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What Shall We Do In Heaven?

Introduction

I wonder if the reader has ever planned to go to some foreign place for the first time. What excitement there was? So many questions, “What will it be like? Will I be able to eat the food? What are the things I would like to see etc?” Then after arriving the individual finds it is a world wonderfully different from what one imagined. This is a matter which ought to be of interest to every child of God. It will be magnificent to see the Lord and be able to worship without weakness and doing all for the greater glory of God. But, when we get there, “What will it be like?” Just as importantly, “What shall we be doing?” There was brought to my mind some thoughts and God educated me in bringing to mind some scriptures in which He has given little glimpses of it.

How is the eternal state described?

I am now aware of at least twenty-one scriptures which give us a peek into that Holy State, some of which are:

- 1) Glory: “For it became Him, for whom are all things . . . in bringing many sons unto glory” (Heb. 2:10).
- 2) In My Father’s house (Jn. 14:2). The Lord calls the Temple the idealistic place of prayer and communion for all nations. God brings His loved ones to a place of fellowship between all the people of God and God himself. No more uncomfortableness because of sin, strife, or hurt, but an intensity of love we, on this side, know nothing about.
- 3) It is a place of rest from their labours (Rev. 14:13). God rested (Gen. 2:2) and when the penalty for sin was borne the Lord “bowed His head” (Jn. 19:30). The word “bowed” indicates “He rested” His head. In the mercy of God we, who are saved, have entered “into His rest” (Heb. 4:3), and there remains yet an eternal rest (Rev. 14:13) for the people of God.
- 4) It is a sphere of endless life in its fulness. “I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly” (Jn. 10:10); “Having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come” (1 Tim. 4:8).
- 5) In a place of divine manifestation of the glory of the Lord (Jn. 17:24).
- 6) In a place of perfect government (Rev. 4:2).
- 7) Where they shall see God (Matt. 5:8).
- 8) The millennium and eternal state is a place of uninterrupted joy (Rev. 21:3-4); satisfaction (Rev. 21:8); service (Rev. 22:3); fellowship with God (2 Tim. 4:8); and worship (Rev. 19:1-3).

While these are wonderful, I know of no passage where there is a concentration on the perfections of heaven as Revelation chapters 4-5). There we are privileged to see Heaven is a place of:

- a) Perfection of power, the throne was set in Heaven (Rev. 4:2).
- b) Perfection of the Occupier (Rev. 4:2, 8, 11; Dan. 7:9-14).
- c) Perfection of Promise (Rev. 4:3), the rainbow.
- d) Perfection of illumination (Rev. 4:5).
- e) Perfection of praise (Rev. 4:11).
- f) Perfection of administration (Rev. 5:1).
- g) Perfection of qualifications (Rev. 5:6).
- h) Perfection of praise and exultation (Rev. 5:8-14).

What will life be like?

Contrary to some ideas, we will not be sitting around all day strumming harps and singing. The first manifestation of God given in the scriptures is that of activity, working. When our Lord was here He worked as a carpenter and as an itinerant preacher doing the work of God. While remaining here on earth the Lord has given to us a work to do both collectively and individually. With this in mind, I have no doubt that Heaven will be a place of activity, but unlike today where we work to earn a wage, there all activity will be for the glory of God and in perfection of fellowship with the Spirit in the likeness of the spirit of Jesus, complete submission.

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Another characteristic we must consider is the fact that God loves the gathering of His people whither in the Old Testament or the New Testament. Just as a parent or grandparent loves to have the little ones gathered around them, so the Lord. “Unto Him shall the gathering of the people be” (Gen. 49:10); “Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice” (Psa. 50:5); “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them” (Matt. 18:20). In Leviticus 23 there are two Hebrew words translated “Feast”. It is noticed that in Leviticus 23:3, 4, 37, 44) the word is “Feast”, plural, whereas in verses 6, 39, and 41 it is “Feast” singular. The Hebrew word translated “feast” (v. 2 etc.) indicates a time appointed whereas the Hebrew word translated “feasts” (vv. 6, 39, 41) indicates a festive joyous gathering. Since God finds pleasure in the gatherings of His people on earth one would wonder if there will be festive gatherings in heaven or the entire universe? The answer is, “Yes there will be”. In reading various passages in the New Testament, especially Revelation, it is evident there are a number of great celebrations. One celebration when we “all gather home in the morning” and for the first time as the corporate church we shall see the Lord who suffered for us. Not only will we see Him but we shall in heart and spirit grasp and be grasped by the unbounded fulness, perfection, and extension of His work at Calvary. Other gatherings will be when heaven erupts in worship in the fulfilment of Revelation 4:8-11; 5:8-14, 7:10-12; 19:1-8. The holy celebratory gatherings will be with such pomp and glory that we have never and will never see the like of on earth.

