

# REVELATION, Part 3: Heaven

The New Testament \* Week 40 \* Opening & closing collect: Advent 1, BCP 211

- I. Remember: Revelation of Jesus: past, present, and future.
  - A. Past -- Satan and his demons thrown to earth – Revelation 12
  - B. Present (AD 100) – Letters to the 7 Churches -- Revelation 1-3
  - C. Future – Revelation 6-11, 13-21. “Eschatology/Eschatological”
  - D. Eternity (Always “now”) – Revelation 4-5, 22
  
- II. The Resurrection of the Dead to Eternity ...
  - A. Old Testament: Fuzzy about life after death, with an emerging concept.
    1. Psalms and other places: *Sheol* = “death”
    2. Life after death/resurrection
      - a) Psalm 16:8-11 (BCP) “Pleasures for evermore.”
      - b) Job 19:25-27 – “I know that my redeemer lives”
      - c) Isaiah
        - d) 57:1-2 -- Death offers “rest,” not “the end”
        - e) 26:19 – “But your dead will live”
      - f) Daniel 12:1-3 -- Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt

Heaven and Hell were NOT a big deal in the Old Testament.
  
  - B. New Testament: God’s people – and other religions – had ideas about it. Were all those “other” ideas mere mythology?
    1. Jesus:
      - a) Several parables: “outer darkness, where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.”
      - b) Matthew 25:31-46 – Parable of sheep and goats.
    2. Paul
      - a) 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 – (one of Paul’s first letters)  
“encourage one another with these words.”
        - b) Romans 6:3-5 – Baptism by immersion is a picture of dying, being buried, and rising again.
        - c) 1 Corinthians 15:12-56
          - (1) Jesus rose, so we will, too.
          - (2) New Body – a “spiritual body” –
  
    3. John: what we’re reading today in Revelation

III. Chapters 21 – Heaven is a wedding banquet that lasts FOREVER!!!

A. Vs 1-4 --

This current heaven and earth “pass away.” Burned up with fire, according to 2 Peter 3

B. Vs 5 --

C. Vs 6 -- Echoes Revelation 20 and the white throne judgment.

D. Verse 7-14 -- *Close Encounters*

E. Vs 15-20 – the city walls are 1,500 miles wide, long, and high!

F. Vs 21 -- “pearly gates” and streets of gold.

G. Vs 22-27 -- Gates never shut...

Hell is for people who want NOTHING from God. And God loves them enough to let them have nothing from him.

C.S. Lewis' *The Great Divorce*...

What else about heaven?

IV. Chapter 22 –

A. Verses 1-2 -- Heaven is a garden, with the River of Life

B. Verses 3-9 – We get to be with God, and without tears or pain.

C. Verses 10-16 – Outside are everyone who, by their life choices, demonstrate they don't want anything to do with God, his ways, or his people.

D. Vs 17-21 We are ALL invited!

E. Verses 18-19 -- Don't mess with the Bible! Don't Add to it or subtract from it.

F. Verse 20 -- [Jesus] says, “Yes, I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

The Bible ends with a promise and a prayer:

G. Verse 21 -- **The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.**

The Bible begins and ends in a garden, and with grace, which is God's love.

What's our response?

**Preparation for next week: Read John 11-21**

**Closing Collect:** Advent 1, BCP 211