

Our Home in Heaven



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IN HEAVEN

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PART I

Our Home in Heaven . . .

WHAT THE PROPHETS AND APOSTLES
HAVE PORTRAYED

PART I

Our Home in Heaven . . .

WHAT THE PROPHETS AND APOSTLES
HAVE PORTRAYED

1. *Our Going to Be With Jesus*

ISALAH 33

17 Thine eyes shall see the king in his beauty: they shall behold the land that is very far off.

LUKE 23

42 And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.

43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

ACTS 7

55 But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,

56 And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

MATTHEW 18

10 Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.

II CORINTHIANS 5

1 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.

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.

2. *God's Comfort for His Children*

MALACHI 3

16 Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name.

17 And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

REVELATION 7

13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them into living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

3. *The Resurrection of the Body*

JOB 19

25 For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:

26 And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God:

27 Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.

JOHN 11

23 Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again.

24 Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.

25 Jesus saith unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

I CORINTHIANS 15

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

I THESSALONIANS 4

13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

4. *The Heavenly City of God*

JOHN 14

1 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.

HEBREWS 11

10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

16 But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

HEBREWS 13

14 For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.

II PETER 3

13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

REVELATION 21

1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, 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.

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.

5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

11 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.

18 And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass.

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.

23 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.

24 And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.

25 And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.

26 And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.

27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

REVELATION 22

1 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.

3 And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:

4 And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.

5 And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

PART II

Our Home in Heaven . . .

WHAT THE PASTOR HAS PREACHED

PART II

Our Home in Heaven . . .

WHAT THE PASTOR HAS PREACHED

TEXT: Revelation 21:2—*And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven.*

WHAT a delightful, glad, glorious prospect, thus to look upon the beautiful city of God! What a precious revelation is this vision! "And there came unto me one of the angels . . . and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife." And when John looked upon her he saw a city, great and holy, the new Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God. So our eternal home is a city, real and actual. It is called the bride, the Lamb's wife, because of those who inhabit it. The Lamb's wife, the bride, is to live in a golden city whose builder and maker is God. The bride is the church.

When we come to live in that beautiful city of God, we shall see not only these who have been saved in this age and in this dispensation, the bride of the Lamb, but we shall see also those who have been converted and saved from the days of Abel to the last martyr slain by the Antichrist. All of God's redeemed saints will live in that beautiful and holy city.

John saw the city coming from God out of heaven. It is not coming "from" heaven as though the city might be nearby, but it is coming "out of" heaven. When we go to heaven, we enter that beautiful city. That is where we go

when we die. That is where the Marriage Supper of the Lamb is going to be, in heaven. That is where the Wedding Feast is going to be, in heaven. And in God's providence, at the end of these climactic days, out of heaven will descend our incomparable and beautiful home.

Through the years, and now through the centuries, the hands of our dear Saviour have been fashioning what no architect in this life could ever dream of or think of. He is building a city and a home for us in glory. And its size is tremendous. "And the angel measured it and it measured twelve thousand stadia," one thousand, five hundred miles. It is a city as though it began in Maine and extended all the way down to Florida. It is so vast in length, breadth and height that the city of God would cover all of Ireland, all of England and Great Britain, all of France, all of Spain, all of Germany, all of Austria, all of Italy, all of European Turkey and half of Russia. One thousand, five hundred miles one way, one thousand, five hundred miles the other way and one thousand, five hundred miles upward. Built street upon street, story upon story, is the beautiful, golden city of God.

We now go inside of the beautiful city through one of its gates made out of solid pearl. There is a sermon in the fact that the gates are pearl. Heaven is entered through suffering and travail, through redemption and agony, through the blood and the cross. A pearl is a jewel made by a little animal that is wounded. Without the wound the pearl is never formed. We enter heaven through gates of pearl.

"And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it." There is no need for a temple in heaven. The city itself is a sanctuary. God's presence is there. There is no need of veils, curtains, ceremonies, rites, altars, covenants, arks and intermediaries. We shall live in the presence of God and shall worship immediately and directly. Our song shall be "Jehovah Shama," "God is here." There is no need for a temple, for God is

manifest as He was in the Garden of Eden. This is paradise restored and regained. We shall see our Lord face to face.

"And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon . . . for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof." The glory of God is His garments. It is the iridescence, it is the incomparable effusion of color and light that stream from His Person.

When Moses came down from the mountainside, his face shone. He had been with God.

On the Mount of Transfiguration the face of our Lord became bright above the glory of the sun.

