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HOW BIG IS HEAVEN

Helen and I were visiting yesterday with a senior citizen who was saved only a couple of months ago. She knows little of the bible and has questions. One question she had was regarding the number of people who would be in heaven. She asked, "How big is heaven?" would it be big enough to hold everybody?

She was thinking in terms of the physical parameters to which we are accustomed. The Bible addresses that aspect of her question in chapter 21 of Revelation. However, not all people who ever lived on earth will be there. Revelation 21:27 tells us that only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life will be found there.

Let us attempt to answer her question. Just how big is heaven? We can get a pretty good idea about that from the Revelation 21 description of the New Jerusalem. Verse 1 says the old earth and heaven have passed away. God has created a new heaven and a brand-new earth. The New Jerusalem comes down from heaven to the new earth. It is like a bride prepared for her groom.

The New Jerusalem is now home for the bride of Christ. The groom, Jesus, has received her and he is the very light of the new city. Jesus and the Father both light the city. How many of us can it hold? The city has twelve stories or foundations made of precious stones. Each story was named for one of the twelve Apostles. The city is cubical. It is 1,500 miles wide, and 1,500 miles long, and 1,500 miles high. That means each foundation is 2-1/4 million square miles, and there are twelve of them. That is 27 million square miles of foundation floor space.

I do not think our presence there will require "feet on the foundation." The air space between the twelve stories may likely be open to us also, and there are 1,250 feet of air space between the foundations.

How many people could this New Jerusalem hold? It will be big enough to hold every human being ever born and then some. It will also hold animals as well, because the scripture speaks specifically of the many horses in heaven.

We will not know these matters until we, the bride of Christ, are actually there. But I know it will be more glorious than anything we could have dreamed of.

How big is heaven? We would only know that if we could tell "how big is God!"