

CrossRoads Baptist Church
January 124, 2007 6:30 p.m.
Revelation 21: 1-4
Eternity: Heaven or Hell #12

“Heaven The City”

When you think of France, you think of Paris; when you think of Italy, Rome; England, London; Israel, Jerusalem and now tonight, when you think of Heaven, you will think of the New Jerusalem.

John saw this “holy city” and got to write about it. Let’s examine some of what he was permitted to write:

I. Heaven is a prepared City

As a bride adorned for her husband. Just as a bride is carried across the threshold of her new home by her groom, so Jesus will carry His bride into their new home.

God loves

- Detail: look at the wings of a butterfly;
- Color: look at the rainbow or the sunset or the sea;
- Beauty: look at creation;
- Sound: listen to the insects late at night or hear an orchestra
- A Garden: the garden of Eden was called Paradise.

II. Heaven is a picturesque city

A. A view from the outside

Dr. W. A. Criswell:

“It is measured as a solid cube of golden construction. Twelve thousand furlongs equals about one-thousand-five-hundred miles up, down and across. To visualize this city is to understand that it would stretch from the northern most part of Maine to the most southern tip of Florida. From the Atlantic Ocean to the Rocky Mountains. It is as large as all of western Europe and one-half of Russia. Each street is one half the length of the diameter of the earth. The levels rise one mile above the other, equaling eight million miles of beautiful avenues. The three gates upon the twelve jeweled foundation proclaim security and accessibility from all parts of the Earth.”

Another has said it is as tall as 780,000 stories and could easily hold 100 billion people.

B. A view from the inside

- There is no Sun or Moon Rev. 21:23

The city will have no need of artificial light or created light but instead will be illuminated by the presence of God. Every time someone saw the glory of God in the Bible, their experience a bright light. The glory of God will shine brighter than the noon day Sun.

- There is no Temple Rev. 21: 22

The Temple here (according to Hebrews) was built after Heaven. The Temple here was a shadow and when in Heaven, it will be the substance.

III. Heaven is a perfect city

Rev. 21: 1,2,5 new is “Kainos” which refers to new in kind or quality.

- We have a new name (Rev. 2:17; 3:12)
- We have a new song (Rev. 5:9)
- We have a new Jerusalem (Rev. 3:12; 21:2)
- We will possess new things (Rev. 21:5)
- We will dwell in a new Heaven and new Earth (Rev. 21:1)

What will not be in this new city:

- No tears in our eyes – vs. 4
- No death – vs. 4
- No sorrow – vs. 4
- No more pain – vs. 4
- No defilement – vs. 8

IV. Heaven is a populated city

A. The Angels will be there.

“But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels.” Hebrews 12:22

“Then I looked and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand; and thousands of thousands.” Revelation 5:11

We all have at least one guardian angel: “Take heed that you despise not one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father which is in heaven.” Matthew 18:10

B. The Saints will be there

All the saints of God will be there.

“And I say unto you, that many shall come from the East and the West and shall sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of Heaven.” Matthew 8:11

C. The Children will be there Deut. 1:39

I believe that every aborted child will be in Heaven; every still born baby; every miscarriage. And they won't be babies in Heaven but will be like everyone else – they will be in their prime.

Deut. 1:39 tells us that the little ones, who could not tell evil from good, were not affected by the judgment of God.

And hark! Amid the sacred songs
Those heavenly voices raise
Ten thousand thousand infant tongues
Unite in perfect praise. – Charles Wesley

D. The Son of God will be there

And the greatest thing about Heaven will be Jesus will be there.

And we shall see Him face to face.