

HEAVEN ON EARTH

Revelations 21:1-4

July 20, 2008 Sunday pm

INTRODUCTION

- A. C. S. Lewis said,
If I find in myself a desire which no experience in the world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world”.
- B. This other world is called heaven.
 - 1. Do you long for this other world?
 - 2. Two things make me long for it.
 - a. The death of friends and family.
 - b. Getting older.
- C. What’s this other world like?
 - 1. Like nothing we can describe or comprehend.
 - 2. Revelations 21-22, however, tries.
 - 3. Let’s see our first glimpse of heaven in 21:1-4 tonight.

I. FIRST, HEAVEN WILL BE ON EARTH.

- A. We usually think heaven is somewhere out in space.
- B. Actually, it will be on earth—21:1.
- C. Although heaven will be on earth, it will be drastically different.
 - 1. For one thing, it will be beautiful as verse one indicates.
In 2005 Marilynne Robinson won the Pulitzer Prize for her book called, “Gilead”. One scene shows two elderly pastors talking...
“Boughton says he has more ideas about heaven every day. He said, Mainly I just think about the splendors of the world and multiply by two. I’d multiply by ten or twelve if I had the energy. But two is much more than sufficient for my purposes.”
 - 2. For another thing it will be different and exciting, as verse one indicates “new heaven and new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away.”
Gary Larson wrote a “Far Side” cartoon of a man sitting on a cloud looking bored and thinking, **“Wish I had brought a magazine.”**
 - 3. Still heaven will be wonderful because some things will be missing.
 - Sorrow and sickness will be missing-v.4.
 - Sin will be missing too-v.8.

II. SECOND, HEAVEN IS PEOPLE.

- A. Cities and churches would be nothing without people.
- B. Likewise, heaven will be people—v.2.
 - 1. “Bride” refers to us, God’s church.
 - 2. In heaven we will be holy and beautiful-v.2.
- C. Heaven, of course, is also a place, a perfect place—John 14:1-4.
John 14:1-4 ¹“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. ²In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴You know the way to the place where I am going.”

III. THIRD, HEAVEN IS WHERE GOD IS.

- A. Heaven is heaven because God is there.
- B. God has always longed to be with his people—v.3.
 - 1. The Garden of Eden is an example of this.
 - 2. The Tabernacle is an example of this (“dwelling” same word for Tabernacle).
 - 3. Jesus’ incarnation is the best example—John 1:14 “dwelt”

John 1:14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

CONCLUSION

- A. In the 2007 film *The Bucket List*, two terminally ill men—played by Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman—take a road trip to do the things they always said they would do before they "kicked the bucket." In anticipation of the film's release, Nicholson was interviewed for an article in *Parade* magazine. While reflecting on his personal life, Nicholson said: **I used to live so freely. The mantra for my generation was "Be your own man!" I always said, "Hey, you can have whatever rules you want—I'm going to have mine. I'll accept the guilt. I'll pay the check. I'll do the time." I chose my own way. That was my philosophical position well into my 50s. As I've gotten older, I've had to adjust.** But reality has a way of getting the attention of even a Jack Nicholson. Later in the interview, Nicholson adds: **We all want to go on forever, don't we? We fear the unknown. Everybody goes to that wall, yet nobody knows what's on the other side. That's why we fear death.**
Dotson Rader, "I want to go on forever," Parade magazine (12-9-07), pp. 6-
- B. We know what's on the other side (heaven) and who (God).