

A Study on Heaven

TEXT: John 14:1-3 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. ²In 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. ³And 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.

Rev. 21:1-7 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. ²And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And 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. ⁴And 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. ⁵And 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. ⁶And 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. ⁷He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

Introduction: What Heaven Means to the Christian --- written by Dennis Tutor, April 1997, "*What heaven means to a Christian is not easy to pen down in words. When Christians think of heaven, great joy and emotion swells within our hearts. The many scenes of heaven that we perceive in our mind lifts us far beyond the normal realm of the life we live. In fact, our minds are never far from its border.*

Many who don't possess this hope, think us foolish to daydream of such places. They count our daily visits into the reaches of heavenly meadows liken unto a schoolboy's daydream on a bright spring morning while the real-world studies their history lesson. To them, the Christian is foolishly wasting their days waiting for something that they believe doesn't exist or if it does exist, they imagine it to be dull and boring-- a place full of angels floating around on clouds, living out eternity playing on harps and spending untold hours of misery listening to sleepy, dry sermons...

But to the Christian, nothing could be further from the truth. Heaven is so much more. Its beauty shines far beyond the scope of human imagination. Its splendor is far more than we could ever contain in the limits of our mind. Heaven is a real place. It is far more concrete and real than the world's foundation upon which we walk. A place reserved especially for the Christian. No other people need knock at its gate..."

1) First, let's look at the size of heaven:

Have you ever thought about how big heaven will be? Will there be enough room for everyone?

Revelation 21:16 *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.*

12,000 furlongs (one furlong is equal to 1/8 of a mile) (12,000 / 8 = 1500 miles) 1500 miles x 1500 miles = 2,250,000 square miles

****2,250,000 Total Square Miles – How Big is that?**

The New Jerusalem (heaven) will be larger than: Idaho, or Utah, or Minnesota, or Michigan, or Wyoming, or Oregon, or Colorado, or Nevada, or Arizona, or New Mexico, or Montana, or California, or Texas, or even Alaska--- in fact, it is larger than all of the 14 states listed above - combined!

In square miles The New Jerusalem (heaven) is:

- 3.38 times larger than Alaska (reference: Wikipedia)
- 8.38 times larger than Texas (reference: Wikipedia)
- 53.39 times larger than Tennessee (reference: Wikipedia)

2) How crowded will heaven be? Will it be like a gigantic city or will it be sub-divided into one acre plots for mansions? Nobody knows how it will be laid out? All is speculation but, since we have the total area, we can perform calculations that will show us the maximum capacity of people that can live in heaven.

Example 1 – *if heaven is subdivided into one acre plots for each mansion, it would contain: 1.44 billion mansions*

Example 2 – *if heaven is built like a gigantic city, we can calculate the maximum amount of people it could hold based upon the square miles divided by the population density of a U.S. city. Some examples are as follows:*

- **City 1** – *The Population/ Density of Harlingen, TX* is 74,924 people living in 40.3 square mile or 1,859 people per square mile -- using this density measurement: the New Jerusalem would hold 4.2 billion people (calculation =2,250,000 miles x 1,858 people per mi²)
- **City 2** – *The Population/Density of Houston, TX* is 2,313,717 people living in 627 square miles or 3,690 people per square mile -- using this density measurement: the New Jerusalem would hold 8.3 billion people (note: there are currently 7.53 billion people on earth today)
- **City 3** – *The Population/Density of New York City* is 8,175,133 people living in 302.6 square miles or 27,016 people per square mile -- using this density measurement: the New Jerusalem would hold 60.79 billion people (note: this is over 8 times the world's current population)

Example 3 – *if heaven is built like a gigantic city with multi-story high-rise mansion condominiums: the number of people it could contain would be trillions and trillion of people.*

*****BUT, THERE'S ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SHOWN IN REVELATION 21:16 ABOUT HEAVEN'S SIZE: IT IS ALSO 1500 MILES HIGH** – *this could be interpreted to mean that HEAVEN HAS MORE THAN ONE LEVEL:*

Please note heaven's population capacity calculated with some different LEVEL scenarios:

