

Final Countdown: The Book Of Revelation
“What Will Heaven Be Like?”
Cornerstone Church of Poway
Pastor Ed Turley
January 3, 2021

Big Idea: God extends His mercy with a final countdown before He judges the world.

What Will Heaven Be Like?

1. Heaven Will Be A Place Where God Is With Us [peace and safety]

Then I saw a **new heaven and a new earth**, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was **no longer any sea**. I saw the **Holy City**, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, **prepared as a bride** beautifully dressed for her husband.

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the **dwelling of God is with men**, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. **He will wipe every tear from their eyes**. There will be **no more death** or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." He who was seated on the throne said, "**I am making everything new!**" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." He said to me: "It is done. I am the **Alpha and the Omega**, the **Beginning and the End**. **To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost** from the spring of the **water of life**. **He who overcomes** will inherit all this, and **I will be his God and he will be my son**. But the **cowardly**, the **unbelieving**, the **vile**, the **murderers**, the **sexually immoral**, those who **practice magic arts**, the **idolaters** and **all liars**--their place will be in the fiery **lake of burning sulfur**.

This is the second death." **Revelation 21:1-8 (NIV)**

One of the seven angels who had the **seven bowls** full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, "**Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb**." And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the **Holy City, Jerusalem**, coming down out of heaven from God. It shone with the **glory of God**, and its brilliance **was like** that of a very **precious jewel**, like a jasper, clear as crystal. **It had a great, high wall with twelve gates**, and with **twelve angels at the gates**. On the **gates** were written the **names of the twelve tribes of Israel**. There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. The wall of the city had **twelve foundations**, and on them were the names of **the twelve apostles** of the Lamb. **Revelation 21:9-14 (NIV)**

2. Heaven Will Be A Place With Enough Room For Everyone

The angel who talked with me had a **measuring rod of gold to measure the city**, its gates and its walls. The city was laid out **like a square**, as long as it was wide. He measured the city with the rod and found it to be **12,000 stadia in length**, and as wide and high as it is long. He measured its wall and it was **144 cubits thick**, by man's measurement, which the angel was using. The wall was made of **jasper**, and the city of pure **gold**, as pure as glass. The **foundations** of the city walls were **decorated with every kind of precious stone**. The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, the fifth sardonyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoptase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. **Revelation 21:15-20 (NIV)**

3. Heaven Will Be A Place Without Darkness

The **twelve gates were twelve pearls**, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of **pure gold, like transparent glass**. **I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple**. The city **does not need the sun or the moon** to shine on it, for **the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp**. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. **On no day will its gates ever**

be shut, for there will be no night there. The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. **Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life. Revelation 21:21-27 (NIV)**

Then the angel showed me **the river of the water of life**, as clear as crystal, flowing from the **throne of God and of the Lamb** down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the **tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month.** And the leaves of the tree are for the **healing** of the nations. **No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve Him.** They will **see His face**, and **his name will be on their foreheads.** There will be **no more night.** They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. **And they will reign for ever and ever. Revelation 22:1-5 (NIV)**

4. Heaven Will Be A Place For RSVP'S Only

The angel said to me, "**These words are trustworthy and true.** The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must **soon take place.**" **"Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book."** I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me. But he said to me, "Do not do it! I am a fellow **servant** with you and with your brothers the prophets and of all who keep the words of this book. **Worship God!**" Then he told me, "**Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, because the time is near.** Let him who does wrong **continue** to do wrong; let him who is vile **continue** to be vile; **let him who does right continue to do right; and let him who is holy continue to be holy.**" **Revelation 22:6-11 (NIV)**

"Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. "Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. Revelation 22:12-14 (NIV)

Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. "I, **Jesus**, have sent my angel to give you **this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.**" **Revelation 22:15-16 (NIV)**

The **Spirit** and the **bride** say, "**Come!**" And **let him who hears** say, "**Come!**" **Whoever is thirsty, let him come;** and **whoever wishes**, let him take the **free gift of the water of life.**

I **warn** everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: **If anyone adds anything to them**, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. **And if anyone takes words away** from this book of prophecy, **God will take away** from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book. He who testifies to these things says, "**Yes, I am coming soon.**" Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. **The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen. Revelation 22:17-20 (NIV)**

➤ Are You Willing To Respond To God?

My next right step, I will:

Accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior

Join our Zoom Bible Study on the Book of Revelation-Tuesdays 6:30 pm

Ask a question about the end times:



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Family Corner: [Choose one day this week to ask questions to go deeper in faith as a family. Try this over dinner. Keep it under 12 minutes.]

Small Groups: [Choose as many questions that honor your group’s time commitment]

Open in Prayer:

- What thoughts from this week’s message encourage you to live like Jesus?

How has God blessed you so far in this study of God’s Word?

Icebreaker: Where is one of the most beautiful places you have been? What impressed you about that place? What was one of the most beautiful spots of your hometown growing up?

What Will Heaven Be Like?

1. Heaven Will Be A Place Where God Is With Us [peace and safety]

Revelation 21:1-14

Where will the new world be lived out – on earth or in heaven? Why do you think?

Who will be the residents of the new Jerusalem?

In whose presence is the vision caught up with?

What do you think it will be like living without fear, pain, death or evil and with the continual presence of the Lord?

What is the significance of the names ascribed to God in verse 6?

What is John’s first impression of the new Jerusalem? Vs 11

2. Heaven Will Be A Place With Enough Room For Everyone

Revelation 21:15-20

What is the size of the city?

What is it constructed of?

Compare Ezekiel 40:2,5

Ezekiel 48:30-35

Considering the world John’s readers lived in, and the conditions they were under, what would have been especially impressive about this city?

3. Heaven Will Be A Place Without Darkness

Revelation 21:21-27

What was the purpose of the temple in the past?

How does God's light bring about comfort and hope?

When in the past year have you needed a vision of the home in heaven that awaits you?

What is required to be a citizen of this New Jerusalem? Revelation 21:27

Revelation 22:1-5

How has your study of the book of Revelation helped to enhance your view of the Bible?

Now that your Bible study of Revelation is almost over, how do you feel about this book?

What do you hope to carry with you from this study of Revelation?

4. Heaven Will Be A Place For RSVP'S Only

Revelation 22:6-20

What words of Christ are repeated three times in this closing? [22:7,12,20]

How do these words sum up the theme of Revelation?

Regarding Jesus' claims in verses 12-17, how is this final state of humanity determined?

- a. By some arbitrary reward system, fixed from eternity?
- b. By what we have done in this present life?
- c. By our response to His universal "Whoever Thirst" come?

Is it ever too late for people to change their way and come to Christ?

In contrast between those "inside" the city and those "outside" the city, what is implied about the basis for our salvation?

How have you prepared yourself for the second coming of Christ?

How has your perception of Jesus, Satan, Heaven, hell changed?

How will these new perceptions affect your worship? Your lifestyle?

How would you sum up the central truth of this book?

➤ Close in prayer: