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Revelation's World of Tomorrow



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Our topic tonight is **Revelation's World of Tomorrow.**

What is heaven really like?

There seems to be a lot of confusion about heaven these days.

A variety of people were interviewed and asked, "What do you think heaven is like?"

Here are examples of some people's thoughts on heaven:

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Teenagers—

**"Heaven—man, that's pie in the sky, out there somewhere, unreal man— I can't fathom it."**



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A middle-aged woman grocery shopping—

**"Heaven is a state of mind. It's an inner peace, it's a state of calm."**



4

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A successful business man—

**"Heaven is my house, It's worth three million. My chariot is my Lexus and the angels are my kids."**



5

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A College student—

**"Heaven is— Are you so out of touch that you still believe in those fairy tales?"**



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An elderly couple—

**“We hope heaven is a real place. The older we get the more we long for it. We just hope that what we were taught in our Childhood is true.”**

So many people—so many different answers.  
So many people confused regarding heaven.



We hope heaven is a real place. The older we get the more we long for it. We just hope that what we were taught in our childhood is true.

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### What is heaven really like?

Where can we find valid information about Heaven?

Why is there so much confusion about heaven?

Why these hazy, ambiguous opinions? The question is—

Where can we find a key to unlock the mysteries of Heaven?

Why not look where millions have looked and found reliable answers?

The key is not hidden. It is as close at hand as a copy of the Holy Bible.



What is heaven really like?

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Our theme for this whole series has been:

**If it's in the Bible, I believe it.  
If it disagrees with the Bible,  
It's not for me.**



If it's in the Bible, I believe it.  
If it disagrees with the Bible,  
It's not for me.

9

And nothing can compare with the truth about heaven.  
We start in Revelation:

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### Revelation 21:1

**“Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away.”**



Revelation 21:1

“Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away.”

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**Each of the prophets from Genesis to Revelation pointed men and women forward to a new heavens and a new earth.**



Each of the prophets from Genesis to Revelation pointed men and women forward to new heavens and a new earth.

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These prophets pointed forward to a new world, a world with clean air and water.

A world free from war and crime and violence.  
A world filled with love and joy and peace.

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The Bible talks about a new Heaven and a new earth.  
It talks about **Eden restored**. Eden made new.



12

Think about what Eden was like.

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Crystalline clear lakes,  
Pure air; bright sunshine, cloudless days.



13

The trees bore lush, delicious fruits. Flowers perfumed the air. Their beauty was indescribable.



14

All of nature was in harmony.

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The birds and animals did not scatter in fear at the approach of Adam and Eve. They flocked to them.



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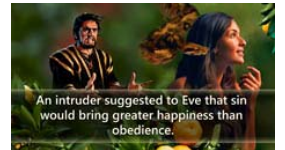
**There was love and joy and companionship.**

There was no taint of sickness or suffering or disease.



16

The Bible says that **an intruder** came to that garden.  
He **suggested to Eve that sin would bring her greater happiness than obedience.**



17

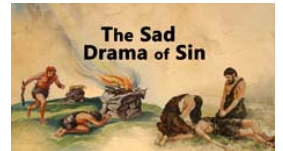
He suggested that disobedience would bring her greater freedom. Eve fell for that lie, Adam followed her lead, and our planet was plunged into rebellion.

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**The sad drama of sin** brought sickness suffering, heartache, and death to our world.



18

In every generation since Adam, the hearts of men and women have longed for the Eden life to return and to live in a new world free from the pain and suffering of this planet in rebellion.

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Throughout the centuries there were men and women that held fast to God.

Throughout the centuries there were men and women who looked beyond what is to what will be.



19

They looked beyond time to eternity. These faithful men and women focused their eyes on another country, another land, another kingdom.

They believed that this earth was not their home. They believed that there is something better than sickness and suffering and heartache and death and disease.

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One of those men was a man by the name of **Abraham**. Abraham's vision was fixed on eternity. He set his sight on another world.



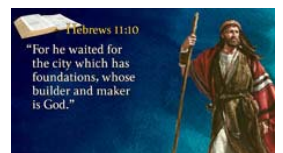
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Abraham focused his mind not on the things of time, but the things of eternity. He dreamed of what would be.

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### **Hebrews 11:10**

***“For he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.”***



21

He breathed Heaven's air and looked for a city whose builder and maker was God.

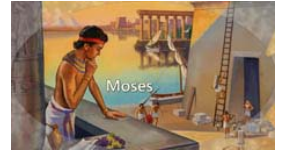
The royal line of faith continued in the life of Moses.

