

## The Promise of Heaven (Revelation 21:1-8)

- Heaven is one of the greatest promises of our faithful promise-making and promise-keeping God as it will be our eternal home.
- In Revelation 21, the apostle John presents four incentives that inspire all believers about this great heavenly promise.
  - v. 5a: *"I will make all things new"*. God's great ability motivates us about this one-of-a-kind home.
  - v. 5b: *"Write, for these words are faithful and true"*. God's perfect reliability motivates confidence about this coming reality.
  - v. 6a: *"It is done"*. God's invincible authority motivates us in knowing that He complete what He began.
  - v. 6b: *"I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost"*. God's great gift motivates a great satisfaction about how He quenches our thirst for true life, peace, joy and forgiveness.
- John gives us **6 features** about what heaven will be like:

### Heaven is a **H**oly place (Rev. 21:1-3)

- Everything about heaven is *"holy"*: the *"city"* (v. 2), *"throne"* (Ps. 47:8); *"temple"* (Ps. 11:4) and *"nothing unclean shall ever come into it"* (Rev. 21:27)
- God's preparations make it *"holy"* (v. 1-2)
  - The old will *"pass away"* (Isa. 65:17; Heb. 1:10-12; 12:25-29; Matt. 24:35) by *"fire"* (2 Pet. 3:7, 10)
  - The *"new"* will be created (Rev. 21:1a, 2, 5): Instead of a renovation (Rom 8:19-22; Acts 3:21; Matt 19:28 which happens for the 1000yr reign of Christ), this text point to a brand-new creation (v. 1a, 2, 5; compare with Rev. 20:11)
- God's presence makes it *"holy"* (v. 3) as He tabernacles *"among men"*. He dwells with us personally (John 1:14) and possessively (v. 3b)

### Heaven is an **E**ternal place (Rev. 22:1-5)

- There's eternal life (22:1-2) seen in the river of life (22:1; 21:6; 22:17) and tree of life (22:2)
- There's eternal liberation (22:3a: *"no longer any curse"*) through Christ (Gal. 3:10)
- There's eternal Lordship (22:3b: *"and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it"*)

- There's eternal labor (22:3b: "*and His bond-servants will serve Him*")
- There's eternal looks (22:4: "*they will see His face*"). Most likely refers to Christ who is in His glorified body
- There's eternal light (22:5a: "*no night*").
- There's eternal leadership (22:5b: "*we shall reign forever*")

### Heaven is an **A**ctual place (John 14:2; Heb. 11:10, 14-16; 12:12; 13:14; Rev. 21:2, 10)

- This heavenly home is described as a "*house*" (John 14:2); a "*city*" (Heb. 11:10, 16; 12:22; 13:14; Rev. 21:2, 10); a "*country*" (Heb. 11:14-16) and the "*new Jerusalem*" (Rev. 21:2)

### Heaven is a **V**ictorious place (Rev. 21:1, 4, 22-27; 22:5)

- All the imperfections of life are removed
- There's no more sea (21:1), sorrow (21:4: "*wipe away ever tear*"), suffering (21:4: "*pain*"), sanctuary (21:22: "*saw no temple in it*"), substitutes like the sun and moon (21:23, 25, 22:5) and starvation (Rev. 7:16: "*will hunger no longer nor thirst anymore*")

### Heaven is an **E**laborate place (Rev. 21:9-21)

- John describes the capital city of heaven, the new Jerusalem
- He describes the sights of the city (21:9-11, 18-21). It has "*the glory of God*" (v. 11) and "*it's brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper*". It's walls are "*jasper*" (v. 18a) and city is "*pure gold like pure glass*" (v. 18b), the foundation has 12 picturesque stones (v. 19-20), the 12 gates are one pearl each (v. 21) and the streets are "*pure gold like transparent glass*" (v. 21)
- He describes the structure of the city (21:12-14). There are 12 gates (v. 12-13), a foundation with the apostles names identified on each level (v. 14), a thick wall (v. 17)
- He describes the size of the city (21:15-17). The city is a cube with all sides approximately 1500 miles squared.

### Heaven is an **N**arrow place (Rev. 21:7-8)

- John presents a clear contrast between two groups of people: ones that will occupy heaven and those who will be outcasts
- v. 7: The overcomers "*inherit*" all that God has prepared for heaven (1 Cor. 3:21-23; Rom. 8:17; Heb. 1:2)

- v. 8: The outcasts are described and “*have their part in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death*”