

# Global Watch Weekly Report

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## THE MYSTERY OF HEAVEN



# Global Watch Weekly Report



“The Number one weekly report which provides concrete evidence of a New World Order & One World Government agenda”

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# Global Watch Weekly Report

## Welcome to the Global Watch Weekly Report

Dear Global Watch Weekly Member

The Bible says that those of us who have been redeemed in the Lord Jesus Christ are to consider ourselves as "*aliens*" in this world (Hebrews 11:9). We are to remember that we are "*strangers and exiles*" who are passing through this earth to a better world (Hebrews 11:13).

We are therefore commanded never to get comfortable with this world. The Apostle John put it this way: "*Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him*" (1 John 2: 15). Like-wise Paul wrote, "*Do not be conformed to this world*" (Romans 12:2). Instead, he urged each of us to "*set your mind on things above*" (Colossians 3:2).

But despite these admonitions, most Christians seem to end up clinging to this world as if it is all we are promised. I'm convinced that the reason for this is that most of us know so little about the Eternal State. And that, in turn, is due to the fact that Bible prophecy is so sorely ignored by most pastors in their teaching and preaching.

The result is that the average person in the pew has no concept whatsoever of the nature of the life that God has promised them in the future. And ignorance leads to apathy. How can you get excited about something you know nothing about?

Yet Paul told us to get excited about the future. He wrote: "*No eye has seen, no ear has heard, nor has the mind of man conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him*"(1 Corinthians 2:9). And in the very next verse, he says those things have been revealed to us by God's Spirit.

Yes, the Scriptures are full of information about what happens when you die. They also contain a lot of detail about the nature and meaning of the Millennium which takes place when Jesus make his full return to earth at his second coming. They do not contain as much detail about the Eternal State, but they reveal enough for us to get a very definite feel for what it will be like.

I hope this issue will spark your interest in studying Heaven in detail.

Enjoy.

Rema Marketing

# THE MYSTERY OF HEAVEN

## THE MYSTERY OF HEAVEN

It's a fact that for some believers there is little desire to go to Heaven. It is possible that one's interest in Heaven is only prompted by a desire to avoid Hell.



Such apathy is rooted in what had been taught about Heaven. Many have been led to believe that going to heaven means being a disembodied spirit residing in an ethereal world, floating around on a cloud playing a harp. This is something that may not bring excitement.

My interest in Heaven developed slowly over a long period of time. It became a passion, in part because of my study of prophecy, but mainly because of my growing relationship with the Lord. The more I came to know Him, the more I desired to be with Him.

The Bible is strangely silent about the subject. The Bible tells us in great detail what the Millennium will be like, but it gives us almost no detailed information about the Eternal State.

And the little that it does tell us often comes as a great surprise to most Christians because the scriptures about Heaven have been so terribly spiritualized.

For example, the Bible plainly says the Redeemed will spend eternity on a new earth, not in an ethereal place on some other side of the galaxy.

Isaiah was the first to speak of this truth when he spoke of *"the new heavens and the new earth which will endure forever before the Lord"* (Isaiah 66:22). This truth is repeated in the book of Revelation where the apostle John says he was

shown a new earth, *"for the first heaven and the first earth passed away"* (Revelation 21:1).

John goes on to describe the new Jerusalem descending to the new earth, *"coming down out of heaven from God"* (Revelation 21:2). And then he states that God himself will come to live on the new earth (Revelation 21:3):

*"Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them."*

This truth had already been revealed to the Old Testament prophets. While being taken on a prophetic tour of the millennial temple, Ezekiel was told by his guide (the Lord Jesus in a pre-incarnate appearance):

*"Son of man, this is the place of My throne and the place of the soles of My feet, where I will dwell among the sons of Israel forever"* (Ezekiel 43:7).



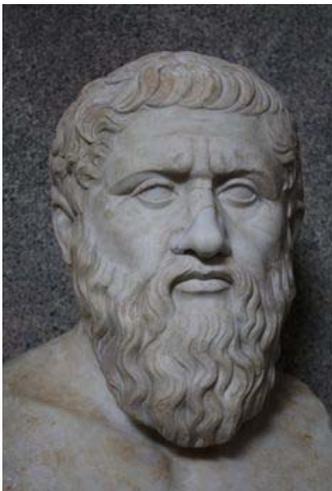
The redeemed are going to dwell forever in new bodies on a new earth in a new Jerusalem in the presence of Almighty God and His Son, Jesus. Heaven will come to earth to reign first for 1000 years and then for eternity after the re-creation of heaven and earth.

