

HEAVEN – Our Dual Citizenship and Our True Home

Week 6: LOOKING FOR A CITY

(REV 21-22)

When I was a child, I imagined heaven as a place filled with enormous buildings, inhabited by eerie, white-robed people and patrolled by angelic police! A dear Deacon friend died and then my grandparents died, and my wife's parents died, and other relatives and Christian friends I have come to love deeply have died. Now I think of heaven in terms of the people who are there, people I love, people I'm anxious to see again.

GROUP DISCUSSION. What is the most beautiful place you have ever been? Describe the place in terms of sights and sounds.

PERSONAL REFLECTION. How do you envision heaven? What faces of friends who have died are part of the picture?

When a Christian dies, he or she is with the Lord immediately in a place we call *heaven*. As wonderful as that place is, it is only temporary. After the future resurrection of our bodies and the final judgment of God on those who have rejected his grace, God will bring our present universe to an end. Then in a dazzling display of power, God will create a new heaven and new earth as our dwelling place forever. The apostle John caught a glimpse of God's new creation, and words almost failed to describe the glorious sight he saw. *Read Revelation 21–22.*

OVERVIEW OF WEEK 5

Day 1. All Things New (Rev 21:1-8)

Day 2. The New Jerusalem (Rev 21:9-21)

Day 3. River of Life (Rev 22:1- 5)

Day 4. Time is Near (Rev 22:6-11)

Day 5. Testimony and Warning (Rev 22:12-20)

VERSES TO MEMORIZE

() **Level 1: Rev 21:1-8**

() **Level 2: Rev 22:12-20**

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1. As you look back through these chapters, what one scene would you like to capture in a photograph?

What fact about heaven is new to you?

What promise from God is most significant?

2. What has caused you “mourning or crying or pain” over the past year?

How does it make you feel to know that these old things will pass away (21:4)?

3. Why did God reveal to John so many details about the new Jerusalem—the measurements, the stones, the streets (21:12–21)?

4. What will be missing from the future city (21:22–27), and why is each absence significant?

5. According to 22:1–5, what will the inhabitants of the city be doing?

6. Who is excluded from the city (21:8; 22:15)?

What do their actions on earth demonstrate about their relationship with Jesus Christ?

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7. Who can gain entrance to God’s city, and on what basis does that person enter (22:17)?

8. What might a person add to or take away from God’s words (22:18–19)?

9. In what specific ways can you respect and honor the truth that God has spoken in the book of Revelation (and, by extension, in the whole Bible)?

10. Do you feel more prepared or less prepared for a future in heaven as a result of these studies? Explain why.

Heaven is prepared for those who have made reservations by trusting in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord in this life. If you have never believed in Jesus, today is your opportunity to accept his gift of forgiveness and eternal life. If you have received Christ, express your gratitude to him for his promise of an eternity in heaven with him.

Now or Later

Imagine a worship service based on Revelation 21 and 22. What songs would you sing in that heavenly setting? What would the content of your prayers be? What would the sermon topic be—or would there even be a sermon? Translate your plan into an actual time of praise and thanks to God for the certain hope you have of eternity in his direct presence.