

## Doctrine of Heaven

### The Believer's Final Rest

1. Each Sabbath is a reminder that there is a rest for the people of God.
2. There is physical rest, and there is spiritual rest.
  - *Hebrews 4:9 There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.*

"There is a place of quiet rest,  
 Near to the heart of God,  
 A place where sin cannot molest,  
 Near to the heart of God.  
 O Jesus, blest Redeemer,  
 Sent from the heart of God,  
 Hold us, who wait before Thee,  
 Near to the heart of God.

There is a place of comfort sweet,  
 Near to the heart of God,  
 A place where we our Savior meet,  
 Near to the heart of God.

There is a place of full release,  
 Near to the heart of God,  
 A place where all is joy and peace,  
 Near to the heart of God."

3. Christians are to be labor lest they fail to enter into the rest of God.
  - *Hebrews 4:11 Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.*
4. There are those who deny any hope of heaven. They believe it is a lie, and the result of man's ability to project selfish wishes and desires into the future.
5. The basis for the believer's confidence that the next world will be better than this one is the testimony of Christ.
  - *John 11:25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:*

6. The Lord's own resurrection offers faith in the hope of heaven.
- *Matthew 28:1 In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. 2 And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. 3 His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: 4 And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. 5 And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. 6 He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. 7 And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.*
7. Christians are commanded to believe in a final resting place in heaven, and not let the heart be troubled about these matters. Jesus is not going to leave His disciples with false hope. He would not have allowed them to believe a lie.
- *John 14: 1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. 4 And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.*
8. What will heaven be like? John gives some insight. There is the "Visio Dei" (the vision of God, or, the beatific [blessed] vision). Christians shall see the Lord, "in se est", "as He is in Himself." We see Jesus, not as a theophany, but as He is, in His unveiled being.
- *1 John 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. 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. 3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.*
- Special Note.**  
Christians are to pursue a life of obedience and dedication for Someone they have not seen. But the reward of that faith is to see the One we have believed in.
9. Because God is invisible, some argue that He cannot be seen. Yet, in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus promised that the pure in heart shall see God.
- *Matthew 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.*
10. The reason why individuals cannot see God, is not because there is something wrong with their eyes. The reason why individuals cannot see God, is because there is something wrong with the heart.

11. When the Christian enters into full glory, all the present barriers that keep the heart from seeing God shall be removed. There will be a direct, and immediate perception of God.
12. How God, as Spirit, is to be seen is still a mystery. Perhaps the answer lies in the Person of Christ who is a mediating agent.

- *Colossians 2:9 For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.*

***Special Note.***

When a person watches a football game on TV, the game is live but the TV is the mediating agent that allows the game to be seen. Even our present sight is mediated through our eyes and light.

13. On the isle of Patmos, John was shown some facets of the new heaven and the new earth.

- There will be no more sea, a picture of separation, and violence. *Revelation 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. 2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.*
- There will be no more tears, death, or sorrow. *Revelation 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.*

***Special Note.***

Tears, in the Western world, are associated with pain. The things that make us cry will be removed, such as death and sorry.

- There, in heaven, all things shall be made new. *Revelation 21:5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.*
- There will be no thirst in heaven. *Revelation 21:6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.*
- There will be a close relationship with God. *Revelation 21:7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.*
- There will be no wickedness in heaven. *Revelation 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*

- There will be incredible beauty and glory in heaven. *Revelation 21:9 And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. 10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, 11 Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal; 12 And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: 13 On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates. 14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. 15 And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof. 16 And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal. 17 And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel. 18 And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass. 19 And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; 20 The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst. 21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.*
- There will be no Temple in heaven. *Revelation 21:22 And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.*

***Special Note.***

The Temple is the visible symbol of the presence of God. When the Lord is present, the symbol is no longer needed.

- There will be no need for the sun or moon in heaven. *Revelation 21:23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. 24 And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.*

***Special Note.***

The sun, moon, and stars, are artificial sources of light. In heaven, the ultimate source of light is the radiance of the glory of God Himself, which will never cease. The Son of Righteousness will not set. There will be the unveiled radiance of God.

- There is no night in heaven. *Revelation 21:2 And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.*

- There will be no corruption in heaven. *Revelation 21:27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.*

14. Heaven is what we live for. No matter how difficult the journey may be, we do not want to hold on too tenaciously to this life. We want to press on to our heavenly home, and the glory that is our inheritance.