Paul on the road to Damascus saw the light of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

There is an inherent beauty and glory in the city because Jesus is there and the Lamb is the light thereof. All light and glory and hope and blessing stream from His blessed face. From the beginning in Genesis to the last benediction in the Revelation, it is Jesus as He was then, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

John now describes a remarkable parallel between what he sees in the paradise of God and what is described in the first and second chapters of the Book of Genesis. "And he shewed me a pure river of the water of life, clear as crystal. . . . In the midst of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits."

In heaven are the water of life and manna of God. In Eden there was a beautiful river with four branches which watered the garden. Here again is the life-giving river. As the Psalmist said, "There is a river, the streams whereof make glad the city of God." There is nothing so refreshing as cool, clear water. And by the side of the stream flowing in the midst of the streets of the city is the Tree of Life. The Tree of Life taken from us in the Garden of Eden is restored to us here in heaven.

John continues, "The throne of God and of the Lamb

shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him." How many times do you hear people say, "I cannot imagine heaven being interesting; we are just to sit and sit and do nothing." There is no intimation of heaven being such a thing as that. In the Garden of Eden God said He needed someone to till the ground. When He made the man, He placed him in the Garden that he might dress it and keep it. He was to have dominion over things above and things around and things below.

There was a tremendous assignment and responsibility for the first man in the Garden of Eden. There is every indication that heaven follows the same pattern. For example, in the parable of the pounds, when the Lord blessed the man who had gained ten pounds, He said, "You shall have authority over ten cities." To the man who had made five pounds He said, "You shall have authority over five cities." There is vast administration in the future kingdom of God. Nations are mentioned. Governments, responsibilities are described. We shall all work together in that incomparable civilization, and each man will have his place according to his faithfulness in this world. "His servants shall serve Him."

Now John speaks of the most climactic and meaningful blessing of all, "And they shall see his face and his name shall be in their foreheads." This is what it is to be in heaven, namely, to look upon the face of God, our Lord, and to be with Him and one another forever. Incidentally, there are gates of pearl; incidentally, there are streets of gold; incidentally, there is a wall of jasper. But most important, we have our Lord and one another. I can hear the Lord as He asks, "On what street would you like to live and what mansion would you like to call your home?" And I can hear a true saint reply, "Dear Lord, any street, any mansion, just so the windows open on the palace of the great King that I may see Him come and go."

Does it strike a chord in your heart? "Any street, Lord;

any house, Lord, just so I may see Thy blessed and precious face and that we may be together in heaven." Blind Fanny Crosby wrote a song like that in our hymn book. She entitled it, "My Saviour First of All."

*When my life work is ended, and I cross the swelling tide,
When the bright and glorious morning I shall see;
I shall know my Redeemer when I reach the other side,
And His smile will be the first to welcome me.*

*Through the gates to the city in a robe of spotless white,
He will lead me where no tears shall ever fall;
In the glad song of ages I shall mingle with delight;
But I long to meet my Saviour first of all.*

"And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. . . . and they shall reign for ever and ever." Amen. This is our home in heaven.

PART III

Our Home in Heaven . . .

WHAT THE POETS HAVE PROCLAIMED

PART III

Our Home in Heaven . . .

WHAT THE POETS HAVE PROCLAIMED

The Father's House

JOHN 14:1 — *In my Father's house are many mansions.*

No, not cold beneath the grasses,
Nor close-walled within the tomb;
Rather, in our Father's mansion,
Living in another room.

Living like the one who loves me,
Like my child with cheek abloom,
Out of sight, at desk or school-book,
Busy in another room.

Nearer is my love, whom fortune
Beckons where the strange lands loom;
Just behind the hanging curtains,
Serving in another room.

Shall I doubt my Father's mercy?
Shall I think of death as doom?
Or the stepping o'er the threshold
To a bigger, brighter room?

Shall I blame my Father's wisdom?
Shall I sit enswathed in gloom?
When I know my loves are happy,
Waiting in another room.

— ROBERT FREEMAN

Someday, We Shall Understand

JOHN 13:7 — *Jesus answered and said, What I do thou knowest not now, but thou shalt know hereafter.*

I CORINTHIANS 13:12 — *For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face; now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.*

Not now, but in the coming years,
It may be in the better land,
We'll read the meaning of our tears,
And there, someday, we'll understand.

We'll catch the broken threads again
And finish what here we began;
Heaven shall the mysteries explain,
And then, ah then, we'll understand.

God knows the way, He holds the key.
He guides us with unerring hand;
Sometime, with tearless eyes, we'll see;
Yes there, up there, we'll understand.

