

THE HOLY CITY

Revelation 21:1-21 Rev. Brian W. Secor
Broadway Christian Church December 21, 2014

There is no more ennobling thought that can occupy our mind than that of heaven.

1. For most people in our culture, heaven is just _____ in the sky.
2. Heaven is not meaningless for the _____.
3. To know what heaven is like & then to focus upon it as the goal towards which we are living motivates the faithful.

I. THE HOLY CITY WILL BE HERE

A. Heaven will be on _____.

1. After millennium, after Great White Throne judgement, after all that is left is God & his people, we will watch as God _____ a new heaven & earth.
2. Rev. 21:1 stresses that old heaven & old earth pass away. Since Eden, God's plan has been the redemption of earth & restoration of fellowship with people lost due to Adam's sin. Romans 8:19-23. The dwelling of God shall no longer be at a distance. He shall reside in this world, in the Holy City.

B. What this means for us.

1. This removes _____.
2. This keeps us from putting our hope in _____ heavens.
There is tremendous tendency to live as though this world is all that matters. Ultimate joy & satisfaction is not in things of this world.

II. THE HOLY CITY WILL BE WHERE GOD IS.

A. The dwelling of God shall be _____ us.

1. This earth is the Lord's. In the beginning, he created it. In the present he holds all things together. In the future, he will judge it severely & destroy it with fervent heat. God is involved in deconstruction and renovation.
2. God's purpose in time is to move us to place where he again can have intimate fellowship with the _____ race.

B. To be with God and have him with us will be our everlasting eternal _____

1. I can think of no higher joy that to be with the Father, our Lord Jesus Christ & the Spirit on a face to face basis, to walk & talk with them & to bask in the radiance of their presence.
2. Our _____ is to be with God & he with us. As Christians we look forward to getting to know God better & better. Through all eternity, our welfare, growth & development shall be God's concern. All hindrances will to knowing God will be gone. In his presence, with him we will find joy unspeakable, full of glory.

III. THE HOLY CITY WILL BE NEW.

A. God's heart is knit to this _____ & he makes it _____.

1. Key to this passage is understanding of word _____.
 - a. EX—Moscow: new in sense of totally different from what used to.
 - b. EX—Chicago: not totally different, new with similarities & differences but like what had before. When God makes all things new it's the 2nd kind of new.

B. We will be missing several things in the new earth.

1. _____ will be gone. Symbol of separation & fear.

2. No more _____ or wrong on the earth.
3. No more _____.
 - a. Death, great enemy, will be dead.
 - b. Sorrow will be gone.
 - c. Crying, loud & deep outpouring of anger & anguish will not be heard.
 - d. Pain will vanish away & in its place will come love, joy & peace.

C. Heaven is a place especially prepared for us.

1. Heaven permits us to fully be who God _____ for us to be.
2. Perfect social environment enclosed in a mammoth, secure city system.
 - a. Holy City= _____ miles wide, long & tall. Massive mansions for us all.
 - b. We will enjoy _____ friendship & fellowship there.
3. It will be a place _____ values are totally different & right.
What we consider worth dying for will be paving stones.
4. It will be a place where we experience everlasting & eternal _____.

IV. THE HOLY CITY WILL BE FOR SAINTS ONLY.

A. This city belongs to the people of _____ by grace.

1. Clear distinction in God's Word between sinner & saint. He who enters:
 - a. Is thirsty for God.
 - c. Has his name written in the book of life.
 - b. Is an overcomer.
3. Outside of that beautiful city are those who:
 - a. Cowardly: when way became hard in Christ, gave up.
 - b. Unbelieving: refused to accept what God said is true.
 - c. Vile: preferred being profane, lewd, coarse. Morally lax.
 - d. Murders: practiced death by word & deed & took life.
 - e. Sexually immoral: promiscuous & lust directed. Sex ruled lives.
 - f. Practiced magic arts: horoscope, palm readers, witchcraft & sorcery.
 - g. Gave selves up to false gods: practiced idolatry, putting someone or some thing in place reserved for God alone.
 - h. Liars: lived by deception & deceit & hated truth.
 - i. All these are outside the Holy City in the Lake of Fire. Never will any of their kind cross through its great gates.

B. Our life has a glorious _____ in Christ.

1. Day by day we are creating our destiny in eternity. Will be one of two places: the Lake of Fire or the Holy City. God he has made it possible for us to make _____ our eternal home.

V. THE HOLY CITY WILL BE HOME.

A. In life, we long to be present with the _____.

1. Our hearts yearn to return to the God who made us & to be with him because only then are we truly _____.

B. We are on our journey _____ & by grace we will arrive safe to our Father's house, the Holy City.

1. Saints of old sought a city whose builder & maker is God. Author of Hebrews says God commends such & calls them his own for they recognize that this world will not be our forever home. It is temporary, short term, a place for a journey, not the destination of the living. Our destination is the _____.

There is no more ennobling & inspiring thought for us than heaven.