# THE MYSTERY OF HEAVEN

## CHRISTOPLATONISM'S IMPACT

One of the other great corrections about our thinking of heaven is namely, that the current Heaven where God resides will not be the Heaven where the Redeemed will live eternally. The current Heaven is located in "the third heaven" (2 Corinthians 12:2), an undisclosed spot somewhere in our universe or an adjacent universe/dimension. But the eternal Heaven, where the Redeemed will live forever with God will be located on a new earth this earth renovated, refreshed and perfected by fire.

Needless to say, this fundamental biblical truth comes as a shock to most Christians. That's because most of us have grown up under "Christoplatonized," preaching. What we mean by this term is that Christian theologians from the time of St. Augustine in the 5th Century have interpreted end time prophecies concerning Heaven as if they were written by Greek philosophers instead of Hebrew prophets.



Greek philosopher, Plato, believed that material things, including the human body and the earth are inherently evil, while immaterial things such as the soul are good. This viewpoint is thoroughly unbiblical. The Bible teaches that the creation was originally perfect, that it was

corrupted by the sin of Man, but that it will one day be redeemed to its original perfection. God loves His creation, and He intends to refresh it by "*making all things new*" (Revelation 21:5).

Being heavily influenced by Greek philosophy, Augustine spiritualized the biblical concept of a new earth to mean a non-literal, spiritual Heaven. Subsequently, the Church came to embrace this "spiritual view" that human spirits are better off without bodies and that Heaven is a disembodied spiritual state.

Randy Alcorn author of the book, *Heaven*, summarizes the impact of Christoplatonism by

saying

"It has had a devastating effect on our ability to understand what Scripture says about Heaven, particularly about the eternal Heaven, the New Earth. If we believe, even subconsciously, that bodies and the earth and material things are unspiritual, even evil, then we will inevitably reject or spiritualize any biblical revelation about our bodily resurrection or the physical characteristics of the New Earth" (page 52).

Alcorn emphasizes over and over again that the eternal Heaven is going to be a tangible, material world located on this earth after it is renovated. He points out that when the Eternal State begins, the Bible says God will "*make all things new*" (Revelation 21:5). It does not say that He will make new things.

Therefore, if you want to get a feel of what Heaven will be like, the author urges you to look around and observe your environment. He argues that you must understand "that in order to get a picture of Heaven you don't need to look up at the clouds; you simply need to look around you and imagine what all this [world] would be like without sin and death and suffering and corruption"

In fact, the author argues that God must redeem the current earth to keep it from being remembered "as a graveyard of sin and failure." The restoration of this earth, producing the New Earth of eternity, will "justify the old earth's disaster," In short, "it will preserve and perpetuate earth's original design and heritage". These conclusions prompt Alcorn to declare: "*God is the ultimate salvage artist. He loves to restore things to their original condition*"

He does, however, point out that there will be some exceptions to the principle of continuity. One of the most important being marriage and sex. The only marriage that will exist in Heaven will be that of the Redeemed to the Lord Jesus Christ. He reasons that since there will be no marriage in Heaven as we know it today, there will also be no sex, since it was designed by God to be a part of the marriage relationship. But he speculates that it may be replaced by something even better.

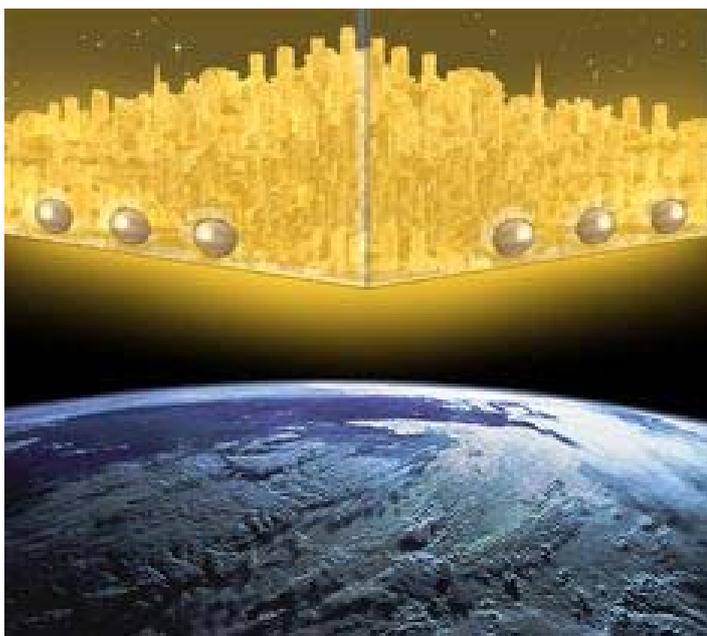
# THE MYSTERY OF HEAVEN

## THE NEW JERUSALEM

The most detailed information which the Scriptures give about Heaven pertains to our eternal abode, the new Jerusalem. Twenty verses in Chapter 21 of Revelation are devoted to a description of it. The information contained in Revelation 21 is not the first reference in the Bible to the new Jerusalem. It is mentioned in Hebrews 11:10 as a city "*whose architect and builder is God.*" Jesus made a reference to it that is recorded in John 14:1-4. He called it His "Father's house," and He said He would prepare a place in it for His Church.