Then trust in God through all thy days .
Fear not, for He doth hold thy hand.
Though dark the way, still sing and pray;
Sometime, someday, we'll understand.

— EL NATHAN

The Loom of Time

ACTS 9:16 — *For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.*

Man's life is laid in the loom of time
To a pattern he does not see,
While the weavers work and the shuttles fly
Till the dawn of eternity.

Some shuttles are filled with silver threads
And some with threads of gold,
While often but the darker hues
Are all that they may hold.

But the weaver watches with skillful eye
Each shuttle fly to and fro,
And sees the pattern so deftly wrought
As the loom moves sure and slow.

God surely planned the pattern.
Each thread, the dark and fair,
Is chosen by His master skill
And placed in the web with care.

He only knows its beauty,
And guides the shuttles which hold
The threads so unattractive,
As well as the threads of gold.

Not till each loom is silent,
And the shuttles cease to fly,
Shall God reveal the pattern
And explain the reason why.

The dark threads were as needful
In the weaver's skillful hand
As the threads of gold and silver
For the pattern which He planned.

The Children Up in Heaven

MATTHEW 19:14 — *But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.*

“Oh, what do you think the angels say?”

Said the children up in heaven;

“There’s a dear little girl coming home today,

She’s almost ready to fly away

From the earth where we used to live.

Let’s go and open the gates of pearl,

Open them wide for a new little girl,”

Said the children up in heaven.

“God wanted her here where His little ones meet,”

Said the children up in heaven;

“She will play with us in the golden street:

She has grown too fair, she has grown too sweet,

For the earth where we used to live.

She needed the sunshine, this dear little girl,

That gilds this side of the gates of pearl,”

Said the children up in heaven.

“Fly with her quickly, O angels dear,”

Said the children up in heaven.

“See — she is coming. Look there

At the jasper light in her sunny hair.”

Ah, hush, hush! All the swift wings furl!

For the King Himself, at the gates of pearl,

Is taking her hand, my sweet little girl,

And is leading her into heaven.

— EDITH GILLING CHERRY

Afraid?

PHILIPPIANS 1:21, 23 — *For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. . . . having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better . . .*

To feel the spirit’s glad release?
To pass from pain to perfect peace,
The strife and strain of life to cease?
Afraid — of that?

Afraid to see the Saviour’s face,
To hear His welcome and to trace
The glory gleam from wounds of grace?
Afraid? Of what?

A flash, a crash, a pierced heart,
Darkness, light, O heaven’s art!
A wound of His a counterpart!
Afraid? Of that?

To do by death what life could not,
Baptize with blood a stony plot,
Till souls shall blossom from the spot —
Afraid — of THAT?

(This poem was written by C. H. Hamilton, a missionary in Kiangsu, after the martyrdom of missionary J. W. Vinson in China; and it was the favorite poem of the martyrs John and Betty Stam.)

Peace

LUKE 22:42 — *Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me; nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.*

With eager heart and will and fire
I fought to win my great desire;
"Peace shall be mine," I said, but life
Grew bitter in the endless strife.

My soul was weary, and my pride
Was wounded deep; to heaven I cried,
"God grant me peace or I must die!"
The dumb stars glittered no reply.

Broken at last I bowed my head,
Forgetting all myself, and said,
"Whatever comes, His will be done."
And in that moment peace was won.

— HENRY VAN DYKE

The Christian's Good-night

JOHN 11:11 — *Our friend Lazarus sleepeth, but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep.*

ACTS 7:60 — *And when he had said this, he fell asleep.*

Sleep on, beloved, sleep, and take thy rest;
Lay down thy head upon thy Saviour's breast;
We love thee well, but Jesus loves thee best —
Good-night!

Calm is thy slumber as an infant's sleep;
But thou shalt take no more to toil and weep;
Thine is a perfect rest secure and deep —
Good-night!

Until the shadows of this earth are cast;
Until He gathers in His sheaves at last;
Until the twilight gloom be overpast —
Good-night!

Until the Easter glory lights the skies;
Until the dead in Jesus shall arise;
And He shall come, but not in lowly guise —
Good-night!

Until, made beautiful by Love Divine,
Thou, in the likeness of thy Lord shall shine,
And He shall bring that golden crown of thine —
Good-night!

Only "Good-night," beloved, not "Farewell";
A little while and all His saints shall dwell
In hallowed union indivisible —
Good-night!

Until we meet again before His throne,
Clothed in the spotless robe He gives His own,
Until we know even as we are known —
Good-night!

— SARAH DOUDNEY

(This hymn was sung by Ira D. Sankey at the funeral service of Charles Haddon Spurgeon.)