and new Earth are created

The Millennial Kingdom is not Heaven

After our resurrection, we have the same body as Christ

We shall continue from the Millennial Kingdom into the Eternal State

If we have recognition in the Millennial Kingdom, it stands to reason that we will in Heaven, too

This brings up the question of earthly relationships

2) Will I have the same relationship with my spouse?

You could ask the same question about a son or daughter or friend, too

How will we relate to one another is a great question

Jesus answered that question for us:

Matthew 22:23-33

“Some Sadducees (who say there is no resurrection) came to Jesus and questioned Him, asking, "Teacher, Moses said, IF A MAN DIES HAVING NO CHILDREN, HIS BROTHER AS NEXT OF KIN SHALL MARRY HIS WIFE, AND RAISE UP CHILDREN FOR HIS BROTHER.' "Now there were seven brothers with us; and the first married and died, and having no children left his wife to his brother; so also the second, and the third, down to the seventh. "Last of all, the woman died. "**In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife of the seven will she be? For they all had married her.**"

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Jesus wanted to prove a point to the Sadducees about the resurrection

No doubt the Lord caused a few of them to ask a question based on the Levirate marriage laws from the OT

Deuteronomy 25:5-10

“When brothers live together and one of them dies and has no son, the wife of the deceased shall not be married outside the family to a strange man. Her husband's brother shall go into her and take her to himself as wife and perform the duty of a husband's brother to her. "**It shall be that the firstborn whom she bears shall assume the name of his dead brother, so that his name will not be blotted out from Israel.**

"But if the man does not desire to take his brother's wife, then his brother's wife shall go up to the gate to the elders and say, 'My husband's brother refuses to establish a name for his brother in Israel; he is not willing to perform the duty of a husband's brother to me.' "Then the elders of his city shall summon him and speak to him. And if he persists and says, 'I do not desire to take her,' then his brother's wife shall come to him in the sight of the elders and pull his sandal off his foot and spit in his face; and she shall declare, 'Thus it is done to the man who does not build up his brother's house.' "In Israel his name shall be called, 'The house of him whose sandal is removed.'"

You might remember this law used in the Book of Ruth with Boaz stepping in to have Ruth as his wife

The main idea was carrying on the family line of a deceased brother

“**In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife of the seven will she be?**”

The Sadducees pose a crazy question to Jesus where a woman had 7 husbands

They wonder whose wife will she be in Heaven

Sadducees only believed in the Torah, the first five books of the Bible -> resurrection is discussed in Daniel

Sadducees did not believe in angels, either

Jesus's answer gives us a view into what relationships are like in Heaven

“You are mistaken, not understanding the Scriptures nor the power of God”

Jesus informs the Sadducees that they are wrong about the Resurrection

“For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage but are like angels in heaven.”

Angels are created beings -> they do not procreate so they have no need for marriage

The point of marriage was two-fold:

- a) Marriage was created because God wanted Adam and Eve to populate the planet
- b) Marriage was also a symbol of the Lord's faithful relationship to His Church

Jesus tells the Sadducees that there are angels, correcting their beliefs

He tells them that there is no marriage in Heaven

So, Jesus says that those of us who are married now will not be married to our spouse in Heaven

That could be a happy thought or a sad thought for some of you

I won't ask which it is for you!

Jesus continued the teaching as He said:

“But regarding the resurrection of the dead, **have you not read what was spoken to you by God: I AM THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, AND THE GOD OF ISAAC, AND THE GOD OF JACOB? He is not the God of the dead but of the living.”**

They didn't understand the power of God that He could resurrect someone back to life

They didn't understand the Scripture where God said that He IS the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob

These patriarchs are not dead, but remain alive

If they are alive, then what are they doing at this moment?

This brings us to the 3rd question for tonight:

3) What will we do in Heaven?

I remember someone asking me about what they would be doing in Heaven about 30 years ago

She would be upset if she was just sitting down on a cloud and playing a harp

She was a mover and a shaker and she wanted to move and shake!

Again, it is important to differentiate between the Millennial Kingdom and Heaven

For example, we are told that we will reign with Jesus:

2 Timothy 2:11-12

“It is a trustworthy statement: **For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him; if we endure, we will also reign with Him; if we deny Him, He also will deny us”**

Will we do that in Heaven?

Who will we reign over if the only people in Heaven are believers?

Will I reign over you, and you reign over me?

Will we reign over angels?

How about Paul's teaching to the Corinthians:

1 Corinthians 6:1-3

"Does any one of you, when he has a case against his neighbor, dare to go to law before the unrighteous and not before the saints? Or **do you not know that the saints will judge the world?** If the world is judged by you, are you not competent to constitute the smallest law courts? **Do you not know that we will judge angels?** How much more matters of this life?"

Will we do that in Heaven?

Or is that during the Millennial kingdom?

How about Isaiah 11?

Isaiah 11:6-10

"The wolf will dwell with the lamb, And the leopard will lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little boy will lead them. Also the cow and the bear will graze, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The nursing child will play by the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child will put his hand on the viper's den. They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, for **the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.** Then in that day the nations will resort to the root of Jesse, Who will stand as a signal for the peoples; and His resting place will be glorious."

Is Isaiah talking about Heaven?

Are there animals in Heaven?

These references are for the Millennial Kingdom and not Heaven

So, what will we do in Heaven?

The primary work in Heaven is Worship:

Revelation 7:9-12

"After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, "Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever. Amen.""

The secondary work in Heaven is Service:

Revelation 22:1-5

“Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. **There will no longer be any curse;** and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and **His bond-servants will serve Him;** they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. And there will no longer be any night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever.”

Part of this service could be reigning as priests for God:

Revelation 5:10

“You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and **they will reign upon the earth.”**

Part of this service could be taking care of the new earth:

Revelation 21:1

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea.”

Some feature that the new earth will be a return to Eden

What were Adam and Eve called to do with the Earth?

- 1) Be fruitful and multiply
- 2) Rule over the creation: animals, birds, fish, plants, etc.

It doesn't seem like 1) is needed, especially if we are to be like the angels in Heaven and not marry

But it is not out of the question that God will repopulate the planet with plants and animals as in Genesis 1

Genesis 2:15

“Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.”

It seems as if we shall eat in on the new earth:

Revelation 22:1-2

“Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the tree of life, **bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.**”

Jesus ate with the disciples after His resurrection, but He didn't need to eat for nourishment

Perhaps, the eating is for the joy of consumption

So, a few more answers this evening in our study of Heaven

Prayer

Benediction