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Moses was a captive slave in the land of Pharaoh in Egypt. Moses was destined to rule on the throne of Egypt.



22

Moses was destined to be a Pharaoh of Egypt.  
But the Bible says—

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### Hebrews 11:24-26

***“By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter,***



23

***choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,***



24

Sin has pleasure but it is temporary. It is short-lived. It leaves men and women broken and bruised and battered.

Moses would not enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season.

***esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.”***



25

Speaking of these faithful men and women of God it says in **verses 13, and 14:**

***“These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them,***



26

***embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.***



27

***For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland.”***



28

Although the promise is far off, we like that royal line of faith, can embrace it. We can cherish it.

This world is not our home, we are just passing through!

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## Hebrews 11:16

***“But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country.”***



29

There is something beyond. We are strangers; we are pilgrims on the earth. Eternity is in view.

Here is something which gives us hope and confidence. Heaven is on its way.

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## Hebrews 11:16

***“Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.”***



30

He has! It is beyond our wildest imaginations. Heaven is a real place, not some make-believe world. That Holy City will descend. This world will be made over.

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## 1 Corinthians 2:9

***“But as it is written: Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”***



31

Imagine the deepest joy you could possibly have—Heaven's joy is greater yet.



32

Imagine a heart that is at peace and rest—

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Heaven's calm has greater peace and rest.

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Imagine the most wonderful fellowship, the most open sharing, the most honest communication with friends—



33

God's communication in **Heaven** with us and with those we love and that **fellowship is closer** and more intimate yet.



34

The Book of Revelation gives us a description of the Holy City that is breathtaking!

John was actually given a vision of the Holy City coming down from heaven to planet earth. John wrote—

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### Revelation 21:2

***“Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,***



35

***prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.”***

Who prepared this city? God prepared it. Why does the Bible say it's prepared as a Bride adorned for her husband?



36

Because God wants you to know that He's preparing something for you that is absolutely fantastic!

More beautiful, more incredible, more marvelous than you can imagine.

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As the Holy City descends to a remade earth, it's the most festive event in the universe.



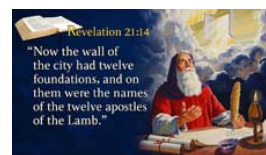
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The Bible describes the glories of this Holy City this way—

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## Revelation 21:14

***“Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.”***



38

Who were the 12 apostles?

Thomas, who doubted. Peter who denied Christ.

James & John, the sons of thunder.

The disciples were common ordinary men like you and me.

They are like men and women in our society.

They had their doubts, they had their fears.

These disciples, fishermen, a tax- collector, and common ordinary laborers, had their weaknesses just like we do.

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**These followers of Christ were people with their faults but their names are on the foundations of the Holy City. Why?**



39

**Because God is saying to us, if they can make it, so can we.**

If they can go in, you can go in.

Heaven is not a place for a few super-spiritual elite people.

It is a place for common sinners who are redeemed by the blood of Christ.

The Bible continues describing this city—

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## Revelation 21:16

***“The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth.”***



41

There are four sides. Each side has three gates.

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Three on the North, three on the south,  
three on the East, three on the West.

Most cities in the ancient world have very few gates.  
In this way they were able to keep the enemy out.

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**Heaven's goal is to get as many people in as possible.**

They come from the North, South, East and West.

But why are there 3 gates on each side?  
Three is the symbol of the Trinity.  
The Father, Son & Holy Spirit.

All invite redeemed sinners to come.  
The Father says, "Come," The Son says, "Come,"  
The Holy Spirit says, "Come."

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God is saying **whoever you are you can make it in through one of those gates.**

God is saying I'm not going to build a city with all walls,  
I'm going to build a city with gates because gates are  
what let people in, and God says, I want to get as many  
people in as possible. Praise His name!

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***And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs.***

***Its length, breadth, and height are equal."***

This square city is 1500 miles in circumference, 375  
miles on each side.

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42



43



44



45

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What Jesus promised will certainly come true.

In His Father's house there are indeed many mansions.  
And He has prepared a place for you.



46

The book of Revelation describes the Holy City as fantastically magnificent.

The streets of the city are built out of pure gold:

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### Revelation 21:21

***“The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl.”***



47

Why twelve gates, twelve pearls?

Jesus Christ is the pearl of great price and there is no way to get in except through Jesus.

There is no other name by which we will be saved except Jesus. Jesus is enough to get us through those gates!

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***And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.”***



48

God is so rich, He has so much gold that he uses it to pave streets.

God is so wealthy, our God has never been found wanting.

