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Heaven

Pastor Charles Mendenhall

Many books have been written regarding heaven, the size of it, what it is like, will we know people, will they know us? Though many of these books appear to be factual and interesting, we must remember that the Bible, God's Word is the final authority on what is said about heaven. Many are also trying to convince people that there are many ways to get to heaven, but there again; the Word tells us that there is only one way and that is through the Lord Jesus Christ. As we begin to study about heaven we will find out many things, the main thing is, this is the place we will all want to go. Jesus taught us that He is preparing a place for us and that when it is finished, He will be there with us.

John 14:1-6 "14 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2 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. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. 4 And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. 5 Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? 6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." KJV

The 21st and 22nd chapters of Revelation gives a picture of what the New Jerusalem will look like, the beauty of it and what we can expect to see. These scriptures are only talking about the city, not the fullness of heaven which is different. The city being about 1,500 miles squared and high will come down from the heavens; it would cover almost all of the United States. This is only one of many cities; heaven is a very big place.

Rev 21:11-22 "Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal; 12 And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: 13 On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates. 14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. 15 And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof. 16 And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal. 17 And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel. 18 And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass. 19 And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; 20 The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst. 21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls: every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass. 22 And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it." KJV

Rev 22:1-2 "And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of

God and of the Lamb. 2 In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations." KJV

Rev 21:4 "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." KJV

There are many questions asked regarding heaven and what it will be like.

1) What are we like? We will not be a wisp of vapor or have wings, floating around. We will be aware of things on the earth as the martyrs in Revelation 6; we will have bodies in heaven.

Rev 6:9-11 "And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: 10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? 11 And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled." KJV

1 Cor 15:47-49 "The first man is of the earth, earthy; the second man is the Lord from heaven. 48 As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. 49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly." KJV

2) Will we go immediately to heaven upon our death? There is not a "soul sleep" as some teach.

2 Cor 5:1-10 "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: 3 If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. 4 For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life. 5 Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit. 6 Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: 7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) 8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. 9 Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. " KJV

Paul spoke of being present with the Lord and absent from the body when we die, our choice being either to live or die. Our bodies will be resurrection later, but our soul is immediately with the Lord.

2 Cor 5:8 "We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord." KJV

Phil 1:21-23 "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 22 But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. 23 For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:" KJV

3) Will we have emotions in heaven? There will be rejoicing, reunions with loved ones that have gone on before, being able to recognize those loved ones and be recognized by them. There is joy in the presence of angels, joy unspeakable and full of glory.

Luke 15:7 "I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over

ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance." KJV

Luke 15:10" Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." KJV

4) Will we know everything when we get to heaven? We will go on learning, being taught by those who have gone on, who taught while on earth. Those making last hour choices will have the most to learn and be taught. Some individuals who have died, gone to heaven and came back, speak of seeing "men of God" teaching. We will not know everything, but our recall of things will be evident.

5) Will we know what is happening on the earth? The martyrs are aware; there is rejoicing when a sinner is saved. There is a great cloud of witnesses who are watching us, encouraging us to run with patience the race set before us. This cloud of witnesses talked about in Hebrews chapter 11 are the old saints, but this is also our loved ones who have gone on before us. They are aware of our growth, the prayers that have been prayed, the evil that is trying to destroy us and our victories.

Rev 6:9-11 "And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: 10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? 11 And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled." KJV

Luke 15:7 "I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance." KJV

Heb 12:1 "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us," KJV

6) Will we know people in heaven? We will be able to visit with everyone, especially our loved ones, be able to ask questions about events that happened in years gone by ie; Moses, David and other great men and women.

Matt 8:11 :And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven" KJV

7) What will we remember about our lives on the earth? Luke 16 tells of the story of the rich man and Lazarus. The rich man remembered the opportunities he had passed up while living on earth, but was unable to undo them now. Our memories will be those we celebrated, when we prayed or helped someone, the acts of service and kindness, not memories of regret, the bad things will be gone.

8) Will there be marriage in heaven? Will we be married as we are now? No, we will be living on a higher level, relationships will be different. There are no marriages in heaven, doesn't matter what some denominations are teaching. Matthew, Mark and Luke all address this issue, the woman who had married 7 brothers who kept dying. They were asking who she would be married to in heaven, Jesus told them no one. There are no marriages in heaven.

9) Will there be animals in heaven? Yes, the word talks about the horses, Jesus riding a horse, there are chariots pulled by horses. People who have been to heaven speak of seeing different animals, the word tells of the animals laying down together, the children playing around with snakes and not being hurt.

10) Will heaven be boring? No, but the lie that the devil tries to make everyone believe now, is that it will. His lie tells everyone they need to come to hell because that is where the fun is. We will be able to witness different events that have taken place, there can nothing boring about seeing these things, ex: David and Goliath, the ax head floating in the water, the little girl being raised from the dead, Elijah outrunning the chariots and horses, the Red Sea letting the children of Israel pass through. There is nothing boring in any of this. We will be busy, doing what we have been gifted to do.

11) Who will be in heaven? Only the redeemed of the Lord will be there, only those who have accepted Jesus as their personal savior, Jesus is the only way.

We, as believers need to be more aware of those around us hurting, we need to know how and what to do in order for us to help them. It is a time for us to begin to reach out to the unsaved, telling them about Jesus and His unending love for them. How He gave His life and shed His blood for them that none should perish. There are coming signs in the heavens that show that time is running out.