

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE DIE?



Part 3 – What Will Heaven Be Like? (Cont'd) Revelation 21-22

Pastor Mark Hartman
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I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Stage One: The **temporary**. The Bible clearly teaches that the moment our body dies our **spirit** goes to be with God in heaven. That initial position will be temporary.
- B. Stage Two: The **forever**. The Bible also says that at the Return of Christ there is a resurrection in which our old bodies are resurrected and changed into spiritual bodies. It says God will create a new heaven and a new earth. Heaven comes to join with a new earth and it will be on this **earth** remade, that we will live throughout eternity.

II. AT THE END OF TIME AS WE KNOW IT, ALL THAT WE KNOW AND RECOGNIZE IN THE UNIVERSE WILL BE **DESTROYED**. EARTH WILL THEN BE REMADE.

2 Peter 3:10 "But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare."

Revelation 20:11 "Then I saw a great white throne and Him who was seated on it. Earth and sky (the heavens) fled from His presence, and there was no place for them."

Revelation 21:1 "Then, I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away."

III. THE BIBLE DESCRIBES OUR **NEW BODIES**.

1 Thessalonians 4:15-16 “According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. [16] For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.”

1 Thessalonians 4:14: “We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.”

1 Thessalonians 4:17 “After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.”

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 “Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed--in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.”

1 Corinthians 15:42-44 (NLT) “It is the same way for the resurrection of the dead. Our earthly bodies, which die and decay, will be different when they are resurrected, for they will never die. ⁴³ Our bodies now disappoint us, but when they are raised, they will be full of glory. They are weak now, but when they are raised, they will be full of power. ⁴⁴ They are natural human bodies now, but when they are raised, they will be spiritual bodies. For just as there are natural bodies, so also there are spiritual bodies.”

1 Corinthians 15:42-44 (AMP) “So it is with the resurrection of the dead. [The body] that is sown is perishable and decays, but [the body] that is resurrected is imperishable (immune to decay, immortal). ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor and humiliation; it is raised in honor and glory. It is sown in infirmity and weakness; it is resurrected in strength and endued with power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a natural (physical) body; it is raised a supernatural (a spiritual) body. [As surely as] there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body.”

Revelation 21:4 (NIV) “He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

IV. THE BIBLE DESCRIBES A NEW **HEAVEN** AND A NEW **EARTH**.

Revelation 21:1 (NIV) “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.”

- A. This new earth will be **eternal**.
- B. **Light** is a key ingredient in the new heaven and new earth.
- C. The place Jesus has prepared is perfect. It doesn't have the old junk we have to put up with here. There won't be **Band-Aids**. There won't be any aspirins. There won't be **okra** or **hominy** or maybe **prunes** in heaven.

V. THE BIBLE DESCRIBES A **NEW JERUSALEM**.

Revelation 21:2 (NIV) "I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband."

Revelation 21:10 (NIV) "And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God."

John 14:1-3 (NIV) "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. ² In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."

VI. THE BIBLE DESCRIBES **GOD**.

Revelation 4:3, 5 "And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian. (Those colors are deep burgundy.) A rainbow, resembling an emerald, (that is a deep transparent green) encircled the throne. [5] From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder."

VII. WHO GETS TO **GO** TO HEAVEN?

Matthew 7:13-14 "You can enter God's Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose the easy way. [14] But the gateway to life is small, and the road is narrow, and only a few ever find it."

John 5:24 "He that hears My Word and believes on Him that sent Me will have eternal life and shall not come unto condemnation but has passed from death to life."

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Notes:
