

## LIFE AFTER LIFE: "Tomorrow's World, Part 2"

### INTRODUCTION

**Observation:** The book of Revelation is not only a prophetic book, it is also a pastoral book.

- In A.D. 95, there is a wave of persecution against Christians under the emperor Domitian.
- The purpose of the book of Revelation is **to encourage Christians to live in the hope of the world to come.**

**Review:**

1. The **Site of the City** (Revelation 21:1-3): In this passage, **heaven comes down to earth.**
2. The **Size of the City** (Revelation 21:15-17): The massive size of the new Jerusalem is a sign of God's extravagance and kindness.
3. The **Shape of the City** (Revelation 21:15-17): The city is a cube like the holy of holies (21:22).

### THE SPLENDOR OF THE CITY (REVELATION 21:11, 22-23)

- Jesus is going to tabernacle with man. The shining of His presence will be there, unveiled and unfiltered.
- "Jesus, the Lamb is the Focus of Heaven" (21:9, 14, 22-23, 27, 22:1-3)

Heaven's Focus on the Lamb of God:

- The **Chosen** Lamb (Revelation 13:8)
- The **Crucified** Lamb (Revelation 5:6)
- The **Conquering** Lamb (Revelation 5:5-7)
- The **Celebrated** Lamb (Revelation 5:8-13)

"The Lamb is all the glory Of Immanuel's land." (Samuel Rutherford)

### THE SIGHTS OF THE CITY (REVELATION 21:12-22:2)

#### A. The Wall (Revelation 21:12, 14, 17-19)

- God is not against walls; walls symbolize security and boundaries.

#### B. The Gates (Revelation 21:12-15)

- There are twelve gates and twelve angels at the gates. The gates are inscribed with the names of the twelve tribes of Israel.

#### C. The Foundation Stones (Revelation 21:14)

- There are twelve foundation stones which are inlaid with the most precious of stones (21:19-20).
- The stones are inscribed with the names of the twelve apostles.

#### D. The Street (Revelation 21:21)

- "The street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass." (Revelation 21:21)
- "Right now men walk all over God and worship gold, but in heaven we will walk all over gold and worship God."

#### E. The River (Revelation 22:1-2)

- This is a literal river, but it memorializes forever "the wonder of [God's] spiritual water of life given to man." (Dr. Jim Rosscup)

# Sermon Application Questions

February 23, 2020

## PERSONAL RESPONSES

Pastor Philip made the observation that the book of Revelation is not only a prophetic book, it is also a pastoral book. The Apostle John is writing as a prisoner on the isle of Patmos to encourage churches who are going through persecution under the Emperor Domitian.

John writes to encourage the churches to **live in the hope of the world to come**.

1

Imagine that you were living under the reign of Domitian, just having faced the persecution of the Emperor Nero. How would the book of Revelation have brought encouragement to the persecuted believers of Asia?

How does this book bring encouragement to the church today?

C.H. Spurgeon said, *"Heaven without Christ! Absurd! It is the sea without water, the earth without its fields, the heavens without their stars. There cannot be heaven without Christ. He is the sum total of bliss, He is the fountain from which heaven flows, the element of which heaven is composed. Christ is heaven, and heaven is Christ."*

2

What do you think about this statement? How should a proper view of heaven impact how we live our lives here on earth?

## DIGGING DEEPER

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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.

### Revelation 5:9-14

And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth." Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" 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!" And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped.

### Revelation 21:12-18

It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed— on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. And the one who spoke with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city and its gates and walls. The city lies foursquare, its length the same as its width. And he measured the city with his rod, 12,000 stadia. Its length and width and height are equal. He also measured its wall, 144 cubits by human measurement, which is also an angel's measurement. The wall was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold, like clear glass.

**Read Revelation 22:1-5.** Keep in mind what Pastor Philip taught us about “the river of life”:

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*“To take them as literal does not mean at all that they cannot at the same time have symbolical significance for those who see them. The river could be placed here by God to memorialize forever the wonder of the spiritual water of life given to man.”<sup>1</sup>*

Write down your own personal reflections on this amazing passage. How does this passage encourage you in your walk with Christ?

## PERSONAL APPLICATION

A large sum of money was given to Rowland Hill to dispense to a poor pastor. Thinking that the amount was too much to send all at once, Hill forwarded just a portion along with a note that said simply, "More to follow." In a few days the man received another envelope containing the same amount and with the same message, "More to follow." At regular intervals, there came a third, and a fourth. In fact, they continued, along with those cheering words, until the entire sum had been received.

C. H. Spurgeon used this story to illustrate that the good things we receive from God always come with the same prospect of more to follow. He said:

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*"When God forgives our sins, there's more forgiveness to follow. He justifies us in the righteousness of Christ, but there's more to follow. He adopts us into His family, but there's more to follow. He prepares us for heaven, but there's more to follow. He gives us grace, but there's more to follow. He helps us to old age, but there's still more to follow."*

Spurgeon concluded, *"Even when we arrive in the world to come, there will still be more to follow."*

How does this illustration inform your view of the character of God?

**2** "If I ever reach heaven, I expect to find three wonders there: First, to meet some I had not thought to see there; second, to miss some I had thought to meet there; and third, the greatest wonder of all, to find myself there!" (John Newton)

Review your own personal testimony. What are the sins that God has saved you from?

Who can you share your salvation testimony with in the days to come?

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<sup>1</sup> Quoting from Dr. Jim Rosscup, notes on Revelation.