

Eisenhower Church of Christ

How Beautiful Heaven Must Be

The last book of the bible humbles us. The message of God's triumph in the book of Revelation is clear, but the further we look into the text, the more difficult the book becomes. The repeated emphasis of these things happening "shortly" (Rev.22:6), "quickly" (Rev. 22:7) and "the time is at hand" (Rev. 22:10) puts the vision of Revelation 21 and 22 in the context of the early church overcoming its then impending trials. However, the exaggerated apocalyptic language used to describe this triumph carries us beyond the then impending victory to the ultimate heavenly glory. This is a vision of heaven. It cannot be taken as literal, for gold is not transparent (Rev. 21:21), but clearly, our eternal home is beautiful.

It is beautiful because it is new: "A new heaven and a new earth" (Rev. 21:1); "new Jerusalem" (Rev. 21:2); "Behold, I make all things new" (Rev. 21:5). The Greeks had a word for "new" in respect to "time," but the word here is "new" in respect of "kind." This is a new kind of heaven and earth, a new kind of Jerusalem. There is also a word for "renew" in the New Testament, but that is not the word used here.

It is beautiful because it is a city: "The Holy City, new Jerusalem" (Rev. 21:2); "the great city, holy Jerusalem" (Rev. 21:10); a city of "twelve gates" (Rev. 21:12), and "twelve foundations" (Rev. 21:14); a city that "lieth foursquare and the length is as large as the breath...twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breath and the height of it are equal" (Rev. 21:16). Abraham was looking for such a city. "For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God...a better country, that is, an heavenly...for God hath prepared for them a city" (Heb. 11:8-16). Israel of old gloried in the beauty of old Jerusalem as the "city of God" (Ps. 48; 84; 87), but the glory of "new Jerusalem" exceeds the glory of the old. In context, this beautiful new city is in contrast to "Babylon, the mother of harlots, and abominations of the earth" (Rev. 17:5).

The city is "prepared as a bride adorned for her husband" (Rev. 21:2); "Come hither, and I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife" (Rev. 21:9). Few things are so beautiful that they are worthy to be compared to a bride adorned for her husband. We read in Revelation 19:7-8, "His wife hath made herself ready. And, to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, for the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints." We are reminded of Ephesians 5:25-27, where Paul wrote, "Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word. That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."

This beauty, this new city, is as the beauty of precious stones. It is made of "pure gold" (Rev. 21:18). Even "the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass" (Rev. 21:21). And it is "garnished with all manner of precious stones" (jasper, sapphire, chalcedony, emerald, sardonyx, sardius, chrysolite, beryl, topaz, chrysoprasus, jacinth, and amethyst) (Rev. 21:19-20), "and the twelve gates were twelve pearls" (Rev. 21:21). Such stones have been emblems of glory and beauty from the beginning. In Eden we read of gold, bdellium and onyx stone (Gen. 2:11-12), As "a river went out of Eden" (Gen. 2:10), so also out of this city is "a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb" (Rev. 22:1). Jesus said, "I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely" (Rev. 21:6). As in Eden there was "the tree of life" (Gen. 2:9), so also by this heavenly river is "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" (Rev. 22:2).

This city is beautiful, above all, because God is there, and because there we will be with God. "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His

people and God himself shall be with them, and be their God” (Rev. 21:3); “the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it and the Lamb is the light thereof” (Rev. 22:22-23); “and they shall see his face” (Rev. 22:4). To see the face of God? How beautiful Heaven must be!

—Bill Boyd

Sympathy

Our sympathy goes out to the family of **Katie Hembree**. Katie passed away around 5:00 a.m. Monday morning, July 12th at her home. She had been under Hospice Care for a few weeks. A graveside service was held on Wednesday, July 14th at Sunset Memorial Gardens. She is the great-grandmother of Haley Shook (Devida’s granddaughter). Katie was 95.

Prayer Request

John Carroll had an angiogram and one stent put in on Wednesday, July 14th at ORMC. His surgery went well. Keep him in your prayers for a speedy recovery.

Prayer List

Wayne Anderson; Betty Branson; Bill & Mary Brown; LaDonna Chism; Catherine Eastwood; Dana Erwin; Briana Fuentes; Hattie Gilmore; Paul Gunn; Cody Guynn; Doug Guynn; Vertie Howard; John & Belinda Katon; Mildred Lee; Betty Leeth; Alex & Barbie Martinez; Glenna McCarty; Melissa Moore; Juan & Estella Morolez; Wanda Perkins; Bruce & Trina Plyler; Jackie Rex; Cynthia Schulze; Jackie Schulze; Velma Tolbert; Marilyn Upshaw; George Warren; Terresia Weaver; Janet Wesson; Charles Wood; John Wood.

