

HEAVEN & HELL SERIES

HEAVEN PART 1: HEAVEN IS FAR MORE
WONDERFUL THAN WE CAN IMAGINE.

REVELATION 21:1-4



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HEAVEN IS FAR MORE WONDERFUL THAN WE CAN IMAGINE.

Revelation 21:1-4

"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

Heaven is far more wonderful than we can imagine because:

- Everything is **new** – 21:1

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

"The best of life on Earth is a glimpse of Heaven; the worst of life is a glimpse of Hell. For Christians, this present life is the closest they will come to Hell. For unbelievers, it is the closest they will come to Heaven." – Randy Alcorn¹

Q: Will we be able to recognize people in heaven?

A: We will receive our 'glorified bodies' at the resurrection upon the Return of Christ. However, we will still be identifiable in the presence of God (1 Cor. 15:42-44; Rev. 7:9-10).

1 Corinthians 15:42-44

So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

Revelation 7:9-10

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

- God resides there – 21:2-3

*And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the **dwelling place** of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.*

“This is a picture of God’s ultimate plan—not to take us up to live in a realm made for him, but to come down and live with us *in the realm He made for us.*” – Randy Alcorn²

- “Former things” are **absent** – 21:4

“He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

Action Points

- Set your **minds** on things **above** – Colossians 3:1-2

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

- Let good experiences and places create a longing for **better** places and experiences – Hebrews 11:16

But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

- **Disappointments** don’t need to end in **despair**.

¹ Randy Alcorn, *Heaven* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House, 2004), 29.

² *Ibid.*, 45.