- **Calculation 1** – Seven miles between each level of heaven (1500 miles high / 7 miles = 214 levels of heaven)
(note: seven miles is the average height of earth's Troposphere where all weather occurs & contains 99% of earth's water vapor)

If there are seven miles between each level and 214 levels:

- based upon the Harlingen, TX density of 4.2 billion people per level (see above) x 214 levels
heaven's capacity would be - **899 billion total people or 119 times the current world's population**
- based upon the New York City density of 60.79 billion people per level x 214 levels
heaven's capacity would be - **13 trillion total people or 1,728 times the current world's population**

- **Calculation 2** - One-mile between each level of heaven (1500 miles high / 1 mile = 1500 levels of heaven)

If there are one mile between each level of heaven and 1500 levels:

- based upon the Harlingen, TX density of 4.2 billion people per level (see above) x 214 levels
heaven's capacity would be - **6.3 trillion total people or 837 times the current world's population**
- based upon the New York City density of 60.79 billion people per level (see above) x 214 levels
heaven's capacity would be - **91.19 trillion people or 12,110 times the current world's population**

*****Also, please note, there will be a new earth created by God to go along with the new heaven –**

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.*

How big the **new earth** will be is unknown and cannot be estimated! Please note, God made Jupiter which is 1,000 times bigger in volume than the earth! God can make the new earth many times bigger than Jupiter??

Although we don't know the way heaven is structured or its population density, we can see from our calculations: THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF ROOM IN HEAVEN FOR ANYONE WHO WANTS TO COME!

3) Let's compare Heaven's Joy to Earth's Sorrow—Rev 21:6 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. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new.

Heaven will be absent of— sorrow, death, tears, crying, pain--**Also absent of:** hospitals, police stations, funeral homes, graveyards, nightclubs, liquor stores, prisons, military bases, drug stores, court houses, etc.

Revelation 22:1-5 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. 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. 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: And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. 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.

Heaven will have things earth does not have—a river of life, a tree of life (eternal life), healing fruit, no curse (no sweating, no weeds, all woman's rights restored, no death), angels for neighbors, God dwelling with us.

4) Let's Look at God Dwelling with Us... John 14:3 ...where I am, there ye may be also.

Rev. 22: 3-4...but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.

Psalms 16:11 "... in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."

God's love will vibrate throughout heaven as soothing waves of peace (similar to the sound of peaceful music playing on a radio)

5) Let's look at God's kingdom beyond HEAVEN and beyond the NEW EARTH:

Isaiah 66:33-34 Thus saith the LORD, heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool

Matthew 5:34-35 But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne: Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King.

Acts 7:49 Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest?

The New Heaven and the New Earth will not be all of God's creation. There is an unknown universe that stretches far beyond heaven and earth. According to scientist, it is vast and of a boundaryless size??

The Current Earth and the Solar System

Scaling factors: (Reference the Institute of Physics) -- if the distance between the Earth and the Sun is scaled to one inch, then one light year is equal to one mile [this is a remarkably good scale, correct to better than 1%!]. Therefore:

- If the distance between the Sun and the Earth is one inch, the nearest star is over 4 miles away
- If the distance between the Sun and the Earth is one inch, the distance to the center of our Galaxy is 25000 miles (once round the Earth)
- If the distance between the Sun and the Earth is one inch, the nearest large galaxy is two million miles away (8 times the distance to the Moon)

"If your teacher drives at 70 mph down the Solar System motorway, it will take him/her:

- Nearly 5 months to reach the Moon
- 150 years to reach the Sun
- About 4500 years to reach Neptune
- 40 million years to reach the nearest star

6) In Closing - The Believer's Promise

Revelation 21: 7 **He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.**

My favorite verse of scripture in the entire bible. Not because of the part that says "(the overcomer) shall inherit all things", but the last part that says, "(the overcomer) shall be a son of God and God will be his Father/God (implied and promised).

Do you wish to be an overcomer and inherit a glorious future with God? You must, first, become a Believer and be "Born Again"!

John 3: 3-10 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit. Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be? Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?

Revelation 21: 25-27 And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it. And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Revelation 22: 16 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.