The possibility of understanding the activities of Heaven.

When musing on the microscopic world of God’s creation my mind began to think of the activities of Heaven. As I pondered the little insects and the amazing world of their lives, how small their world is. Some never get above the ground, always rummaging under leaves or dead material. Some never go more than a few yards or meters from their dens etc. How could they understand the world I live in. with amazing foods, a world to travel, the magnificence of mathematics, culture, the classics or etiquette? They never could. Perhaps if I tried to explain my world to them it would be of no value for their minds could never grasp what I speak about. But if I could, how could that be done? The only way would be for them to be brought up intellectually and emotionally into my awareness and world, and then see the delights of a sunset, a flowing river through a majestic mountain panorama, the delight of a bird’s singing in the early morn. After seeing a little glimpse of paradise, the third heaven, Paul wrote, “Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God” (1 Cor. 2:9-10). Again, when speaking of himself, Paul wrote, “How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter” (2 Cor. 12:4). How can I comprehend the delight of Heaven? I can’t because I am a creature of earth, bound in by my five senses, and deformed due to sin. When the Lord comes I will be given a new body, in fact I shall be renewed to live and appreciate that delightful world. I shall then have a body that is geared to things spiritual, and all will be done for the greater glory of God and exaltation of Christ.

I am astounded with the clause, “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” (Rev. 7:17). How stupendous to have the constancy of the Lord feeding us with depths of spiritual food we know nothing about now. Just as he fed the two on the road to Emmaus, He will feed us. How exciting it will possibly be to hear as He reveals the depths of the Tabernacle teachings, the sacrifices, to see expressions in the scriptures in their deepening meanings and not only be in fellowship with Him but songs of adoration and praise with the most stupendous music and soul thrilling words. To be in a choir of thousands of thousands of voices in richest harmony singing, “worthy worthy is the Lamb”. All tears gone forever. I recall when my daughter Heather was a little tot, she was in her bed and crying. There was nothing wrong except that she did not want to go to bed. Later I went to her room and there she lay fast asleep and the big tears still wet on her little chubby cheeks. I took a clean handkerchief and ever so gently wiped the tears from her eyes and thought, “This is what God is going to do with me some day.”

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These are wonderful truths but they are only for the individual who has accepted the Son of God for salvation, without depending on any other means or assistance. The rejection of Christ means not only will the rejector never know this blessedness, but will be cast into the Lake of fire under the unending ceaseless fury of God's judgment for ever and ever.

The impossibility for us to comprehend the duration of eternity.

The shortest lifespan of earth's living creatures is the mayfly. If everything is in its favour it can live up to 24 hours. Now as I write this I am 76 and wonder could that little insect ever comprehend me living for 27,759 times its lifetime? How restricted is our "time-knowledge". In reviewing of life we consider, "What is remembered of the 1940s, 1950's; our teenage years; or for us older, when we were 50, or 60 or perhaps 70? Massive amounts of time when we remember nothing about the passings days, etc. That being so, how can I comprehend 100 years, 1000 years, 1400 B C etc? They are all just numbers which are measurements of time. However, in Heaven eternity is timeless, there is nothing of time except in the purpose for fulfilling the purposes of God, for instance, in the coming of the Lord (Gal. 4:4). In eternity, those who know the Lord will dwell in a timeless, ageless, deathless duration in fulness of life. We cannot comprehend that.

. . . . Rowan Jennings