

- **"I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago-whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know, God knows-such a man was caught up to the third heaven. And I know how such a man-whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, God knows- was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which man is not permitted to speak."** (II Cor. 12:2-4) These are words written by the Apostle Paul in which, I believe, he is describing an experience that he had of being taken up into heaven. Paul is not the only Apostle to experience such a thing. The Apostle John was given visions of the heavenly places of God throughout the writing of the book of **Revelation. Chapters 4,21,&22** are especially full of descriptions that he saw about heaven through the angel that was before him. I'd like for us to consider heaven this morning. I would like for us to consider what it will be like to be there based upon the descriptions of John from the book of **Revelation**.
- The reason I would like to do this, is because I want us to get a little taste of heaven this morning. I want us to be able to focus on what heaven will be like in hopes of it strengthening or even igniting within us this burning desire to be there one day. We all know what is like to get a sneak peak or a sneak taste of something before you are able to get the real thing. Maybe you sneak a good finger full of a pie or cake. Or you pinch a piece steak or chicken hot off the grill. Maybe you see a really cool clip from an upcoming movie. Or maybe it is that you feel that tiny spark of love for the first time. Regardless of the what it is, that tiny little piece leaves you wanting more. You want a big piece of that pie. You can't wait to get that steak or chicken off the grill to dig in. You can wait till the premiere of that awesome movie. And you certainly can't wait to feel true love fully when someone loves you back. I want us to taste heaven this morning. I want us to leave this place desiring to be there even more than ever before. I want us to desire to be there so much that it doesn't matter what we have to do to get there but that we are willing to do it. I hope that we leave here with a little taste, but a strong desire to be in heaven when this life is over. So with this in mind, let's consider a little piece of heaven this morning.
- \* The Book of Revelation can be a very challenging book to consider because it speaks in a language that we do not speak or understand, today. The apocalyptic language that John writes in can get us into some trouble if we get excited and start trying to fit that language into something other than its intended purpose within the book. Much of the language is symbolic, but that doesn't take away from the teachings of heaven. I believe we can still gain understanding to some degree concerning what heaven will be like and that is our goal his morning.

## **I. Heaven will be a place of praise & worship of God.**

### **A. We are first given some insight into heaven in **Revelation 4**.**

1. A door into heaven is opened for John and he is able to see a great throne in heaven with God sitting upon it. **(vv.1,2)**
2. As John looked at the throne, he almost struggled to describe the things that he was seeing. Regardless, the images are awesome. **(v.3)**
3. John also saw some things that were around the throne that, to us, just don't make much sense, but they would have made much more sense to those receiving this letter. **(vv.4-7)**
4. Our main focus is this, however. Those who were surrounding the throne were focused on one very important action: Praising and worshipping God. **(vv.8-11)**

### **B. While we might not understand or be able to picture exactly what is meant by some of the details, I believe it is very safe to say that this text gives us a pretty good idea that we will be doing a lot of worshipping and praising of God in heaven.**

1. Our purpose on earth is to glorify God and worship Him, but often sin gets in the way of this being accomplished.
2. However, in heaven there will be nothing to distract us from the worship of God. The "curse" of sin will not long be present and we will be free to worship and glorify God at all times without distraction. **(Rev. 22:3)**
3. How awesome will it be to be able to totally and completely focus on God and His Glories without having to worry about sin or the other distractions of this life? It will be awesome!

## **II. Heaven will be free from evil, pain, & sorrow.**

### **A. In line with us having the ability to worship God without distractions, heaven will be a release from the pain and difficulties of this life.**

1. After writing about events that the original readers of the letter would have to endure, John gets back to the topic of heaven and this time discusses it in the context of the final judgement. **(Rev. 21:1-5)**
2. As John sees this vision of the next life coming into existence, He hears a great voice declaring that God would now be among His people and that there would be some great results of this happening. **(vv.3-5)**

### **B. The disappearance of mourning, crying, and pain, again, is a result of there no longer being any sin.**

1. In heaven, all thing will be made new. **(v.5)** They would not have to suffer through the temptations of Satan. He will no longer have any influence over the people of God.
2. No longer will those in heaven have to worry about the consequences of evil and sin. There will no longer be anything that would cause mourning, crying, and pain.
3. What a blessing it will be to not have to worry about those things that hurt us so much in this life!

