

12. HEAVEN IS YOUR ETERNAL HOME

COMMENTS ON THE LESSON

This lesson is designed to show the beauty of heaven. It is hoped that everyone will want to go there.

EXPLANATION OF TERMS

APOSTLE JOHN: one of Jesus' twelve apostles.

NEW JERUSALEM: the heavenly city, which the apostle John saw in a vision.

MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB: when Christ takes the church to be with Him.

IDOLATERS: people that revere, or worship, idols.

LAKE OF FIRE: hell.

THE LAMB: Jesus.

SORCERER: one who attempts to use the power of evil to foretell the future or to control future events.

HEAVEN IS YOUR ETERNAL HOME

Heaven can be called your home since that is where your Father (God) lives (Hebrews 12:22-23). If you have become a Christian, your name is recorded there (Luke 10:20). Heaven, therefore, is your mother city (Galatians 4:26). Your citizenship is there (Philippians 3:20). You belong there, and you will never feel entirely at home until you are there.

You should not think, however, that you came from heaven, for you did not live in heaven, or anywhere else, before you were born to your parents on earth. Your life started here on earth. Your present life is the only life that you have known. We know this is true because Adam, the first man, did not exist before God created him from the dust of the ground. It was only after God breathed into Adam's nostrils the breath of life that Adam became a "living being" (Genesis 2:7).

Adam did not come down from heaven but was made from dust (1 Corinthians 15:47). Jesus Christ is the only one, who came down from heaven (John 3:13). Adam is the earthly father of us all, and it is from him that we have received our physical life. It is from Jesus, however, that we receive eternal life (John 10:10). That is why Jesus is referred to as "the last Adam" (1 Corinthians 15:45).

The fact that you did not exist before you were born into this world should not make you think that your life is less important. Your present life becomes all the more important when you consider that your future for all eternity depends on how you live now.

YOUR NEW HOME

Shortly before Jesus returned to heaven, He told His disciples that His Father's house has many living quarters in it (John 14:2). Jesus said that He was going away to prepare a place for His people and that He would come again and take them to be with Him there (John 14:3).

So a home is reserved for you in heaven. It is not in a house made with human hands (2 Corinthians 5:1-2). It is in the city that God has prepared (Hebrews 11:16), which is eternal in the heavens.

In a vision the apostle John saw the new heaven and the new earth, where your eternal home will be located (Revelation 21:1). He also saw the holy city, the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:2). The New Jerusalem will not be on this earth, because this earth will pass away (Revelation 21:1).

The apostle John said that the New Jerusalem is very beautiful. It is as lovely as a bride that is adorned for her husband (Revelation 21:2). The wall around the city is composed of jasper (Revelation 21:18) and its foundations are decorated with precious stones (Revelation 21:19-21). The city itself is of gold that looks like clear glass (Revelation 21:18).

A HOLY PLACE

In heaven, bad people will not bother you. Sorcerers, the sexually immoral, murderers, and idolaters will be on the outside (Revelation 22:15). No one will get into heaven who is unclean, who practices disgusting things (such as

the worship of idols), or who tells lies (Revelation 21:27). There will be no wickedness there, because no wicked people will inherit the kingdom of God (1 Corinthians 6:9-10).

YOUR NEW BODY

You will not enter that beautiful city in your old, worn out body. You will have a new body, one that will be immortal (1 Corinthians 15:53-54). Your new body will not be an earthly body. It will be a spiritual body (1 Corinthians 15:44). You should not think, however, that a spiritual body is weak and insubstantial. Quite the opposite is true. Your spiritual body will be glorious and powerful (1 Corinthians 15:43). It will be a heavenly body (1 Corinthians 15:48-49). It will be like Jesus' resurrected body (Romans 8:29 and 1 John 3:2) and you will shine like the sun (Matthew 13:43).

When you will have been resurrected, and are in your new body, you will have won the victory over death (1 Corinthians 15:54-55, 57). You will not be subject to death ever again (Hebrews 9:27). Jesus will say to you,

“Well done, good and faithful servant;..
Enter into the joy of your lord.”

