

# Eternal Life

October 19, 2008



Read Rev 21:1-7

## Old Pictures

**S Old Picture at UP** – It could have been me at 14 years old – all dead  
Fascinated by old pictures of people ~ (Brandeis Sale 1927) – all dead  
Where are they? Do they know I'm looking at their picture?

## Heaven or Hell

~3 people per second die ~ 250k per day ~ 90M per year

During our service about 20k people will die

All these people have passed through the wide or narrow gate

All headed to Heaven or H E double toothpicks

**S 6-character LED calculator (1973)** – type 0.7734 and turn upside down  
Purgatory: I can understand this ~ Like hero hanging on ledge

## Long Lines

3 people per second are dying and headed towards Heaven or Hell

That's a lot of people...

*"What did they do before computers?"*

**I DMV**: Imagine a line with 3 people joining it every second

Hopefully that's not our line

Imagine waiting through that ~ *"You're in the wrong line..."*

Line to Heaven will be like the FASTPASS line at Universal

It's hard to fathom the afterlife...

***"Have you ever studied Heaven in Scriptures? - I never have until now"***

Wanted to read Randy Alcorn's book, *"Heaven"* for two years

Yet I still haven't done so... Why?

Am I afraid that the Bible has too little to say on the subject?

Randy suggests Satan ~ He attacks God, His home and His people

## Vacation

**S** 1991 trip to Hawaii – Read James Michener book (963 pages)

We read nearly a 1,000 page book for a 12 day trip

Yet I have not studied Heaven – where I'll spend eternity

Randy Alcorn ~ 2/3 people believe heaven will be boring



*"Our belief that Heaven will be boring betrays a heresy that God is boring. There is no greater nonsense. Our desire for pleasure and the experience of joy come directly from God's hands. He made our taste buds, He put the adrenaline in our system, He gave us our sex desires and the nerve endings that convey pleasure to our brains. Likewise our imaginations and our capacity for joy and exhilaration were made by the very God we accuse of being boring."* ~ "Heaven" by Randy Alcorn



*"To come to Thee is to come home from exile, to come to land out of the raging storm, to come to rest after long labor, to come to the goal of my desires and the summit of my wishes."* ~ Charles Spurgeon

\*\*\* **We must train ourselves to long for Heaven...**

### **"What is Heaven?"**

It and related words occur in NKJV ~ 700 times

19<sup>th</sup> occurrence – **Gen 21:17** – *"God called to Hagar out of heaven"*

**Gen 22** ~ Abraham's hand is stayed by voice from heaven

**Deut 26:15** – *"Look down from Your holy habitation, from heaven"*

Heaven is God's dwelling place ~ It's where God is

**NOTE:** Heaven is still part of this creation

## Heaven & Paradise

Heaven is to God as Paradise is to sinless man

God walked in the Garden of Eden (**Gen 3:8**) - with Adam and Eve

Heaven and Paradise were linked - God came and went between them

\*\*\* **But that changed...**

## The Fall Changed things ~ Sin often changes things

📖 Read Gen 3:22-24 ~ God drove Adam and Eve out of Garden

Man was driven from Paradise

Gen 4 ~ Murder of Abel resulted in the first death

Abel's spirit departed his body – body and spirit were torn apart

Sheol (Hebrew) / Hades (Greek) held souls of the departed

Rich man & Lazarus – in same place but separated by gulf

## Man AND Creation Corrupted

Gen 3:17 *“Cursed is the ground for your sake... thorns and thistles”*

📖 Read Romans 8:18-23 ~ creation groans and labors

We long to live in glorious sinless resurrected bodies (1 Cor 15)

Creation also longs to be delivered from corruption

\*\*\* The Fall of Man changed things but so did the triumph of Christ

## The Resurrection Changed things

📖 Read Col 2:13-15 ~ Christ triumphed over sin

📖 Read Luke 23:39-43 ~ The thief would be with Christ in Paradise

📖 Read Eph 4:7-10 ~ He went into Sheol and led captivity captive

Believers that had been in Sheol went to heaven with Christ

**NOTE:** Christ's redemption includes heaven (Eph 1:10)

Christ's sacrifice redeemed Man, Creation, and Heaven

## RECAP: Timeline of Heaven and Earth

Creation – Heaven & Earth (Paradise on Earth – tree life)

After Fall / Before Christ – Man is ejected from Paradise

- Earth (Hades instituted – saved & unsaved)
- Garden of Eden blocked
- Paradise (tree life) returned to heaven

After Fall / After Christ – Heaven (Paradise) & Earth (Hades – unsaved)

After Judgment – New Earth (New Heaven (Paradise))

## RECAP: Man

Man was created with body AND spirit – “*very good*”

Death destroys the bond ~ death of both spirit and body

After death (spirits in Sheol or Paradise (Present Heaven))

After Judgment (new body given like unto former body)

## Man was Created to Inhabit a Body

We tend to not think in terms of bodies when we think of heaven

Some blame Greek philosophers ~ like PLATO

Early Christian fathers like PHILO & ORIGEN

✝ I blame cartoons

Spirit leaves body and rests on cloud

I didn't read Plato as a kid ~ But I watched a lot of cartoons

Christ became a Man – not for a season – but FOREVER

We will be like him – **1 John 3:2** “*when He is revealed, we shall be like Him*”

## So what is Heaven like?

2 terms: Present (Intermediate) and New Heaven (Future)

Bible examples are best

📖 **Read Rev 6:9-11**- This text conveys

they're in heaven / remember their lives on earth

they want seek justice / they're not unconcerned

anticipate / eager / even anxious

talk / think / emotional / conscious

they talk to God / God answers them

know what's going on c/earth / aware of time

distinct (each of them)

have bodies (white robes)