### **III. Heaven will be full of the faithful.**

- A. Those who will get to enjoy the perfect conditions of heaven will be those who have endured the pains of this life with the goal always in their minds. **(Rev. 21:6-8)**
  1. Those who have thirsted for everlasting life will finally drink from that water of life without cost. **(v.6)**
  2. Those who have overcome this world, its struggles, and its lusts will be with God and the Son for all of eternity. **(v.7)**
  3. But sadly, those who did not overcome, those who gave into this world, those who loved this world more than they loved their God will not inherit the eternal bliss of heaven. Instead, they will suffer the second death of the lake of fire and brimstone. **(v.8)**
- B. This should encourage us to do all that we can to live in such a way that we will reach that home in heaven. Because only those who have been obedient to God will be there.
  1. Those who are faithful, even to the point of being killed for it, are the ones who will receive that crown of life in heaven. **(Rev. 2:10)**
  2. It is the one who does the will of God that will live forever with Him. **(I John 2:17)**
  3. However, if we love the world more than God....then we will not live forever with Him. **(I John 2:15,16)** Instead, we will test that 2nd death that is spoken of in **v.8**.
  4. Let us be a part of those faithful who will be in heaven with our God.

### **IV. Heaven will be a place of perfect fellowship.**

- A. In heaven, God's greatest desire of perfect fellowship with mankind will be realized. **(Rev. 22:3-5)**
  1. God's desire, from the beginning, was for mankind to be with Him in perfect fellowship and unity.
  2. Sadly, with the sin of man that became more difficult to have. **(Isa. 59:2)**
  3. However, in heaven sin will not be present. That curse will not longer be there. **(v.3)** With sin no longer a possibility, that perfect fellowship will be present and ongoing.
  4. The closeness of God and His faithful is emphasized with the thought that His name would be written on their forehead. **(v.4)**
  5. There would be no darkness for God would be their eternal light. They were literally in the light of God!
- B. We can make it to heaven and enjoy that perfect fellowship by walking in that light of God. **(I John 1)**
  1. We can have fellowship in this life as long as we walk according to the light. **(vv.5,7)**
  2. But if we choose to walk in the darkness or say that we have no sin, then we are sinners and liars and we will not have fellowship with God, Jesus, or the Apostles. **(vv.6,8-10)**
  3. Our fellowship with God in this life is based upon our obedience and refusal to walk in darkness. Walking in the light in this life will put us in the light in the next life.

\* Reading about heaven gives us a little bitty taste of what that they land will be like, but aren't you left wanting just a little more sometimes? Don't you want just a little bigger of a taste. Ladies and Gentlemen...let me suggest to you that the assembly of the church is the closest thing to heaven on earth. It truly is a little taste of heaven. If we want to know a little bit of what heaven will be like, then we just need to look around us when we are assembled here together. These times should be the best times. We should long to be together with our brothers and sisters and worship our God. So what does that say about us when we decide to not worship with the Saints? What does it say about us when we choose something else over our God? Like an older preacher said one time, "If you have a problem assembling with the Saints, then you might as well forget about heaven cause you'll have a problem there too!"

Sometimes, all we need is the smallest taste of something for us to get excited enough about it to want a lot more. Heaven should be something that we desire more than anything else. We should desire that place where we will worship and praise God forever, where we will be free from evil, pain, and sorrow, where we will be surrounded by all the faithful, and where we will be in perfect fellowship with God. Don't you want to go there? Don't you want to keep that appetite for heaven strong? If you do...if you want that little taste of heaven to give you motivation to keep keepin on, then you just need to join the Saints as often as you can. May God help us to reach that final destination of heaven. May He help us in all things to glorify His name in this life, so we can glorify His name forever in the next.