

Sunday, February 22, 2009
Living Hope EFC

Art Smith

Our Eternal Home: New Heaven, New Earth, New Jerusalem.
Revelation 21

INTRO No Place like home. (Green, 68)

The story is told that during the Civil War, when the rival armies were encamped on the opposite banks of the Potomac River, the Union's band played one of its patriotic tunes, and the Confederate musicians quickly struck up a melody dear to any Southerner's heart. Then one of the bands started to play, "Home, Sweet Home." The musical competition ceased & the musicians from the other army join in. Soon voices from both sides of the river could be heard singing, "There's no place like home."

In a similar way, the church, in spite of its many divisions, is bound together by that one strong link - *we are all going home, and to the same home*. We have a common destiny.

Today – we get to take a peak at what that home will be like!

Someone has asked, "Will we know one another in heaven?"

Criswell: "We won't really know each other until we get to hvn."

Most what we know about heaven is written in Rev.21 & 22.

The Bible say much about living on earth, but comparatively little about heaven, the place we will spend most of our lives!

Creation II: The New Heaven & Earth, 21:1-8.
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History as we know it is now over. The rapture, anti-Christ, Armageddon, false religion, the earthly k'dom, jmt. – are all past.

Verse 1: A brand new heaven and earth are created.

SLIDE: [A perspective of eternal purposes.](#)

- There are only 4 chapters in the Bible that do not deal with sin
- Gen.1-2, God created earth in perfect harmony with Himself.
- Rev.21-22, God again creates heaven & earth in harmony.
- Between Gen.2 & Rev.21 is God's redemptive program.

God knew sin would enter his creation, a Savior would be needed, but His ultimate purposes and goals are wrapped up in **His eternal plans**. [What are His eternal plans?](#)

- He's given us a glimpse: **Eph.1:4-6, 9-10, 2:4-6; 2 Cor.5:1-5**

Eph.1:4-6

"He chose us in him [before](#) the
Creation of the world

[to be holy and blameless in his sight.](#)

In love, he predestined us to be
adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in

accordance with his pleasure and will -
to the praise of his glorious grace."

Eph.1:9-10

"When the times will
 have reached their fulfillment -
*to bring all things In heaven and on earth,
 together under one head, Even Christ,"*

2 Cor.5:1-5

"We know that if the earthly
 tent we live in is destroyed, we have
 a building from God, *an eternal house
 in heaven*, not built by human hands...
 We groan, longing to be clothed
 with *our heavenly dwelling*...
 So that what is mortal will be
 swallowed up by life. Now it is God
Who has made us for this very purpose
 and has given us the Spirit as a deposit
 guaranteeing what is to come."

2 Cor.4:16-18

"Therefore we do not lose heart.
 Though outwardly we are wasting away,
 Yet inwardly we are being renewed
 Day by day.
 For our light and momentary
 Troubles are achieving for us an
Eternal glory that far outweighs them all.
 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen
 But on what is unseen.
 For what is seen is temporary,
 But *what is unseen is eternal*"

John 10

"I have come that they may have life,
 and have it *to the full*.
 I am the good shepherd.
 The good shepherd lays down his life
 For the sheep...
I give them eternal life, and they
 Shall never perish;
 No one can snatch them
 Out of my hand.

...I and the Father are one."

- Rev.21-22! We're no longer dealing with Adam's race and sinful mankind, but with Christ's new sinless race, perfection.

μεν:- A new heaven and earth are created

- **2 Peter 3:10,12-13** > ALL – By His "Word!"

2 Peter 3:10,12-13

The heavens will disappear with a roar;
the elements will be destroyed by fire,
and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.

...That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire,
and the elements will melt in the heat.

¹³But in keeping with his promise
we are looking forward to a new heaven
and a new earth,
the home of righteousness."

- New: "kainos" = New in kind, quality. Used four times, vs.1,2,5.
- "No sea." Perhaps because in the past the sea has been a barrier between mankind. A place of danger and death?
- Its absence will automatically change the climate.

δε:- The first earth has passed away.

- Rev.20:11 – It Flew! 2 Pet.3:10– Disappeared.
- (Even Colorado will not be our home forever!)

Verse 2: A brand new "Home Town," New Jerusalem.

It is interesting to note: we have 1 verse about the new heaven and earth, most of chapters 21 & 22 about the New Jerusalem!

1-It is "holy," the abode of the saints –v.27. **John 14:1-2, Heb.12:22f.**

Heb. 12:22-23

"But you have come to Mount Zion, to the *heavenly Jerusalem*, the city of the living God. You have come to *thousands upon thousands of angels* in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, *whose names are written in heaven.*"

- Notable is the contrast with earthly Jerusalem: 11:8 "Sodom."

2- It comes out of heaven. It is not actually said to be created at this time. Many think it is already in existence here & may have been the home of the resurrected & raptured saints - **Heb.11:16**

- It may be like a satellite city, suspended over earth.

3- "Prepared as a bride." Adorned, decorated, it stands ready.

- There is one thing you can always count on at a wedding, a beautiful bride. There are no ugly brides. The pastor comes out – no gasp. The groom – no gasps (except his mama!)
- But when the bride comes in: the audience gasps in unison! **All heads turn!** No earthly wedding compares to this scene.

Verses 3-4: A new quality of life in direct relation with God!

1- The dwelling of God is with his people!

- The revealed purpose of God since creation – God with man!
- In the garden – fellowship. Patriarchs – theophanes. Moses – face to face. Israel, the shikinah glory, the cloud, tabernacle, & temple. Jesus – **John 1:14; 17:24!**
- How do you feel, knowing God wants to live with you face to face? - The horror of the unsaved is the happiness of saved.

2- (V.4) God's presence as Savior banishes all grief!

- There will never be a bad day in heaven, never a dark night.
- “Every Tear:” Some think this must mean there will be tears in heaven. We'll first sorrow over our sin & failures then enjoy hvn
- I don't think so: **Ps.103, Heb.10:14, 17; Jude 24-25, 1 Jn.3:3**

⁸ The LORD is compassionate
and gracious, slow to anger,
abounding in love.

⁹ He will not always accuse,
nor will he harbor his anger forever;
¹⁰ he does not treat us as our sins
deserve or repay us according to
our iniquities.

¹¹ For as high as the heavens are
above the earth, so great is his love
for those who fear him;

¹² as far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed
our transgressions from us.

Psalm 103

- The context is not remorse, but comfort!
- Rather, the tears merely contrast life on earth with life in hvn.
- In heaven there will be no memory of failures: Is.65:17.

Isaiah 65:17-18

“Behold, I will create new heavens
and a new earth.

*The former things will not
Be remembered,*

Nor will they come to mind.
But be glad and rejoice forever

In what I will create
For I will create Jerusalem

To be a delight and its
People a joy.”

- ...No cemeteries, hospitals, undertakers, doctors, doubts, fears; no broken homes, hearts, no mourning, crying! **Is.25:6-8**

Verses 5-7: Everything is new!

1- (V.5) God himself speaks and assures of the facts!

- “John, write this down for everyone to read!”

2- (V.6) “It is done!” (Perf Ind) The purpose of God is completed!

- The drama of history has played it's last run.
- Christ has been there from beginning to end.
- As always, He offers life – at no cost to us! Rom.3:24 -δωρεαν.

3- (v.7) “Overcomers inherit ALL this.” This new heaven, earth, relationship, peace – Eph.1:18 “The hope of our calling!”

- How do we become an overcomer? 1 John 5:4-5, 13.

1John 5:4-5

“For everyone born of God
overcomes the world.

This is the victory that has
Overcomes the world,
Even *our faith*.

Who is it that overcomes
The world?

*Only he who believe
That Jesus is the
Son of God.”*

- John 7:37-39 = The believer possess living water!

Verse 8: Our newness is without the possibility of future sin.

- In harsh contrast to our inheritance, is that of unbelieving.

The New Jerusalem: Our Eternal Home Town, 21:9-27

Verse 9: New Jerusalem is the Bride of the Lamb.

Q. How can the Church be Christ's Bride, & the city be His bride?

- Symbols stand for real facts, not the symbol.
- This city is the residence of the Church.

Verses 10-14: The city's architecture!

1- Vs.10, Her architect is none other than God! – **Heb.11:10,16.**

- It is build by a famous Carpenter, from Nazareth!
- What would you expect a city, built by God, to be like?
- John describes the “indescribable” as best he can!

“Coming down out of heaven:” Does it rest on earth or remain suspended between heaven and earth?

2- Vs.11, Her most striking feature = Brilliance! God's glory!

- Mortal man has never stood in His full presence, glory.

- Because God dwells within the city it radiates with the sum of His infinite perfections and glory – **Vs.22-24a.**
- The city becomes the source of light/ glory for the universe.
- It's brilliance "a very precious jewel." Many think it diamond.
- The New Jerusalem is like a "diamond in a gold setting!" vs.18

3- Vs.12-14, Her walls, gates & foundations are most unusual.

WALLS: 216' thick. Complete protection, safety.

GATES: represent Israel. It was to Israel that God made the Cov'ts which brought us the Messiah and salvation.

- APPLY: Through God's cov'ts with Israel we enter salvation.

FOUNDATIONS: represent the Apostles. (Eph.2:12-13, 18-22).

- All 12, not just Peter, are the foundation of the church.
- They received & taught the doctrines of "justification by faith. The evangelized the 1st century world. They bore the heat of the day. They have become the foundation of the church.

POINT: Our eternal Home Town will forever memorialize those through whom the grace of God came to mankind.

Verses 15-21: The city's measurements & materials.

1- Vs.15-16, The city is 14-1500 miles cubed! It is HUGE!

ILLUS: Map of U.S. (A stadia = 600').

- Imagine a city from Dallas to Winnipeg, and LA to Seattle.
- 1500 miles – 2, 250,000 sq mi., 3,375,000,000 cu. mi.
- Would we all fit? Absolutely.

We do not have to worry that God will be a cheap skate, and economize on heaven. Look at the beach. Is there enough sand? Look at the stars. Are there enough? The sea?

2- Vs.19-20, The foundations are decorated with precious gems.

- On the inside is Jesus Christ is full, unveiled glorious brilliance. *His brilliant light will shine out through clear jasper walls as light passing through a diamond prism.*
- The more light passing through a prism, the more colors that emerge! *As His light passes through the "gem" foundations these beautiful colors will flood the universe with the glory of God! It is a city of light, and incredible colors and beauty.*

3- Vs.25-26 – Its gates are always open. (No dangers outside.)

- All nations honor Jerusalem! Only saints can enter.
- It is a cosmopolitan city, all nationalities and races. No sin.

Question?

Will you inherit all this? Will you be in God's eternal heaven?

The answer depends upon whether or not you are an "overcomer."

The same John who wrote Revelation, defined who overcomers are – in First John: "For everyone born of God

overcomes the world.

This is the victory that has

Overcomes the world,

Even our faith.

Who is it that overcomes

The world?

Only he who believes

That Jesus is the

Son of God."

If you have put your trust in God's Son as the Lamb who took away your sins, according to God's testimony – you are an overcomer, and you will inherit eternal life in His heaven.

If God has promised as much, will you believe Him?