Matthew 25:21

YOUR TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

If you have added Christian virtues to your character in this life (2 Peter 1:5-7), an entrance into God's everlasting kingdom will be granted to you richly in the life to come (2 Peter 1:11). A crown will be placed upon your head. It will be the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love Him (James 1:12). It will also be a crown of righteousness (2 Timothy 4:8). Further, you will have the privilege of being dressed in white garments and of walking with Jesus (Revelation 3:4). Jesus will invite you to sit down to eat so that He Himself can serve you (Luke 12:37).

THE GREAT FEAST

A great feast will be prepared for you and for all people that gain the victory over death. It will be a wedding feast. It is called the "marriage supper of the Lamb" (Revelation 19:7-9). The feast will take place when Christ receives His bride, which is the church (Ephesians 5:23).

If you are currently "in Christ," you are also in His church; and that makes you a part of the bride, who will be married to Christ forever.

YOUR ROYAL INHERITANCE

If you have become a son of God by faith in Christ, and if you have put Christ on in baptism (Galatians 3:26-27), you are, as a result, an heir of God. Being an heir, you are a joint heir with Christ, provided you are willing to suffer with Him (Romans 8:17). Your inheritance with

Christ will be glorious (Ephesians 1:18). You will inherit the kingdom that has been prepared for you since the foundation of the world (Matthew 25:34), and which God has promised to those who love Him (James 2:5).

YOU WILL RULE WITH CHRIST

You will sit with Christ on His throne and you will rule with Him forever (Revelation 22:5). You will be rich beyond all imagination, because all things will be yours (Revelation 21:7); and your treasure will be safe, because no thief will be able to get to it and nothing will be able to destroy it (Luke 12:33).

YOU WILL SEE GOD

You will be permitted to live where God is (Revelation 21:3) and you will even be able to look on His face (Revelation 22:4).

THERE WILL BE GREAT JOY IN HEAVEN

When you get to heaven, you will have entered into the “joy of your Lord” (Matthew 25:21,23). In heaven there will be no hunger, thirst, or oppressive heat (Revelation 7:16). There will also be no illness (Revelation 22:2), death, sorrow, crying, or pain there (Revelation 21:4). Heaven will be your permanent home (2 Corinthians 5:1). You will never have to come back to this earth and pass through trials and sorrows again. All of those things will have passed away (Revelation 21:4).

WE LIVE NOW IN ANTICIPATION

Since the future looks so bright, if you are in Christ, and since God has promised to do so much for you, you can live in joyful expectation of the good things to come. The apostle Paul put it this way,

“If then you were raised with Christ,
seek those things which are above,
where Christ is,
sitting at the right hand of God.
Set your mind on things above,
not on things on the earth.
For you died, and your life is hidden
with Christ in God.”

Colossians 3:1-3

WORKSHEETS

After you have read this lesson and have looked up all the references in the Bible, please read the following sentences. As you read, pay attention to whether or not these statements are true. If you decide a particular statement is true, please write “T” before it. If you decide a statement is false, write “F” before it.

_____ 1. You lived on another planet before you were born on earth.

_____ 2. There will be plenty of room in God’s house for all.

_____ 3. The city that God has prepared for His people will be on this earth.

_____ 4. Everyone who ever lived will be in heaven.

_____ 5. Your new body will be weak, like smoke.

_____ 6. Your entrance into heaven will be very grand.

_____ 7. You will sit with Christ on His throne.

_____ 8. You will take part in the marriage supper of the Lamb.

_____ 9. You will rule with Christ.

_____10. A Christian should live now in joyful expectation of all the good things to come.

Please, complete the following scriptures with the help of the New King James Version of the Bible

Romans 8:17

“and if children, then _____; heirs of _____ and joint heirs with _____, if indeed we _____ with Him, that we may also be _____ together.”

Ephesians 1:18

“the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the _____ of His calling, what are the _____ of the _____ of His _____ in the saints.”

Revelation 22:5

“There shall be no _____ there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall _____ and ever.”

THOUGHT QUESTIONS: Please, think about the following questions and write a short paragraph about each.

1. Why do you think God will not let bad people into His heaven?
2. Why do you want to go to heaven?
3. What are your plans for continuing to study the Bible?