You may not have much here but God has something for you up there that is absolutely incredible.

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Soon this city will descend as the capital of this Earth made new. As this brilliant city descends toward earth, fire flashes down to destroy the wicked and purify the planet. The surface of the earth becomes a lake of fire.



49

All the reminders of a sin-scarred world are swept away.  
Back alleys and penthouses where brutality and vice  
festered are destroyed.

But after the flames, Revelation tells us, “a new heaven  
and a new earth appear.”

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The New Jerusalem settles down on a brand new planet.  
And this new world bursts with life just as the Garden of  
Eden once did.



50

Its River of Life flows crystal clear.  
Its Tree of Life bears an abundance of fruit.  
Yes friend, the redeemed will find themselves on solid  
earth. But it will be a new earth. That's what we have to  
look forward to.

That is why the New Testament calls it the “blessed  
hope.”

It's something solid we can hang on to.  
It's something that won't crumble under our feet.

This hope inspires our hearts and lifts our vision.  
The new earth will be a Garden of Eden restored.  
The prophet Isaiah gives us a glimpse—

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### Isaiah 35:1

***“The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for  
them, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as  
the rose.”***



51

Songs of rejoicing, songs of gladness.

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The earth made over again like the Garden of Eden.  
Carpeted with living green.  
The scenery will be fantastic.



52

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The beauty will be unimaginable.

The flowers and trees and plants will perfume the air with life giving fragrance.

The new earth, **Eden will be restored.**

Imagine opening your eyes and it's a new great world.  
God's world.

Imagine breathing in air and it is God's air.

Imagine drinking water and it's fresh from the fountain of life.

Imagine eating fruit and it is fruit from the tree of life.

Imagine living in an atmosphere of incredible love.

But, have you ever wondered what kind of bodies will we have in Eden restored?

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### **What will our physical condition be in this new earth?**

Some people have the idea that the redeemed are just spirit beings. We're just like a cosmic vapor.

Now, that doesn't make very much sense does it?  
Let's see what the Bible says.

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### **Philippians 3:20, 21**

***“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior,***

***the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body,...***

When Jesus Christ was resurrected did he have a body?  
What kind of body was it?

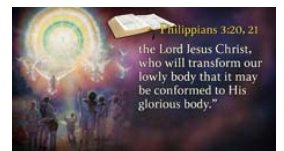
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It was a **glorious resurrected immortal body**.

Jesus ate in His resurrected body didn't He?

There are a number of experiences that Jesus had after His resurrection that reveal that He had a real, recognizable body.

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56

When Jesus met the disciples on the Emmaus road the Bible says Jesus kept them from recognizing Him at that moment.



57

He had a lesson to teach them.

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But it says when He broke the bread their eyes were opened.

They recognized Jesus by His **unique mannerisms**.

Your friends in Heaven will recognize you by your unique mannerisms.

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58

On resurrection morning Mary recognized Jesus only when He called her name.

Through the mist of the morning she could not see Him clearly. But she recognized **His voice**.

Your loved ones will recognize you by the intonation of your voice.

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59

When Jesus appeared to the disciples in the upper room they recognized Him immediately.

They knew **His physical form**.

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60

Your friends will recognize you by your physical appearance.



61

In the new Heavens and the New Earth, God will give you a glorious immortal body. You will have a similar

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personality to the one you have right now.

God wants to save you. You see if God sent Christ to die for you, it's you He wants.

Wouldn't it be strange if Christ paid the infinite price to die for you and then totally changed your personality and physical features that make you unique when He takes you to heaven?

It's your love that He wants.

Through the unique strains of your personality you will be what you would have been had the human race never fallen.

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**We will recognize one another by our:**

- **unique mannerisms**
- **voice intonations**
- **individual personalities**



62

But there will be no taint of sin or disease afflicting you. Here is God's promise—

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**Isaiah 33:24**

***“And the inhabitant will not say, ‘I am sick’; the people who dwell in it will be forgiven their iniquity.”***



63

**Isaiah 35:5, 6**

***“Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.***



64

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***Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing."***

God will open the mouths of people unable to utter a syllable now. Their tongues will be loosed so they can sing.

Think of the joy!

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Wheelchairs gone, crutches gone.

New life flows through our veins.

New life pulsates through our bodies.

**There's joy and happiness everywhere.**

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**Revelation 21:4**

***"And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying.***

***There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."***

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**Death, Sorrow, Crying, Pain Forever gone!**

They're finished.

There is a new Heaven and a new Earth.

