

In our further reading assignment this week, we are reading about the Great Marriage Supper of the Lamb in the book of Revelation, which points our eyes to our hope of heaven. Why is focusing on heaven so important? I can think of three reasons. First, it reduces our attraction for this world. 1 John 2:15 tells us not to love the world or anything in the world. If our primary focus is heaven, then we recognize this world is temporary, and we don't get so enamored with it. Secondly, focusing on heaven gives us a permanent hope for the future regardless of what happens in our life. This world is filled with severe grief and trials which cause a lot of pain and disappointment. In heaven one day, God is going to make all things new. He's going to give us a fresh start. He's finally going to balance the scales of injustice where we will rest from all our labor. There will be no more crying, or pain, or sin, or death. The third reason we should focus on heaven is it begins to satisfy our inner longing for something more. Did you ever look in a fishbowl and feel sorry for that fish? He has plenty to eat and plenty of water to swim in, but you must wonder how happy he is because he's not in his natural environment. He was created for more freedom and challenge than the tiny body of water that confines him. Right now, you and I are restricted to the confines of a sinful world, somewhat like that fishbowl. However, Solomon said in Ecclesiastes that God has set eternity in our hearts.

God has created us for something larger, so let me enumerate on what I believe the Bible promises are those larger experiences, and as I do, answer the question that follows the promise. Revelation 21:3 promises God will be there. What's the first thing you're going to say to God when you meet Him? For me it will be, "Thank You." Revelation 21:4 promises relief and healing will be there. What is one earthly pain you are going through right now that you will be glad is gone forever? Revelation 4:10 promises worship and inspiration will be there. What is one worship song or hymn you wouldn't mind singing forever? Revelation 7:9 promises people will be there. Who are the family and friends you are most looking forward to seeing again? Matthew 16:27 promises rewards and praise will be there. What is one great work of Christ on earth you feel blessed and grateful for being able to serve? For me, I would list this church. Revelation 21:1,2 promise a new heaven and earth and a new Jerusalem will be there. What excites you the most about that promise? Imagine now all the beauty and travel and exploration that will be ours. Revelation 22:3 promises there is no curse in heaven. What is one talent or ability you have that you would enjoy doing perfectly in heaven? Luke 6:21 says, "Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied." What's one food that you could eat forever in heaven? John 14:2 promises many rooms in the Father's house. If there was a room you could ask God your questions knowing you would get an answer for them, what questions would you ask Him? Now I know there is no way we could begin to imagine how great the Marriage Supper of the Lamb is going to be, but I think it's a little bit fun trying. Thank God we have such a blessed hope through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. May He be forever praised.

- Burt Brock