“*When had they been martyred?*” ~ recently

**But we're promised a New Earth! (Rev 21:1)**


## "Are we to live in Heaven or on a New Earth?" ~ BOTH

We get it all: New Heaven, New Earth and Paradise


### What will the New Earth be like?

*"A lot like the old earth ~ but free from sin"*


First heaven and earth had passed away

 **Read 2 Peter 3:10-13** – *"earth and work burned up"*


Nearly every scholar declares the new is the old restored

 **Read 1 Cor 3:11-15** – *"gold, silver, precious stones survive"*

John Piper regards the old as a caterpillar and the new as the butterfly

 **A Man Called Norman** – *"scrubbing, white hair and suit..."*

Continuity of God's promises to Abram, Jews

 **Read Gen 13:14-17** – *"all the land which you see I give... forever"*

**Mt 5:5, Ps 37:11** ~ *"meek shall inherit the earth"*

Jesus called the earth our inheritance

**Rev 21:1** ~ no sea, no weather?

**Gen 2:5** ~ no rain, vapor canopy?

### What will the New Heaven be like? ~ (return to Rev 21)

 **Read Rev 3:11-12** – glimpse of New Jerusalem, coming down from sky

Original text **Rev 21:1-7...**

v4 ~ No more death, sorrow, crying or pain

*"But does that mean we won't do anything?"*

--- Skiing? --- Flying planes? --- Driving cars? --- Just talking?

Relationships will be perfect – no anger, no fights

Absence of fear and death seems abnormal to us

### Magnitude of New Jerusalem

 **Read Rev 21:9-16** – New Jerusalem descending

*"How long is a furlong?"* ~ About 1/8<sup>th</sup> mile

 **Review Handout**

We may be in New Jerusalem as it descends...

## **New Earth and New Heaven and Paradise together**

Heaven is God's home

Earth is man's home

Paradise is where God and man dwell together ~ our greatest joy

Heaven (New Jerusalem) on Earth and Paradise in Heaven

### ***"What will life be like on the New Earth and in the New Heaven?"***

*"Will we be bored?"*

Believers will own the earth ~ We received life and land as an inheritance

**Rev 21:24** ~ There shall be kings on the earth ~ godly and just rulers

**1 Cor 6:3** ~ Paul said that we will judge angels

**Rev 22:5** ~ We are to reign with Christ in heaven

**Rev 22:1** ~ God will dwell in our midst ~ River of life flowing from His throne

New Jerusalem will sit astride the earth like a crown

*"How can we ever be bored?"* Our lives will be exciting – forever!

### **Our joy in God and amazement at His abilities will grow daily**

We will travel throughout New Jerusalem ~ a city 1400 miles square

We will travel across and around the new Earth

*"We'll probably also travel throughout the Universe?"*



**Read John 14:1-3 ~ Jesus said...**

*"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 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. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."*



**Read 1 Cor 2:9**

*"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,  
nor have entered into the heart of man,  
the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."*

**Our citizenship is in Heaven ~ Our mansions await us there...**

# Eternal Life

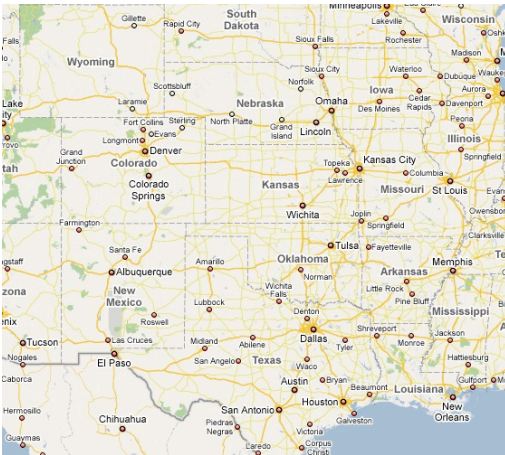
## Sermon Notes

October 19, 2008 • Rodney Swab • Revelation 21.1-7



### New York City

- 5, 578 high rises ~ more than any other city on earth
- 1<sup>st</sup> National Tower is 663 feet tall (1<sup>st</sup> in Omaha)
  - It would be the 51<sup>st</sup> tallest in NYC
- UP Center is 373 feet tall (3<sup>rd</sup> in Omaha)
  - It would be the 425<sup>th</sup> tallest in NYC
  - 2 feet taller than Ritz Carlton next to Central Park
- Tallest building in world (Taipei 101 – 1,667 ft)
  - Fastest elevator 3,314 feet/min ~ @38mph
- Next year tallest will be Burj Dubai (UAE - 2,313 ft)



### New Jerusalem (\* Zoomed out 100 times)

- 1500 miles x 1500 miles x 1500 miles
  - NW (Yellowstone Park) to NE (upstate Wisconsin)
  - SW (Baja Peninsula) to SE (middle of Gulf of Mexico)
- The HEIGHT is 1500 miles as well...
  - 3,000+ times higher than highest building on Earth
  - ~8,000,000 feet straight up
  - In fastest elevator 40 hours to get to top
  - Versus ~30 seconds for Taipei 101

1. Where is Heaven? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Will we have physical bodies in our eternal home? \_\_\_\_\_
3. When we die where do we go? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Where was the tree of life at dawn of creation? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Where will it be when New Jerusalem comes down from the sky? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What will our bodies be like in heaven? \_\_\_\_\_
7. God is said to dwell in Heaven. Is Heaven a part of creation? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What separates Heaven and Earth now? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What will separate the New Heaven and the New Earth? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Will we have jobs in Heaven? \_\_\_\_\_
11. Will we recognize people we know in Heaven? \_\_\_\_\_
12. Will we make new friends in Heaven? \_\_\_\_\_