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**Revelation 22:1**

***"And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb."***

The water of life represents the life of God that satisfies every need.

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65



66



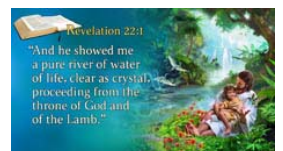
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70

## Revelation's World of Tomorrow

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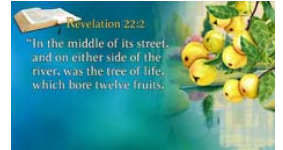
Just as nothing quenches your thirst like water, nothing quenches the inner need for God like God Himself.

Nothing quenches our spiritual needs like God.

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### Revelation 22:2

***“In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits,***



71

***each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.”***



72

As we eat from that tree of life we will be fully completely made whole.

Every bit of mental scarring because we were in a dysfunctional world, all of that will be healed by God.

All the love we fail to receive now we will receive then.

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**We will be loved by God,  
Cherished by God,  
Embraced by God,  
Satisfied by God.**



73

God Himself will hold us close. God Himself will whisper in our ears and we will be fully satisfied.

The water of life, the tree of life will satisfy our deepest ambitions and our inner needs.

God will be the source of our inner strength.

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### Isaiah 40:31

***“But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles,***



74



***they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.”***



75

Sometimes you feel tired here.  
Sometimes you feel a lack of energy here.

Sometimes you feel weary here. God is going to give you an injection of divine energy.

God is going to hook you up to the divine energy machine—the tree of life.

And energy will flow through our bodies. Look at how Isaiah the prophet describes life in this new earth.

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### **Isaiah 11:9**

***“They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.”***



76

Violence is gone. War is gone. Conflict is over.  
There is no more strife between nations.  
They shall not hurt or destroy.  
Put down those weapons of war.

Every threat of war gone. Peace fills the earth, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of Lord.

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### **Heaven is a real place**

There will be real activities.



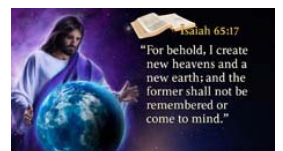
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Songs of praise and gladness cover the earth.  
Heaven is no make-believe world.

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### **Isaiah 65:17**

***“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former shall not be remembered or come to***



78

*mind.”*

I'm glad that there are some things about this life that we'll never remember. God gives us amnesia for evil.

Amnesia for wickedness. Amnesia for sorrow.  
Amnesia for disappointment. Amnesia for pain.

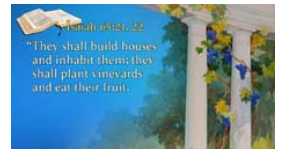
It is a cosmic amnesia that God gives us.  
We will forget about all the bad things that have ever happened to us.

Heaven is a place filled with joyous memories.

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### **Isaiah 65:21, 22**

***“They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.***



79

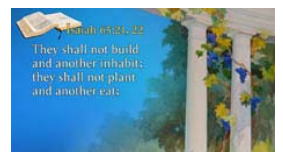
Think of it. The best architects of the ages will be there. They will draw the plans for your dream home at no charge.

All of the most outstanding building materials in the universe will be there and they will be at your disposal.

Angels will even help you build your house if you want them to.

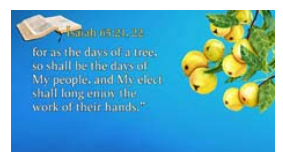
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***They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat;***



80

***For as the days of a tree, so shall be the days of My people, and My elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.”***



81

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## What about fellowship and friends?

One of the greatest joys of heaven will be fellowship with our friends.

Now listen to this.

Heaven would be boring if I had my house and nobody else was there.

Heaven would be boring indeed if there was nobody to enjoy it with.

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## Matthew 8:11

***“And I say to you that many will come from east and west,***

***and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.”***

We're going to sit down with the great spiritual minds of the ages. Think of it.

God's heroes of faith from throughout the ages will be there. The Bible worthies we have only read about and never yet met will be there.

Think about what it's going to be like.

I'm working in my garden one day and I see a man walking down that street and I say hey that looks like, is that, could it be, “Are you Adam?”

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“Yes, I am Adam.”

“I've been admiring the large ears of corn in your garden.”

“Do you want one ear to feed your large family? I can

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82



83



84



85

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spare one ear, it will feed the whole family.”

Adam looks at my strawberries and says, “I’ve been admiring your strawberries”.

Adam comes over and we sit down and we begin to talk about life and share the joys of Jesus together.

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And then one day I meet Moses. Moses who received the Ten Commandments written by the very hand of God.



