

Sunday Morning, March 3, 2019
Our Eternal Home (1). Paradise Restored, God's Temple
Revelation 21:1–8; 22:1–5

I. What We Lost

Gen. 2:7, 16; 3:8, 15; Gen. 17:7; Exo. 25:8; Exo. 28:45–46; Exo. 27:20; Exo. 27:9–18; Num. 3:38
Lev. 26:11–12; Exo. 25:18–21; 26:1, 31; Heb. 9:11–15; 23–28; Jn. 1:14

II. What We Long For—Our Eternal Home as the Tabernacle of God

A. Infinite Beauty of the Temple

1. Gold 1 Ki. 6:20; Rev. 21:18, 21, 23; 4:3
2. Jewels Rev. 21:11; Exo. 28:17–20; Rev. 21:19–20

B. Intimate Presence of God—in the Holy of Holies

1. The Dimensions of the City Are Huge Rev. 21:15–16
2. The Dimensions of the City Are Symbolic
Rev. 21:16; 1 Ki. 6:19–20; Rev. 21:22–23; 22:4; Ezek. 48:35; 37:26f; Rev. 21:3

III. What We Long For—Our Eternal Home as the Paradise of God

A. Our Eternal Home Is Similar to the Garden of Eden

Rev. 21:1, 23; 22:2

B. Our Eternal Home Is Greater than the Garden of Eden

1. Greater in the Sense of Creation Renewed
Rev. 22:2; 2 Pet. 3:12; Rev. 20:11; Rev. 11:19; 16:17–21; 2 Pet. 3:6–7; Rev. 21:24, 26
Rev. 21:1; Rom. 4:13; Matt. 5:5; Ac. 3:21; Isa. 65:17–25 and Rom. 8:21–23
2. Greater in the Sense of Communion with God Restored
Rev. 21:3; 22:4; Exo. 34:29–35; 33:20; Num. 12:8

QUOTES

“Heaven is the fruit of the blood of the Son of God; yea, the chief fruit.”

(Richard Baxter)

“Since where God dwells, there heaven is, we conclude that in the life to come, heaven and earth will no longer be separated, as they are now, but will be merged. Believers will therefore continue to be in heaven as they continue to live on the new earth.”

(Anthony Hoekema)

“This is our hope. Our future is very much physical. Contrary to the view most people have of heaven, our ultimate destiny is physical. We will not be floating around disembodied in the middle of some cloudy vista. We will have *bodies*, risen, transformed glorious bodies [in the new heaven and new earth] . . . "Virtually none of my mental imagery of heaven had come from the Bible, but from medieval artists and modern-day cartoonists: clouds, harps, and winged babies floating around in nightdresses. In fact, part of the blame lies in calling it 'heaven' to start with. It is the new earth. It will be no less physical than the present earth . . . "God says, 'I will make all things new,' not 'I will make all new things.' The new earth will not be completely unrecognizable. It will still be *this* world - a renewed version of it, not a replacement for it."
(Sam Allberry in *Lifted: Experiencing the Resurrection Life*)

“If I find myself having a desire which no evidence in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world.”
(C S Lewis)

"If this world with all of its beauty is something God gives to His enemies, what kind of world will He give to His friends?"
(John Bradford)

“There is scarce anything that can be conceived or expressed about the degree of the happiness of the saints in heaven. . . They shall eat and drink abundantly, and swim in the ocean of love, and be eternally swallowed up in the infinitely bright, and infinitely mild and sweet, beams of divine love; eternally receiving that light, eternally full of it, and eternally compassed round with it, and everlasting reflecting it back again to its foundation.”
(Jonathan Edwards)

“It will matter little to the faithful what their sorrows may have been in this vain world, since no trace of them will remain when they enter on that ineffable peace which is in store for them in the life to come.”
(Athanasius)

“If all the earth were paper, and all the plants of the earth were pens, and all the sea were ink, and if every man, woman and child had the pen of a ready writer, yet were they not able to express the thousandth part of those joys that saints shall have in heaven.”
(Tomas Brooks)

“We are not citizens of this world trying to make our way to heaven; we are citizens of heaven trying to make our way through this world. That radical Christian insight can be life-changing. We are not to live so as to earn God's love, inherit heaven, and purchase our salvation. All those are given to us as gifts; gifts bought by Jesus on the cross and handed over to us. We are to live as God's redeemed, as heirs of heaven, and as citizens of another land: the Kingdom of God. We live as those who are on a journey home; a home we know will have the lights on and the door open and our Father waiting for us when we arrive. That means in all adversity our worship of God is joyful, our life is hopeful, our future is secure. There is nothing we can lose on earth that can rob us of the treasures God has given us and will give us.”
(From The Anglican Journal)

“Christ loves all His saints in Heaven. His love flows out to His whole church there, and to every individual member of it. And they all, with one heart and one soul, unite in love to their common Redeemer. Every heart is wedded to this holy and spiritual Husband, and all rejoice in Him, while the angels join them in their love. And the angels and saints all love each other. . . Not one heart is there that is not full of love, and not a solitary inhabitant that is not beloved by all the others. . . Every soul goes out in love to every other; and among all the blessed inhabitants, love is mutual, and full, and eternal . . . As the saints will love God with an inconceivable ardency of heart, and to the utmost of their capacity, so they will know that He has loved them from all eternity, and still loves them, and will continue to love them forever.”
(Jonathan Edwards)