

THE BEGINNING OF THE END

Session Eleven

February 12, 2020

HOW LARGE IS HEAVEN? AND, WHERE IS IT?

Rev. 21:9-27

Then one of the seven angels who had emptied the flasks containing the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come with me and I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife."

[10] In a vision he took me to a towering mountain peak, and from there I watched that wondrous city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of the skies from God. [11] It was filled with the glory of God and flashed and glowed like a precious gem, crystal clear like jasper. [12] Its walls were broad and high, with twelve gates guarded by twelve angels. And the names of the twelve tribes of Israel were written on the gates. [13] There were three gates on each side--north, south, east, and west. [14] The walls had twelve foundation stones, and on them were written the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

[15] The angel held in his hand a golden measuring stick to measure the city and its gates and walls. [16] When he measured it, he found it was a square as wide as it was long; in fact it was in the form of a cube, for its height was exactly the same as its other dimensions--1,500 miles each way. [17] Then he measured the thickness of the walls and found them to be 216 feet across (the angel called out these measurements to me, using standard units).

[18] The city itself was pure, transparent gold like glass! The wall was made of jasper, [19] and was built on twelve layers of foundation stones inlaid with gems:

The first layer with jasper;

The second with sapphire;

The third with chalcedony;

The fourth with emerald;

[20] The fifth with sardonyx;

1 *The sixth layer with sardus;*
2 *The seventh with chrysolite;*
3 *The eighth with beryl;*
4 *The ninth with topaz;*
5 *The tenth with chrysoprase;*
6 *The eleventh with jacinth;*
7 *The twelfth with amethyst.*

8 *[21] The twelve gates were made of pearls--each gate from a single*
9 *pearl! And the main street was pure, transparent gold, like glass.*

10 *[22] No temple could be seen in the city, for the Lord God Almighty*
11 *and the Lamb are worshiped in it everywhere. [23] And the city has no*
12 *need of sun or moon to light it, for the glory of God and of the Lamb*
13 *illuminate it. [24] Its light will light the nations of the earth, and the*
14 *rulers of the world will come and bring their glory to it. [25] Its gates*
15 *never close; they stay open all day long--and there is no night! [26]*
16 *And the glory and honor of all the nations shall be brought into it. [27]*
17 *Nothing evil will be permitted in it--no one immoral or dishonest--but*
18 *only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.*

19

20 Now if you take the Bible to be literally true (WHICH I DO!), we are
21 speaking of a huge city. Remember: as resurrected saints of God, we are
22 now as eternal as Jesus (who is the prototype):

23

24 1 Cor. 15:20-21

25 *But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of*
26 *them that slept. [21] For since by man came death, by man came also*
27 *the resurrection of the dead. This means that “time and space” become*
28 *beside the point for the resurrected believer. Fantastic truth since*
29 *Heaven is now a “cube” 1500 miles high. There will be millions in*
30 *Heaven and space will not be an issue!*

31

32

33

34

1 IN OUR STUDY TONIGHT,
2 LET'S DEAL WITH THESE QUESTIONS:
3

- 4 • WHERE IS HEAVEN?
- 5 • HOW BIG IS HEAVEN?
- 6 • WHAT WILL WE DO THERE?

- 7

8 **HOW BIG IS HEAVEN?**

9 In the Old Testament the Hebrew word for heaven is *shameh* or
10 *shamayim* which refers to the sky or the lofty arch of the skies. But the
11 word does not necessarily refer to the abode of God or Heaven. God is
12 infinite; therefore our concept of Heaven could not contain Him.
13

14 In terms of time, He has no beginning or ending:

15 Psalm 102:27

16 *But thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end.*
17

18 In terms of His kingdom, His reign has no ending:

19 Luke 1:33

20 *And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his
21 kingdom there shall be no end.*
22

23 In terms of his character, He is unchanging; He will never get better for
24 He is already perfect in all His ways:

25 Hebrews 1:12

26 *And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed:
27 but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail.*
28

29 Of God's creation of the stars, Isaiah wrote:

30 Isaiah 40:26

31 *Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things,
32 that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names
33 by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not
34 one faileth.*

1 The heaven we refer to cannot really be comprehended in size; however,
2 we know something of the “city of God coming down out of heaven.”
3 We know that its form is a cube, 1500 miles in each direction.

