

The Lord Will Come ... Perhaps Today ... Behold, I Come Quickly ... Rev. 22:7

No. 127

September 2022

Could I Be Happy In Heaven?

Introduction

The question is often pondered, "What is heaven like?" I am going to rephrase the question, "What will it be like to be eternally with Christ in Heaven?" Having attended many funerals I have heard strange things such as, "They are up there playing golf enjoying themselves, they are walking the streets of gold, they are at the public house celebrating a drink, or when you feel the soft breeze that is me letting you know I am here, when you hear my voice in the whispers of the breeze in the forest", etc. Just as a magician uses sleight of hand to redirect ones thinking, so Satan uses slight of mind to prevent an individual from seeing what has really happened. People do not like to consider their own demise or possibly where loved ones are. However, the characteristics of an eternity in heaven is an environment of things we would like and things we would not want.

What will eternity in heaven be like?

Thankfully the Lord has given us a number of anticipatory glimpses into that sphere. There are six passages in the Scriptures that inform its readers of who will not be in that land of eternal bliss, who will be there, and what will not be there. The major passage is Revelation 21:1-8. It begins by informing us that this world will not last forever.

a) Foolishly man proclaims when the earth will be no more, but they are living illustrations of the people the Lord spoke of when He told the parable of the "blind leading the blind" (Lk. 6:39). God will never let man destroy the earth for the simple reason it is not mans to remove but is the prerogative of the Lord. God is true and He says, "And, Thou, Lord, (that is Christ) in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail" (Heb. 1:10-12). Observe the words, "As a vesture <u>Thou</u> shalt fold them up". This brings us to an abrupt stop, "when it be removed?" It is a truth of scripture that at the absolute minimum this world will be in existence for another 1007 years. There is a seven year series of judgment on humanity by God, then a 1000 year reign of the Lord on the earth, and then an undisclosed duration before the end of the world. As I write this in September 2022, the earth will still be here in 3029 no matter what man says. When this world is no longer in existence, then there will be no earthly entertainment being used by Satan to keep the minds of humanity from realistically thinking of eternity.

Things in heaven that all would be happy about

Revelation 21:4 speaks of things that will not be in eternity. How wonderful to live in a sphere where:

a) All tears wiped away.

- b) No more death, sorrow, crying, or pain.
 - i) That is a series of blessedness that every one would want. Free from all medications, free from blood pressure and heart conditions, free from all hospitals and doctor's visits, no more visiting the chiropractor or specialists, no more making funeral arrangements for self or loved ones, no more visits to a funeral home or cemetery, no more tears because of grief, disappointment or repentance, no more respite homes or old age facilities, no dementia or cancer, no more surgeries or procedures. All that is gone forever. I do not know anyone who would not like to live in such a place.

Situations an unsaved person would not want to have:

a) Revelation 4:3-11 makes us aware that life in Heaven would be a very unhappy existence for the unsaved. God says, "the dwelling place of God is among men; He will dwell with men; They shall be His people; God Himself shall be with them, and 'be their God'" (Rev. 21:3). One day the Lord was passing through Jericho and He saw Zacchaeus, and after some talk He told Zacchaeus that He was coming to his house for supper! Imagine the concern if that was any unsaved person or saved person and the Lord arrived at the door as He did with Lot and Abraham. To have a magnificent authority like the Rabbi coming to your house and deciding, "I will dwell with you". Many would be in a dreadful fluster wondering, is the house clean; are there any things on the TV we cannot watch; what of our speech and talk to each other; what of our attitudes? and living in the awareness that every whisper is heard, every movement is observed, every thought as clear as the light at noonday. Furthermore, there are no football or rugby games, no tennis or badminton, no parties with rowdy songs, no drinking or rowdy get togethers, no taking God's name lightly, no light talk about Jesus, no mocking the suffering Saviour, no denying God exists, and no living as if He did not exist. Why would any unsaved want to be there?

Who will not be there?

This is the time when we can check our spiritual barometer for God gives the characteristics of those who will not be in heaven. In other words, as they now live on this earth they can be assured they will not be in God's eternal dwelling place. Eight groups of people are specified:

- a) The fearful:
 - i) This group includes all those who knew the way of salvation but were afraid of what others would say or what it would cost them politically, ecclesiastically, fraternally, and intellectually. Those who were afraid to say that their religious teaching or spiritual background was wrong for they were taught that Heaven could be gained by good works and religious rituals. Those who were afraid to depend on the work of Christ alone for salvation.
- b) The unbelieving:
 - i) What a group this is. Those who deny the evidence for God's existence, do not believe in the fact of the flood or of God's judgment on the sinner, those who refused to believe that which God says about one way to Heaven and depend on the lying lips of men.
- c) The abominable:
 - i) These are those who now have no time for God or His Christ, who as one slogan said, "If Jesus comes back again we will kill Him again" or "I will take hell when it comes". God does not make idle threats but because He is Holy, all His statements are promises of truth.
 - ii) Those to whom God is an inconvenient fact and whose very existence is an annoyance, this does not eradicate the reality that He is. A foolish individual can deny the fact of the Atlantic Ocean or the Himalayan mountains, but this does not change the fact of their existence. Indeed, all it does is to display the foolishness of the one who denies them. The word "abominable" indicates "to stink" and the blasphemers of the world whose life, despite culture and religious garb, their lives rise as a stench before God. They will not be there.
- d) The murderers:
 - i) In the definition from Wikipedia an abortion is the termination of a pregnancy by the removal or expulsion of an embryo or fetus from the uterus, resulting in or caused by its death. The World Health Organization estimates there are world wide 125,000 abortions a day. There are in the USA some 3000 a day. This is not accidental death or vehicular, this is death of a child by being drown in salt water, pulled apart limb from limb being void of any anesthetic. This is barbaric cruelty, done for the sake of money and the sins of the parents. Every one of these, unless for extreme cases an accident etc. where the mother is dying or is dead and the baby is removed from her by surgery. All other cases of which I am aware is murder. Instead of calling it a delusional name, call it for what it is, 125,000 murders a day.
- e) The whore mongers:
 - i) What can be said on this subject? What a morally corrupt world this is and no wonder God will destroy it by it being burnt up. We who are in our 50's and older are stunned by the satanic blindness of people. Today I heard about a "pastor" in the USA who is preaching that "all 'gays' ought to come out" for the

Lord wants them to. Any sane person would ask, "Where is the scripture for such a message of condemnation?" The "pastor" bases it on John when at the grave of Lazarus the Lord said, "Come out". This is the liberating, but in reality spirit binding leaven of today.

- f) All liars:
 - i) We all know that politicians are some of the biggest liars who walk the face of the earth, but they are not alone in this sin. This is a wickedness that is meant to deceive.

Conclusion

I remember a teacher in school called Mr. Harris and one of his repeated statements was, "That is not a threat, it's a promise". God gives warmings and those warnings are promises. Satan is a liar but God is truth therefore, when He says such people will not be in Heaven, that is His solemn truth. The decision is the individual's choice. Eternity can be in the bliss and peace of Heaven or the horrors of the damned for all eternity.

.... Rowan Jennings

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