

HEAVEN

Int.

1. Aim: To inspire all Christians and non-Christians to want to live so they can reach heaven.
2. **Rev. 21:1-4**
3. Why Preach about Heaven?
 - a. To Encourage and inspire Christians
 - (1) We have times of discouragement
 - (2) We often lose sight of the goal or reason for living
 - (3) Need to be reminded that it is worthwhile to be a Christian !
 - b. To invite sinners to obey the Gospel
 - (1) They often hear all about the things they cannot do and will have to quit if they become Christians
 - (2) They need to be told why they are to live as a Christian and the rewards of so doing.
 - (3) Sinners need to understand that God has something far better than anything here on Earth - and that is HEAVEN !
4. Heaven - the Home of the soul !!

Discussion

I. REV. 21:1

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea."

- A. New heaven and a new Earth - first is passed away
 1. New - what is old is out of date and is replaced by the new. It is different, it is better than the old.

2. II Pet. 3:7,10 "But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men." - "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up."
3. The things of this earth will pass away
 - a. Homes and all the belongings
 - b. Cars we drive
 - c. Clothes we wear
 - d. Governments with all its branches and agencies
 - e. All the great businesses and corporations
 - f. Colleges and universities
 - g. All the athletic and sporting activities and teams
 - h. All of the armies and equipment used in wars
4. Sudden passing away
 - a. These will go away - like a dream when you awake
 - b. Ps. 73:19 "How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors."
 - c. 1 Pet. 1:24-25 "For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you."

- d. Jas. 1:11 "For the sun is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withereth the grass, and the flower thereof falleth, and the grace of the fashion of it perisheth: so also shall the rich man fade away in his ways."
- e. This world will pass away
 - (1) II Pet. 3:10-13
 - (2) 1 Jn. 2:17 "And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."
- f. Since this is the case we are merely sojourners and pilgrims
 - (1) 1 Pet. 1:1 asv has "sojourners" = a resident foreigner
 - (2) 1 Pet. 1:17 "And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:"
 - (3) 1 Pet. 2:11 "Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;"
 - (4) Heb. 11:10 "For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God."
 - (5) Heb. 11:13 "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth."
 - (6) We are all sojourners on this earth, heaven is our country .
- 5. We must not waste our life by trusting in riches
 - a. Matt. 6:19-21
 - b. We must not set our affections on this world - Col. 3:2
 - c. Never see a U-Haul attached to a hearse

- d. Illustration; Funeral procession going down the street. Two men were talking about the deceased and one man said: "I wonder how much he left?" The other man said, "He left it all."
- e. I Tim. 6:7-8 "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content."

B. Sea is no more

- 1. Sea separated people
- 2. Dreaded
 - a. In olden days most people were terrified by the sea.
 - b. Enemies came in by the sea
- 3. Heaven is a place where there is no sea to separate people or to cause them to fear.

II. REV. 21:2

"And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband."

A. Holy city

- 1. Jerusalem - called holy city two times - Matt. 4:5 27:53
- 2. Holy and New
 - a. Different from the present world
 - b. In contrast to Babylon

B. Coming down from God - bride adorned

1. Eph. 5:27 "That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."
2. Heaven is the church in completion, perfection or bringing to a finish !

III. REV. 21:3

"And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God."

A. Heard great voice - host in heaven probably

B. Tabernacle of God is with men

1. God associates with man in a different way from the lions and tigers
2. In heaven men will be able to associate with God as they have longed to do. "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God." Ps. 42:1
3. The Central attraction in Heaven is God. God is heaven, and Heaven is God.
4. Songs we sing "Face to Face" "My God and I"
 - a. Heaven is more than things - it is fellowship with God and Christ
 - b. Rev. 22:4 "And they shall see his face..."

IV. REV. 21:4

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

A. God shall wipe all the tears from their eyes

1. Literally - God with His finger will wipe away every tear
2. We cannot conceive the barrels of tears that have been shed by men through the ages. It would be hard to imagine the tears that were shed last night in this city
3. Tears for:
 - a. Grief - because of the death of a loved one
 - b. Own sins - guilt often causes people to cry
 - c. Sins of others
 - d. Suffering - persecution
 - e. Sickness and disappointments
4. Whatever the cause for tears to the righteous, all of these shall be abolished
 - a. I sa. 25:8 "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the Lord hath spoken it."
 - b. Rev. 7:17 "For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes."

B. There shall be no more death

1. Death will be conquered

- a. There will be no more accidents where people are killed
- b. There will be no more death because sin is no more, and sin is the cause of death. Rm. 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death..."
- c. Gen. 3:3 "Lest ye die" - God's warnings
- d. Gen. 3:4 "Ye shall not surely die:" The lie to devil told Eve

2. Much is written to prepare people for death

- a. That's good for Christians - "that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope." 1 Thes. 4:13
- b. But sinners need to fear death so they will prepare for heaven !

3. Death will have been swallowed up in VICTORY ! 1 Cor. 15:54

C. Neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain

1. No more sorrow and grief because of death or anything else
2. No more crying and weeping with a broken heart.
3. No more pain, - no doctors or nurses needed in heaven - no hospitals necessary - no drug stores - no medicine - no more toothaches, headaches or cancer - no more surgeries will be required - no broken legs or broken bones

D. For the former things are all passed away !!

Conclusion

1. What will heaven be like?
 - a. It will be a place with no human suffering
 - b. It will be a place with no sin - no evil.
 - c. It will be a place of rest - Heb. 4:9
 - d. It will be the place with God
2. John 14:1-4 - mansions - abiding places, the home of the soul - heaven "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. 4 ¶ And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know."
3. Christians are promised a Home in heaven
 - a. Rev. 21:7 "He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son."
 - b. Overcoming involves...
 - (1) Faithfulness - Rev. 2:10
 - (2) Fruitfulness - I I Pet. 1:5-11
4. Are you ready and prepared for Heaven the Home of the soul ?