

## “The Study of Heaven – Part 4”

Dr. Geoffrey Plummer  
Calvary Baptist Church

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### Scripture

#### Revelation 21:1-2, 10-26

**“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. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.**

He carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper. It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and **at the gates twelve angels**; and names were written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel. There were three gates on the east and three gates on the north and three gates on the south and three gates on the west. And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

The one who spoke with me had a gold measuring rod to measure the city and its gates and its wall. The city **is laid out as a square**, and its length is as great as the width; and he measured the city with the rod, **fifteen hundred miles**; its length and width and height are equal. And **he measured its wall, seventy-two yards**, according to human measurements, which are also angelic measurements. The material of the wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. The foundation stones of the city wall were adorned with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation stone was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, chalcedony; the fourth, emerald; the fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, topaz; the tenth, chrysoprase; the eleventh, jacinth; the twelfth, amethyst. And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; each one of the gates was a single pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

**I saw no temple in it**, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. In the daytime (for there will be no night there) **its gates will never be closed**; and they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it; and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.”

Last Time we looked at 3 questions

#### Three 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?

**What do we remember from last week?**

## This Week

### New Questions:

Good questions to begin Part 4 of the Heaven series

1. Where will we live?
2. Can we go back and forth from the New Heaven to the New Earth?

#### 1. Where will we live?

The answer is on the New Earth in Jerusalem

### Revelation 21:1-2

**“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. And I saw **the holy city, new Jerusalem**, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.”**

“a new heaven” -> a new universal atmosphere sufficient to be able to house the new Earth

“a new earth” -> a new planet within the new universe

“the first heaven and the first earth passed away” -> this suggests that the new heaven and earth are like the originals in design as we have now

“no longer any sea” -> the current seas divide continents making access to land more challenging

There is no such division in the new creation

“**the holy city, new Jerusalem**” – a new city named Jerusalem -> from “shalom” meaning “peace”

“coming down out of heaven from God” -> which sounds like it has already been created

**John 14:3** -> “I go to prepare a place for you” -> Jesus created the new city after His ascension

“made ready as a bride adorned for her husband” -> this is the home for His bride, the Church

#### What does the city look like?

### Revelation 21:10-14

“He carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper. It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and **at the gates twelve angels**; and names were written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel. There were three gates on the east and three gates on the north and three gates on the south and three gates on the west. And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.”

The new Jerusalem comes down out of Heaven

“having the glory of God” -> It is a glorified city, supernaturally created, His workmanship on display

“like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper” -> a diamond like appearance, but clear not refracting light

“a great and high wall” -> the size is significant – **as in much taller than John ever had seen**

“twelve gates and **at the gates twelve angels**” -> various access points on all sides, and angels welcoming you

“names were written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel” -> Tribes (Israel)

“the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones - the twelve apostles of the Lamb” -> Apostles (Church)

**How big is the city?**

### Revelation 21:15-21

“The one who spoke with me had a gold measuring rod to measure the city and its gates and its wall. The city **is laid out as a square**, and its length is as great as the width; and he measured the city with the rod, **fifteen hundred miles**; its length and width and height are equal. And **he measured its wall, seventy-two yards**, according to human measurements, which are also angelic measurements. The material of the wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. The foundation stones of the city wall were adorned with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation stone was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, chalcedony; the fourth, emerald; the fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, topaz; the tenth, chrysoprase; the eleventh, jacinth; the twelfth, amethyst. **And the twelve gates were twelve pearls**; each one of the gates was a single pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.”

“The city **is laid out as a square**” – the foundations on the new earth are a square

“its length is as great as the width; and he measured the city with the rod, **fifteen hundred miles**; its length and width and height are equal” -> 1500 miles squared is 2.25 million square miles, roughly half of the USA

“**he measured its wall, seventy-two yards**” – walls are 216 feet thick -> impenetrable and secure

“material of the wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass” – diamond and gold yet so refined that it is clear

“foundation stones of the city wall were adorned with every kind of precious stone” – a rainbow of colors

“**the twelve gates were twelve pearls**” – 1500 mile high pearls!

