

Revelation
A Wednesday Night Bible Study

Lesson #96

8/27/2008

The Eternal Heaven: Part 6

**“Some Blessings For Those Who Go To God’s Heaven and a
List of Those Not Allowed Into God’s Heaven”**

Revelation 21:6b-8

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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.**

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

Revelation 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

The previous statements have laid a foundation for what is before us in this lesson. As we proceed it is helpful if we remember some observations which we have already made.

First, this creation, with all that we have known here, is now gone (21:1).

Second, we have little or no ability to comprehend reality beyond this created temporal-material-spatial world.

Eternity is an entirely new and different dimension of life and being. To enable us to have some comprehension of it God “paints word pictures” using things with which we are familiar. What we read is real but its realism goes beyond what we now know. It is also symbolic because it represents realities which we cannot otherwise comprehend. To enable us to have any comprehension at all of eternal realities God relates them to things we can know in this life.

Third, the intimate personal relationship with our Lord we shall have in God’s eternal heaven is not only more important than anything God provides for us, but it is also the basis of all that He provides. It all flows out of Him and to us because of the relationship we have with Him which begins in this life and continues into eternity.

Keeping these points in mind we continue with our study of what God is telling us about His eternal heaven. In verses five and six He emphasized that He **“makes all things new,”** that **“it is done”** and that He is **“Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.”** Now God introduces the subject of our **“thirst”** and His eternally satisfying **“water of life.”**

Before us is another place where God uses earthly terminology to help us have some understanding of heaven even though we know that all things pertaining to this earthly world and life, as we know it, have now passed away and don’t exist in the eternal heaven.

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Our Lord says: **“I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.”** When God speaks of **“thirst”** we think of our earthly bodies, but we know that our resurrected, eternal heavenly body is **“new”** and different from this earthly body. Our earthly bodies are constituted of **“flesh and blood”** and, being about ninety-percent water, are critically dependent upon water. However, God tells us that **“flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God”** (are not eternal and cannot enter heaven) because **“corruption does not inherit incorruption”** (1 Corinthians 15:50). Therefore, God tells us that **“we shall all be changed”** (1 Corinthians 15:51).

Considering the resurrected body of our Lord as presented in passages such as Luke 24:13-43 and John 20:11-29 helps us to better grasp what God is telling us about our resurrected heavenly bodies. Jesus could eat or drink when He wished to do so, but He didn’t have to do so. His body wasn’t dependent upon food and drink. He didn’t NEED these earthly things. In His resurrected body He could walk through solid objects such as walls and seemingly transport Himself from one place to another by simply passing through the air. Yet, though His resurrected body was not subject to or limited by the physical laws of this earth that govern the movements of our bodies, such as gravity and the law of physics that says only one solid object can occupy a particular space at a time, His body could be touched or handled like ours when He so desired. Even as the resurrected body of Jesus was not affected or limited by this time-material-space world, neither will ours be. Therefore, when we read about earthly needs of the body such as **“thirst”** we realize that God is using terms with which we are familiar to tell us about something much greater, something of an entirely different dimension of reality.

This is likely the situation when God uses the Greek word **dipsao** (1372) which is here translated **“thirst.”** It has the root meaning of **“longing for,”** or **“desire.”** It is quite likely that God is telling us that all of our desires or longings are going to be totally and completely fulfilled in heaven by **“the living water”** that flows from Him, **“that proceeds out of the throne of God and of the Lamb”** (Revelation 22:1).

While David the Psalmist was greatly blessed of God and many, if not all of his desires were fulfilled, it may be that he had his eye upon what God was going to give him in heaven when he wrote the following:

“Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall

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*bring it to pass” (Psalm 37:3-5). **“He will fulfill the desire of them that fear him: he also will hear their cry, and will save them”** (Psalm 145:19).*

Surely this must have been what God meant when He said of Abraham, and his family:

“These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city” (Hebrews 11:13-16).

While we are here in this life, we constantly struggle to conform our lives in the very image of our Lord in every aspect, including that which we desire. Surely, like Paul (Philippians 3:12), none of us can say we have arrived, but by the time we enter the Lord’s presence in heaven, all of our desires will be as His are. Here, we are admonished to **“...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure”** (Philippians 2:12-13). It is also true that **“...now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is”** (1 John 3:2). God can promise us that, in heaven, all of our desires will be fulfilled by Him because they will be the same as His desires.

This harmonizes with God’s next statement: **“He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.”**

The **“overcomers”** are those who have truly been born **“from above”** (John 3:3), at that time receiving God’s eternal life, and thereby have **“received Him”** (John 1:12), Jesus, into their lives as their Lord, Master, King and Savior. 1 John 5:4 tells us **“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.”** The **“overcomer”** is a person who began a new life and became **“a new creature in Christ Jesus”** (2 Corinthians 5:17). It is not possible for such a one to lose his salvation or relationship with Jesus Christ because no one can be unborn. Salvation is not so much something that a person gets as it is what a person becomes. It is **not “once and done,”** but **“once begun, forever continuing and never undone”** be-

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cause it is God Who does the saving, the making of a person into a new creature who can never ever revert to what he was before. He will be an **“overcomer”** because it is Christ Jesus Who is living His victorious life in that person.

Since Jesus was appointed **“heir of all things”** (Hebrews 1:2), when a person allows Jesus Christ into his life as his Lord, then God calls that person His child and so it is **“...if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ...”** (Romans 8:17). It is **“...an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you. Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time”** (1 Peter 1:4-5). In heaven waits the believer’s inheritance.

It is important to note the juxtaposition of this statement, emphasizing the continuity of saving faith, with the one following which lists those who will not be allowed into heaven: **“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”**

God lists eight categories of people not allowed into heaven:

1. **“The fearful”** (1169) These are those who are afraid, for whatever reason to publicly profess Christ as Lord (Matthew 10:32-33).
2. **“Unbelieving”** (571) These stand in stark contrast to the “overcomers” who are saved because of their faith in Christ (John 3:18).
3. **“Abominable”** (948) These are those whose lives reflect the perversion and evil of Satan.
4. **“Murderers”** (5406) These, who take the life of another, including aborting the unborn, forfeit their own lives in punishment for such abominable behavior and are excluded from entering heaven.
5. **“Whoremongers”** (4205) This word describes those who engage in illicit sexual behavior, including homosexuality.
6. **“Sorcerers”** (5332) These use “spells” and “magic” in their worship of idols and demons.
7. **“Idolaters”** (1496) These worship idols instead of the living God.
8. **“All liars”** (5571) These repeat Satan’s primary characteristic of lying and deceit every time they tell a falsehood of any kind (John 8:44).

The great tragedy is simply this: Each of these could have been cleansed from their sin by the blood of Jesus and thereby qualified for entrance into God’s heaven (1 Corinthians 6:9-11), but they would not and are damned!