Jesus is currently expanding, embellishing, and beautifying this house which God the Father designed and built. Jesus is preparing it for His bride, just as in Old Testament times a bridegroom would add a room onto his father's house to accommodate himself and his bride.

The city is described in Revelation as beautifully decorated, like "a bride adorned for her husband" (Revelation 21:2). Later, John actually refers to the city as the bride of the Lamb (Revelation 21:9), because the city contains the bride of Christ, His Church.



I believe this implies that at the end of the Millennium all the Redeemed will be taken off the earth and placed in the new Jerusalem which will most likely be suspended in the heavens. From that vantage point we will watch as God burns up

this earth and re-shapes it like a hot ball of wax into a new earth, a perfected earth like the one which God created in the beginning. Then we will be lowered down to that new earth inside the new Jerusalem.



The city will be spectacular in both size and appearance. It will be in the form of a cube that is about 1400 miles in every direction! And it will reflect "the glory of God" (Revelation 21:11, 16).

The incredible size means the city would stretch from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico and from the Atlantic coast of America to Colorado. It would also extend 1,400 miles into the atmosphere. This tremendous extension of the city vertically into the air is a clue that the new earth may be considerably larger than the current earth. Otherwise, the city would not be proportional to its surroundings.

Would such a city be able to adequately accommodate all the Redeemed? That's a good question. The best answer I have ever run across is the one provided by Dr. Henry Morris in his book *The Revelation Record* (Tyndale House, 1983). Dr. Morris postulates the total number of Redeemed might be as many as 20 billion. He further guesses that approximately 50 percent of the new Jerusalem might be devoted to streets, parks and public buildings.

Can 20 billion people be squeezed into only half the space of this city? The answer is yes! In fact, it can be done easily. Each person would have a cubical block with about 75 acres of surface on each face. We are talking about an immense city! This assumes, of course, that our new glorified bodies will be immune to the current law of gravity, as are the bodies of angels.

# THE MYSTERY OF HEAVEN



This is a safe assumption, for Philippians 3:21 says that our glorified bodies will be like the body of Jesus after His resurrection, and His body was not subject to gravity, as evidenced by His ascension into Heaven.

This is the reason the city will be so tall. We will be able to utilize and enjoy all levels of it. There will most likely be vertical streets as well as horizontal ones. And what streets they will be! The Bible says they will be "*pure gold, like transparent glass*" (Revelation 21:21). In fact, the whole city will be made of pure gold with the appearance of clear glass (Revelation 21:18). The city will sit on a foundation made of 12 layers of precious stones (Revelation 21 :19-20). Each layer will feature the name of one of the 12 apostles (Revelation 21:14). The city will be surrounded by a jasper wall over 200 feet high (Revelation 21:17). There will be 12 gates, three on each side, and each one will be named for one of the tribes of Israel (Revelation 21:12).

And yes, the gates will be "pearly gates," each one consisting of one huge pearl (Revelation 21:21). Best of all, God the Father and Jesus will both reside in the city with us (Revelation 21 :22). The Shekinah glory of God will illuminate the city constantly, and thus there will be no night nor will there ever be any need for any type of artificial light or the light of the sun (Revelation 22:5). The throne of God and His Son will be in

the city, and "a river of the water of life, clear as crystal" will flow down the middle of the city's main street with the tree of life growing on both sides of the river, yielding 12 kinds of fruit, a different fruit each month (Revelation 22:1-2). That's it. God's Word only gives us a glimpse of Heaven. But what a tantalizing glimpse it is!

## THE ACTIVITIES OF HEAVEN

What will we do for eternity? Again, the Word is strangely silent. All it says is that we "*shall serve Him*" (Revelation 22:3). Many have fantasized a lot about our Heavenly activities. I can imagine us spending a great deal of our time in worship, singing the psalms of King David, with him directing us. I think it is likely that our talents will be magnified, and we will be able to sing or paint or write with a majesty and scope we never imagined possible and all to the glory of God!

Surely we will spend considerable time in the study of God's Word. Think of studying the gospel of John with the apostle John as the teacher! I thrill to the thought of Jesus teaching the Old Testament, even as He did to His disciples following His resurrection (Luke 24:44-45). The Word of God is infinite in its depth, and I believe we will continue learning from it forever.

