

OUR ETERNAL BLISS

Rev. 21:1-8

2 Peter 3:12-13, “Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.” Peter made reference to God’s promise which He gave through Isaiah. **Isaiah 65:17**, “For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.” John saw that promise being fulfilled.

God has set eternity in our hearts. Because of this, temporal things can never really satisfy. Only that which is eternal can fully satisfy our souls. Some get hold of this and lift their eyes of faith to what God has prepared beyond this life. Others reject it and try to find fulfillment here.

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob looked for the eternal. **Hebrews 11:8-10**, “By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.”

Hebrews 11:13-16, “These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.”

Heaven is our hope. **Hebrews 10:34**, “For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance.” It is this hope that keeps us going when all seems to be against us. It keeps us going when what we are doing here looks foolish to the world. It motivated Abraham and his descendants. It will motivate us if we let it. **1 Peter 1:3-5**, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

We have been studying the second coming of Jesus Christ to this earth. The fact that He is coming again is mentioned 318 times in the New Testament. Statements such as, “...I will come again and receive you unto myself that where I am, there ye may be also (John 14:3); “...this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven” (Acts 1:11); “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and the with the trump of God...” (I Thess. 4:16) make it impossible to honestly deny His second coming. When the first coming is mentioned once the second coming is mentioned eight times.

Make no mistake about it; Jesus Christ is coming to this earth again physically, personally and visibly. The order of events of His second coming begins with the rapture in which all born-again believers, all who are saved, will be suddenly taken out of this world into Heaven. God will then bring great judgment upon the earth for seven years. This is called the tribulation period. While that is taking place on earth the believers will appear before Christ at the bema seat for their rewards. At the end of the seven years, Jesus will return to the earth with the believers and end the tribulation by defeating the enemy at Armageddon. He will then judge all the living nations, execute the unbelievers, and set up the kingdom which will run for 1,000 years.

During that time Satan will be locked away in the abyss, and the earth will enjoy perfect peace and

righteousness. At the close of the 1,000 years Satan will be released for a short time to tempt the nations. Many will follow him and rebel against Jesus Christ. God will end their rebellion by destroying the earth and heavens. Satan will be cast into the lake of fire. The final judgment will take place, and all who stand there will be cast into the lake of fire. God will then create a new heaven and a new earth. That will begin the perfect age of eternity. Every purpose of God for man will find its fulfillment then, and we will enjoy eternal bliss.

I. THE BLISS OF ETERNAL RIGHTEOUSNESS.

2 Peter 3:13, “Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.”

A. This world is filled with unrighteousness.

There is an absolute standard of right and wrong.

B. This world will be destroyed to rid it of sin’s pollution.

2 Peter 3:12, “Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?”

C. A new earth and new heaven will be created where righteousness dwells.

II. THE DELIGHT OF THE NEW JERUSALEM (Rev. 21:2).

A. It comes down out of Heaven from God (v.2).

B. It is 1500 miles square and 1500 miles high (v.15-16).

3,375,000,000 cubic miles of space

C. It is made of pure gold with a beautiful wall (v.12-14, 17-21).

1. The wall has 12 gates and 12 foundations (v.12-14).

2. The wall is 216 feet high and made of jasper (v.17-18).

3. The foundations are studded with precious stones (v.19-20).

4. The gates are made of huge pearls (v.21).

D. It is the Father’s house where we will live (John 14:1-3).

III. THE PLEASURE OF NEW LIVING CONDITIONS.

A. No darkness (Rev. 21:22-25; 22:5)

B. No defilement (Rev. 21:8, 25-27; 22:15)

C. No hunger (Rev. 22:1-2, 14)

D. No more curse (Rev. 22:3; Rom. 8:18-23)

E. No suffering of tears; death; sorrow; crying; pain (Rev. 21:4).

1. Our resurrection bodies will be like Christ’s body.

1 John 3:2, “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.” He was 33.

a. He could appear in their midst without opening the door.

John 20:26, “And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you.”

b. He had flesh and bones.

Luke 24:39, “Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.”

c. He ate food.

Luke 24:41-43, “Behold And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat? And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb. And he took it, and did eat before them.” (The new body will be 100% efficient. There will be no waste.)

2. Our resurrection bodies will be incorruptible and immortal.

There will be no ageing nor death. **1 Corinthians 15:52-53**, “In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.”

3. *Our resurrection bodies will not have gender distinctions.*

Galatians 3:28, “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.” **Matthew 22:30**, “For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.”

IV. THE JOY OF A NEW LEVEL OF FELLOWSHIP (Rev. 21:22; 22:4).

A. A face to face fellowship

B. A continual service (Rev. 22:3)

1. *Heaven will be a place of activity.*

2. *Heaven will be a place of service to Christ.*

a. Then we can love Him as we ought.

b. Then we can serve Him as He deserves.

c. Then we can forever enjoy life as God from the beginning intended it to be.

Heaven is our hope. It is this hope that keeps us going when all seems to be against us. It keeps us going when what we are doing here looks foolish to the world. It motivated Abraham and his descendants (Heb. 11:8-16, 24-27). It will motivate us if we let it.