Eisenhower’s Shut-ins

Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Janelle Shirley and Marilyn Upshaw.

Youth

Bible Quiz Question ... (Multiple Choice)

In Paul’s sermon in Acts 13 he says that the witnesses of the death and resurrection were from what locale? (a) Judah (b) Samaria or (c) Galilee. (Acts 13:31)

Last Week’s Bible Quiz Answer

When it was obvious he would be overthrown by Omri, Zimri committed suicide by burning down the house he was in. (I Kings 16:18).

Events Watch “*In Search of the Lord’s Way*” Sunday mornings at 7:30 am on KWES TV 9.

Thank You

To My Church Family, Patience with family is love; Patience with others is respect; Patience with self is confidence; Patience with God is Faith. Love to All, Jackie Rex

Office News

The elders have scheduled a “**Work Day**” for Saturday, July 24th at 8:00 a.m. for both men and women.

Family Night

John and Sonia Wood are hosting a “**Family Night**” August 8th in the Annex following our evening

service. Bring your favorite homemade ice cream or sandwiches. You can bring either or both. Also, ice cream toppings & snacks are suggested. Feel free to bring what you like and enough to share. If you have any questions, please see Sonia or John.

Birth Announcement...

Congratulations to Clint and Atasi Titlow on the birth of their twins, July 10th. Their baby boy weighed 6 lbs. 4 oz. and 18.5” long and their baby girl, 5 lbs. 4 oz. and 19.5” long. Again, congrats to Atasi and Clint.

Would You Be Missed

After completing many years as a journalist, Arthur Brisbane was offered six months of paid vacation by William Randolph Hearst, the publisher of the San Francisco Examiner. Brisbane refused the kind offer for two reasons. He said, “If I quit writing my newspaper column for six months, it might affect the circulation of the newspaper. The second reason is that it might **not** affect the circulation of the newspaper.”

Mr. Brisbane’s answer was profound. In view of his answer, let’s ask ourselves, “If I dropped out of sight for six months and did absolutely nothing for the Lord, would I be missed?” Would the Lord’s work suffer or would there be no difference whatsoever? As members of the Lord’s church, we each have a responsibility in doing the Lord’s work and building up the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians 14:26; 2 Corinthians 12:19).

We cannot hire someone else to fulfill our responsibility to the Lord (Galatians 6:4-5; Romans 2:6; 1 Corinthians 3:8). We are individually accountable to God for what we do with the time with which He has blessed us. Let us hear the inspired writer, Paul, as he wrote to the Ephesians, ***“Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time because the days are evil,”*** (Eph. 5:15).

Brethren, let us resolve from this day forward, that we will become more involved in the Lord’s work, ***“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds*** (Hebrews 10:24). God has so richly blessed us with time, talent, vision and financial means. Let’s be willing to put these gifts to work for the Lord and His cause ***“while it is yet day; the night cometh when no man can work,”*** (John (:4).

—Proctor , WV

July 18, 2021	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	Jeff Wesson	Jeff Wesson
Song Leader	Cody Wesson	Oliver Hernandez
Sermon	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Opening Prayer	Jeff Wesson	Jeff Wesson
Scripture	Bill Ryan	Jackie Perkins
Second Prayer	Scot Straw	Charles Wood
Closing Prayer	Don Easlon	Richard Siler
Lords Supper		Tom Sorenson
<u>Scripture Reading:</u>	<u>Larry May</u>	Communion
	Craig Wesson	(In Library)
	David Ryan	
	John Wood	

Other Responsibilities: *Elder:* Jeff Wesson 556-5547 – *Deacon:* Jacob Carson 940-3775– *Pulpit:* Richard Siler 556-2151 – *Table:* Tom Sorenson 638-9447 – *Song Leaders:* Larry May 638-3990– *Recording Sermons:* Tommy Garcia 312-5332 – *Collections:* Tom Sorenson

Sunday AM

“Trusting in God”

(Psalm 37:40)

Sunday PM

“Joseph”

(Genesis 39:2)

Our Records

Bible Class... 59

Morning Worship...90

Evening Worship...58

Wednesday...56

Contribution...\$4,926.00