As we study the Word, I believe we will grow in spiritual maturity in the likeness of Jesus.

# THE MYSTERY OF HEAVEN

And since God is infinite, no matter how much we grow in His likeness, there will just be that much more growing ahead of us. In this regard, I suspect that our spiritual growth will pick up where it left off in this life.

Sometimes, I really get far out in my thinking about Heaven. For example, I can imagine the Lord giving us the opportunity to see "instant video replays" of great events in Bible history. I hope so. I would like to see the dividing of the Red Sea, the destruction of Jericho, and the resurrection of Lazarus.

And what about tours of the universe? Surely we will be able to travel through space in our glorified bodies and see the miracles of God's creation up close. Imagine visiting all the planets in our galaxy as well as touring thousands of other galaxies!

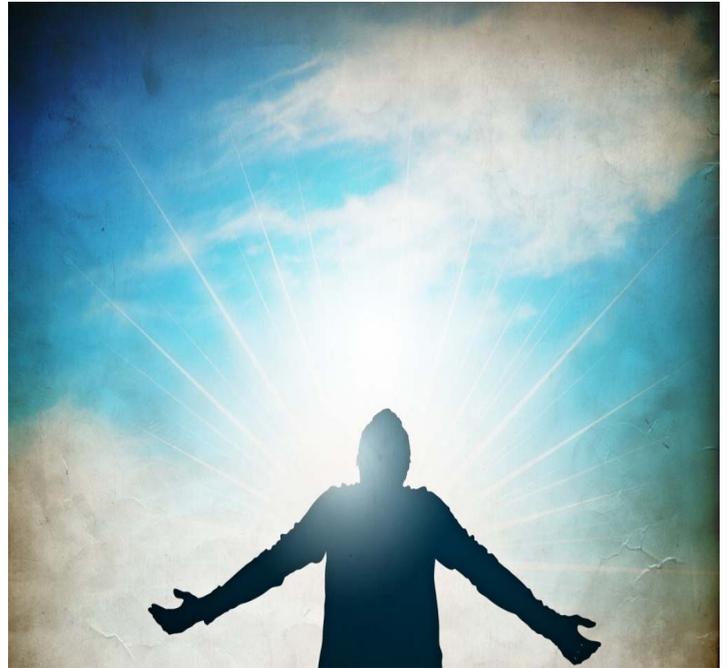
But what does it mean in Revelation 22:3 where it says we will serve God as His "bond-servants"? I'm not sure. I suppose it means we will be given productive work to do. What that work will be I can't say for sure. But there is a hint in Revelation 22:5 where it says we will reign with the Lord "forever and ever."

To reign implies, of necessity, that we must reign over someone. Who will that be? Again, there is an intriguing clue. Revelation 21:24-27 refers to "nations" that will live on the new earth outside the new Jerusalem. Revelation 22:2 indicates that the people composing these nations will be in fleshly bodies, for it says that the leaves of the tree of life will be used for "the healing of the nations." Who are these "nations"? This is one of the greatest mysteries of Bible prophecy. There are as many different guesses as there are commentaries on the book of Revelation.

Could they be the Redeemed who accept Jesus during the Millennium? Nothing is said about the ultimate destiny of those who are saved during the Millennium. No promises are made to them of glorified bodies. I don't know the answer. It is one of those areas where we look into a dimly lit mirror and will not understand fully until we stand "face to face" with the Lord (I Corinthians 13:12).

## THE FACE OF GOD: ULTIMATE BLESSING

This brings me to the greatest blessing of Heaven. Revelation 22:4 says we shall see the face of God! The Word says in Exodus 33:20 that no man has ever seen the face of God. But we will be given that privilege when we fellowship with Him in Heaven.



And that is really what Heaven is all about. We will experience an intimacy with the Lord that transcends anything possible in this life. We were created for fellowship with God (John 4:23), and that purpose will reach its zenith in the Eternal State as we live in God's presence.

That is why Paul wrote, "*to live is Christ, and to die is gain*" (Philippians 1:21). He went on to explain that to continue living in the flesh meant the opportunity for fruitful labor in the Lord's kingdom. But he still had a desire to depart this life, for that departure would open the door for sweet, intimate, personal fellowship with the Lord (Philippians 1:22-23).

What about you? Are you clinging to this world, or do you yearn for Heaven? The more you come to know the Lord, the more you will love Him. And the more you love Him, the more You will desire to be with Him. That's only natural. We always desire to be with those whom we love.

See [www.otherdominions.com](http://www.otherdominions.com) for more on the question of eternity and heaven.