4
5 The cubed city coming down from heaven as described in Rev. 21 is
6 2,250,000 miles along. And the heaven that sent it to earth must be
7 infinitely bigger than that. So.... no, Heaven will not be crowded!

8 9 **OF WHAT IS THIS CITY MADE?**

10
11 The foundation is made of:

12 jasper - red, yellow, green or even blue
13 sapphire - typically blue but can be purple or orange
14 chalcedony - various colors
15 emerald - green
16 sardonyx - white or clear
17 chrysolite - or yellowish green
18 beryl - clear or slightly green
19 topaz - can be various colors
20 chrysoptase - apple green or darker
21 jacinth - reddish or deep purple
22 amethyst - usually purple

23
24 Now God Himself is the light from within the city. Try to imagine the
25 light coming from this city coming down from Heaven. It will be
26 truly dazzling.

27
28 The street is pure gold. The 12 city gates are a single pearl. The beauty
29 and worth of this city is beyond all description or earthly value.

30
31 We sing quite often: “Won’t it be wonderful there!”

32
33 I have been in scores of major cities round the world - but nothing
34 known on earth will compare to the glory that awaits us!

1 Romans 8:18

2 *For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to*
3 *be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*

4

5 **WHAT WILL WE DO IN HEAVEN FOREVER AND EVER –**
6 **AND EVER AND EVER AND EVER...?????????**

7

8 If all we will ever do there is float around on clouds and strum a harp
9 and sing gospel songs... isn't it going to be a big bore after about a
10 thousand years? But, there is so much more to it than that!

11

12 1. We will worship God in His actual presence.

13 Rev. 5:13

14 *And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under*
15 *the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I*
16 *saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that*
17 *sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.*

18

19 2. We will feast with God and the saints we have only known from
20 the Word.

21 Isaiah 25:6

22 *And in this mountain shall the Lord of hosts make unto all people a*
23 *feast of fat things, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of*
24 *marrow, of wines on the lees well refined.*

25

26 Matthew 8:11

27 *And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and*
28 *shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of*
29 *heaven.*

30

31 3. Think of the unlimited time we may spend with the saints of the ages.
32 It will be a glorious eternal "blow-out."

33 Rev. 19:9

34 *And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto*

1 *the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the*
2 *true sayings of God.*

3
4 Now we will be “like Him” (our Lord) and the universes will be ours to
5 explore and rule.

6
7 Rev. 21:1-27

8 *And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the*
9 *first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. [2] And I*
10 *John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of*
11 *heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. [3] And I heard*
12 *a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is*
13 *with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people,*
14 *and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. [4] And God*
15 *shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more*
16 *death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain:*
17 *for the former things are passed away. [5] And he that sat upon the*
18 *throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me,*
19 *Write: for these words are true and faithful. [6] And he said unto me, It*
20 *is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give*
21 *unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. [7]*
22 *He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and*
23 *he shall be my son. [8] But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the*
24 *abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and*
25 *idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth*
26 *with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*

27 *[9] And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the*
28 *seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying,*
29 *Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. [10] And he*
30 *carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and*
31 *shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of*
32 *heaven from God, [11] Having the glory of God: and her light was like*
33 *unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;*
34 *[12] And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the*

1 *gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names*
2 *of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: [13] On the east three*
3 *gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the*
4 *west three gates. [14] And the wall of the city had twelve foundations,*
5 *and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.*

6

7 Our eternal surroundings will be truly amazing. The above scriptures
8 provide a dazzling picture of the believer's future home!

9

10 Just to be in God's presence, and our Lord's presence, with the Holy
11 Spirit actually there for all activities, oh that will be glorious indeed!

12

13 The word HEAVEN appears in the New Testament alone 276 times.
14 Paul wrote that he was caught up to the third heaven but was not allowed
15 to clarify much more.

16

17 Scholars agree that the first heaven is also called the sky. The second
18 heaven refers to what we call space where we find the stars, planets and
19 galaxies. The third heaven is where God dwells with the angels.

20

21 And – that's where we're headed.

22