

LIFE AFTER LIFE: "Tomorrow's World"

INTRODUCTION

- **Main Idea:** Revelation 21-22 introduces us to the city of the future, **the new Jerusalem**.

"[We all long for] the scent of a flower we have not found, the echo of a tune we have not heard, news from a county we have never yet visited." (C.S. Lewis)

- The **new earth** requires a **new Jerusalem** where Jesus reigns supreme. (Rev 21:2)

THE SITE OF THE CITY (REVELATION 21:1-3)

- In this passage, **heaven comes down**. The epicenter of God's rule and kingdom is now **planet earth**.

"Christ will make Earth into Heaven and Heaven into Earth. Just as the wall that separates God and mankind is torn down in Jesus, so too the wall that separates Heaven and Earth will be forever demolished." (Randy Alcorn)

Key Lessons:

1. The Christian view of heaven is **distinctly material**.
 - It involves the body perfected, the body resurrected, a perfect harmonization of heaven and earth.
2. God will be **victorious over Satan and sin**.
 - God is not going to give Satan the satisfaction of having ruined the divine creation.
 - **Pastoral Application: Realize that there is a throne in heaven. (Rev 4:2, 5:13).**

"At the center of the universe is a sovereign hand and a loving heart. Where an immortal and all-wise God will triumph over history." (De Courcy)

THE SIZE OF THE CITY (REVELATION 21:15-17)

- The size of the city is 1500 miles long, 1500 miles wide, and 1500 miles high (a perfect cube!)

"The city contains 2.25 million square miles or 3,375,000,000 cubic miles of space. It has enough room to accommodate one hundred thousand billion people. And that's just the city. We will have all of the new earth and new heavens to explore." (Mark Hitchcock)

"God's heart is big. God's love is large. . . The redeemed will be an innumerable number of people. The number is vast." (De Courcy)

- He is a **generous God** and you see this in the extravagance of His grace.

THE SHAPE OF THE CITY (REVELATION 21:15-17)

- In the Old Testament, the holy of holies was the shape of a cube (1 Kings 10:20).
- **Main Point: Heaven will be one large holy of holies** (2 Peter 3:14, Revelation 21:7).
- Heaven is a holy place for a holy people. If you hope to go to heaven, your life will be marked by holiness and obedience to the Word of God.

"Holiness does not consist in mystic speculations, enthusiastic fervours, or uncommanded austerities; it consists in thinking as God thinks, and willing as God wills." (John Brown)

- Sanctification will never have an end but it must have a beginning.

Sermon Application Questions

February 16, 2020

PERSONAL RESPONSES

1

C.S. Lewis once said that we all long for “the scent of a flower we have not found, the echo of a tune we have not heard, news from a country we have never yet visited.”

Pastor Philip expanded on that statement saying: we all long for a world where there is “life without death, presence without absence, strength without weakness, love without hatred, laughter without tears, day without night, hope without regret.”

In this message, we learned a number of truths about heaven. Were there any points in this message that were personally meaningful to you? How did God work in your heart through the preaching of His Word?

2

Pastor Philip taught us that “there is a throne in the center of the universe. At the center of the universe is a sovereign hand and a loving heart. Where an immortal and all-wise God will triumph over history.”

C.H. Spurgeon wrote, “It is God upon the throne that we love to preach. It is God upon His throne whom we trust.”

How does the truth of God’s sovereignty in heaven bring **comfort to our hearts**?

How does the truth of God’s sovereignty give us **hope for the future**?

DIGGING DEEPER

1

Take some time and reflect on some of the key passages related to this week’s sermon. Ask the Lord for help in making application of these truths to your life.

1 Corinthians 2:9

But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”—

2 Peter 3:13

But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Revelation 4:2

At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne.

Revelation 5:13

And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”

Revelation 7:9-10

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

Revelation 21:7

But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

Read Revelation 21:9-27. Write down your own observations about the new Jerusalem. Reflect on the words of Mark Hitchcock as you study this text:

2 “We will live in the heavenly city . . . it will always be home for us. But our existence won’t be confined to the city. We will be able to go in and out of the New Jerusalem that sits on the earth and move about on the new earth.”

How should we live in light of this truth?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Pastor Philip taught us that “given the size of the new Jerusalem, the city can hold a vast number of people. God will save people from every tribe, tongue and nation. The redeemed will be an innumerable number of people (Revelation 7:9-10). The number is vast.

1 **God’s heart is big. God’s love is large.** . . Take this truth into the world and indiscriminately share the gospel and tell people there’s room at the foot of the cross for them and there’s a door so wide, no matter who they are and where they’re from, they can enter it through Jesus Christ.”

The Calvinist C.H. Spurgeon once prayed, “*Lord, hasten to bring in all Thine elect. . . and then elect some more.*”

How did the Lord work in your life through this exhortation?

The godly saint J.C. Ryle once said, “The gold will never be without some dross - the light will never shine without some clouds, until we reach the heavenly Jerusalem. . . The holiest men have many a blemish and defect when weighed in the balance of the sanctuary.

2 But still, for all this, I am sure that to have such a character as I have faintly drawn, is the heart’s desire and prayer of all true Christians. They press towards it, if they do not reach it. They may not attain to it, but they always aim at it. It is what they strive and labour to be, if it is not what they are.”

How are you currently striving for holiness? What are some ways that others can encourage you in this pursuit? Perhaps share with some close friends ways that they can pray for you as you pursue spiritual growth and Christ-likeness.