86

Moses and I talk about what it was like to go through the red sea and the faith that it took to walk into the water.

We talk about what it was like to lead the children of Israel 40 years in the wilderness.

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I meet Daniel and he tells me about the lion’s den experience and I say, “Daniel were you afraid?” He responds, “I trusted God.”



87

Heaven is a place of fellowship.  
Fellowship with the angels, the cherubim and seraphim.

Fellowship with the great minds of the Bible and men and women of all ages.

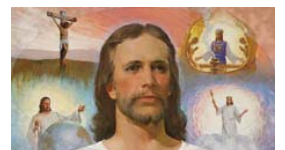
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It’s a place to fellowship with Peter, James, John and Paul.



88

But most of all, Heaven is a place to fellowship with Jesus. Because one day you and I will meet this Christ who died for us.



89

This Christ who had nails driven through His hands for us.

This Christ who had a crown of thorns placed around His head. This Christ who shed His blood for us.

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One day as we enter into that city Jesus will be there to welcome us and Jesus will say, "This land is your land. This is your home".



90

You are never to cry again. Never to feel sorrowful again. Never to feel disappointed again. Never to have heart-ache again. The Bible says—

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### Isaiah 66:23

***"... from one Sabbath to another, All flesh shall come to worship before Me,' says the LORD."***



91

They'll come from the North and the South.  
They'll come from the East and the West.  
They will come to fellowship with Him on the Bible Sabbath.

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I can imagine it. We come there to that great heavenly temple and there is an enormous chorus of praise.



92

The angels are singing "Worthy, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive riches and honor and power and glory forever".

The angels are singing. Cherubim are singing.  
The Father gets up and He introduces His Son.

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Jesus stands up.  
He reaches back and pulls back a lock of His hair and the scars of sin are still there.



The marks of sin are the marks that are still faintly visible in His hands.

The faint print of the wounds is an external reminder of His love for us.

Jesus says, "I loved you so much I went to the cross for you."

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"Look at the beautiful flowers, they're there for you. Take a breath of this fresh air, it is for you."



94

Jesus says to you and me, "I want to know you and I want to live with you forever".

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### Revelation 21:3

***"And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them,***



95

***and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.'"***

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96

### Revelation 22:4

***"They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads."***

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97

One day as I am leaving that Heavenly temple Jesus stands before me and He reaches out his hands and says, "I want to take a walk with you."



98

We walk through fields of waving grain and Jesus reaches out and breaks off some of that grain and He says, "Taste it.



99

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There is no grain like this in the world. I made its chemical formula for your taste buds. Do you like it?"

We walk over a hill and He says,

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"Look at those flowers, aren't they magnificent? There are no other flowers like them in the universe.



100

Look at the purples, the reds and the blues and the pinks. There is nothing like it in the world. I made that bouquet just for you and I painted a hillside with it." I hear a chorus of angels and Jesus says, "They're singing your song. You are valuable to me. You are precious to me.

I would have entered into the agony and pain and the suffering and sorrowing and darkness of the cross if it was only to save you."

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He puts His hand on my shoulder and says, "You know something? I don't have anybody else like you.



101

None of the angels are like you. None of the millions of the redeemed are like you. I don't have anybody like you. You are so valuable to me because if I lost you I couldn't replace you.

And He feels that way about you friend. Christ came to earth and poured out all of Heaven for you.

God's plans for you are far more amazing than you can realize. God's plans for you are far more exciting than you can imagine.

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## Revelation's World of Tomorrow

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One day He's going to come.  
One day you and I are going home.



102

Going home where we belong. Going home where we sense our hearts will never roam and we'll be with Him forever.

No sickness, no suffering, no death throughout all eternity!

We'll be with our friends forever.  
Be with our loved ones forever.

Believing in Christ. Loving Christ. Serving Christ.

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Would you like to say, "Jesus, I long to live with you through all eternity."



103

Tonight, I give you my life once again. I commit myself to love and follow you wherever You lead me.

Would you like to do that by standing with me? Why don't you just step out of your seat and come forward so we can pray together. Yes, just come down. We are family, God's family. One day soon we will meet in heaven. Let us make that appointment. Say on the second Sabbath, two hours after church—most likely Jesus will preach—down under the tree of life next to the river of life—on the right side of the river of life as you face the Holy City. Won't that be wonderful! How many will meet me there?

Let us pray...and as we are praying, some of you are still thinking about being baptized or re-baptized. Would you just raise your hand? I want to pray for you, just raise your hand. Amen, amen., amen.

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