

Heaven: Our New Environment

Revelation 21:1-15

Introduction

I The Past Heaven's Environment

- A. The inhabitants: **OT** saints who died in faith
- B. The location
 - 1. Sheol: Abraham's Bosom - Lk 16:22-23
 - 2. Abaddon or **Destruction** - Job 26:6; 28:22; Prov 15:11
 - 3. The "place of the dead" - Acts 2:31; 1 Pt 3:18
 - 4. The "**pit**" - Job 33:24; Ps 28:1; 30:3; Isa 38:18 Ez 26:20
- C. The surroundings
 - 1. A place of "**silence**" - Ps 94:17; 115:17
 - 2. A place of "gloom and the shadow of death" - Job 10:21
 - 3. A place void of God's **praise** - Ps 6:5; 88:12; 115:17
 - 4. A place of rest for the weary - Job 3:17-22; 14:12
 - 5. A place of **semi**-consciousness: 1 Sam 28:11ff; Is 14:9ff
 - 6. A place under God's authority - Job 26:6; Ps 139:8

II The Present Heaven's Environment

- A. The inhabitants: OT and **NT** saints who died in faith
- B. The location
 - 1. The **3rd** Heaven - 2 Cor 12:2
 - 2. The **paradise** of God - Lk 23:43; 2 Cor 12:3-4; Rev 2:7
- C. The surroundings
 - 1. A place where God is enthroned - Rev 4-5
 - 2. A place of awesome **worship** - Rev 4-5
 - 3. A place of **cheering** on earth-bound believers - Heb 12:1
 - 4. A place of petition - Rev 6:9-10
 - 5. A place of **waiting** - Rev 6:11

III The Future Heaven's Environment

- A. The inhabitants: OT, NT and **future** saints who die in faith
- B. The location
 - 1. The **New** Earth and the New Heavens - Mt 5:5; Rev 21:1
- C. The surroundings
 - 1. The New Earth: A restoration of the Garden of Eden
 - 2. The New City: Coming down out of heaven - Rev 21:1

- a. The city's other names:
 - 1. The New **Jerusalem** - Rev 3:12; 21:2
 - 2. The City of God - Ps 48:1-2; Rev 3:12-13
 - 3. The **Zion** from above - Ps 102:12-16; Heb 12:22
- b. The city's architect and builder - Heb 11:9-10, 16
- c. The city's dimensions
 - 1. **1,400** miles cubed - Rev 21:16
- d. The city's physical characteristics - Rev 21:10-11
 - 1. It has a gated **wall** around the city - Rev 21:12-20
 - 2. It is constructed of pure **gold** - Rev 21:18
 - 3. It has streets paved with gold - Rev 21:21
 - 4. It is **prepared** for believers - Jn 14:2; Mt 19:28-29
 - 5. It has the **River** of Life - Ez 47:1-12; Rev 22:1-2
 - 6. It is the home of the **Tree** of Life - Rev 22:2-3

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Take some time this week to consider the following:

1. From our study of Heaven so far, what have you found most exciting? Unexpected? Motivating? What impact has all this had on your relationship with Jesus Christ?
2. As you consider the three Heavens -- Past, Present and Future -- what progression do you observe in terms of: 1) Environment, 2) Activity, 3) Enjoyment and 4) Fulfillment?
3. Carefully read Revelation chapters 21 and 22. Write down as many observations as you can about the New Heaven and the New Earth. Any new discoveries? What are they?
4. Take a few minutes to read Col 3:1-17 [For extra credit, memorize verses 1-4] Now meditate on what is involved in "setting your hearts and minds on things above."
5. Finally, ask the Holy Spirit to use the finish line of Heaven to create a whole new hunger in your heart to obey, honor and please the Lord. Time is short! Are you satisfied with how you are living life? If not, what will you do to initiate change?

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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