Pearls are made through suffering

“the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass” – refined gold, clear to reflect the rainbow colors

**What other specifics do we learn about?**

### Revelation 21:22-27

“**I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple**. And **the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it**, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. In the daytime (for there will be no night there) **its gates will never be closed**; and they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it; and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.”

**“no temple in it”** – there is no need for a temple because God is the temple

**“the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it”** -> the sun was destroyed in the tribulation

The moon controlled the tides, but there is no longer any sea, so it is not needed

**“the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb”** - All illumination comes from God

**“nations will walk by its light”** – everyone living in the New Jerusalem will be followers of God

**“In the daytime (for there will be no night there) its gates will never be closed”**

No sun therefore no night when the sun is on the other side of the planet

No gates are closed, meaning eternal security

**“they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it”** – all ethnic groups yet no social division

**“only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.”** -> Book of Life listed the future inhabitants of the New Jerusalem like a city census roll

So that is our future home

**Where will God be?**

### **Revelation 21:3-4**

**“I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”**

The tabernacle of God -> Old Testament tabernacle was God’s dwelling place

In the wilderness, it was a tent

Solomon eventually is allowed to build a temple where David could not

1 Kings 6 describes the building of the temple - **it took 7 years to construct**

The description is very similar to the New Jerusalem

The Holy of Holies was a cube, for example -> **1 Kings 6:20** -> 20 cubits by 20 cubits by 20 cubits

God said He would dwell there, as long as Israel was faithful to Him:

### **1 Kings 6:11-13**

**“The word of the LORD came to Solomon saying, “Concerning this house which you are building, if you will walk in My statutes and execute My ordinances and keep all My commandments by walking in them, then I will carry out My word with you which I spoke to David your father. **I will dwell among the sons of Israel, and will not forsake My people Israel.**”**

We know what happened, so God left His temple -> **Ezekiel 10:18**, one of the saddest passages

But there was a promise of restoration -> **Ezekiel 11:14-21**

“He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them” – the restoration is fulfilled in the New Jerusalem

God will dwell among His people

Does that mean that God is on the New Earth?

Which brings us to the second question this evening:

2. Can we go back and forth from the New Heaven to the New Earth?

What is going on in Heaven when the New Earth is created?

Will God no longer dwell in Heaven?

We know that God is omnipresent, and therefore He is everywhere

There is no description of a “future Heaven” in Revelation

There is only a description of the “current Heaven” in the New Testament

So, consider:

### 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.”

Where are these features at?

Are they on the new earth or in Heaven?

The original tree of life was where?

### Genesis 2:4-9

“**This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made earth and heaven.** Now no shrub of the field was yet in the earth, and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for the LORD God had not sent rain upon the earth, and there was no man to cultivate the ground. But a mist used to rise from the earth and water the whole surface of the ground. Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

The LORD God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed. Out of the ground the LORD God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.”

The tree of life was in the Garden of Eden -> on earth

Where was the throne of God?

**Isaiah 6** -> in Heaven -> **Revelation 4 and 5** – in Heaven -> **Revelation 7** -> in Heaven

Yet, in Revelation 22, it looks as if God's throne is now on the earth

Along with the tree of life and all the fruit coming every month, just like back in the Garden of Eden

So, can we go back and forth from the New Heaven and New Earth?

Heaven is for the spiritual – the souls

With new, resurrected bodies, perhaps our eternal location is only on the New Earth

Perhaps, there is no longer a need for “Heaven” because Heaven is now on earth

Interesting, isn't it?

We've been told about Heaven; we've studied Heaven; and it could be that there is no longer a need for a heavenly location because God dwells with us on the New Earth

Emmanuel-> “God with Us”

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

**Prayer**

**Benediction**