

HEAVEN - - AND WHAT IT IS !

Heaven has been described as (1) the Throne of God. Isaiah 66:1 says, "Thus saith the Lord, The Heaven is my throne and the earth is my footstool." Heaven is called (2) the Father's House. John 14:2: "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." Heaven is called (3) the Holy Place. Isaiah 57:15: "For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place." Heaven is called (4) a Holy Habitation. Deuteronomy 26:15: "Look down from thy holy habitation, from heaven." Heaven is called (5) a Heavenly Country in Hebrews 11:16: "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." Heaven is called (6) a City in Hebrews 11:10: "For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God." Heaven is called (7) Paradise in II Corinthians 12:4: "How that he was caught up into Paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter." Heaven is called (8) Home in Psalm 23:6: "And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

1. HEAVEN IS A PHYSICAL PLACE

The elements of metal and precious stones are there. Rev. 21:18: "And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass." (Verse 17:) "And he measured the wall thereof, and hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel." (Verse 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 was transparent glass."

The description of this city defies the imagination of the mind of man. It is impossible for us to comprehend the beauty of such a city. The foundation and the wall of the city are of precious stones: jasper, sapphire, chalcedony, emerald, sardonyx, sardius. Immediately someone will ask, "Can we accept the teaching of this Book to mean that this is a literal city?" My answer is: "What reason do we have for not believing that it is a literal city?" The many scriptures I've given you describe it as a physical place.

The Holy Word of God is very careful when a message is given by parable or any other manner of teaching to emphasize whether we are to accept it figuratively or literally. Therefore, we have no reason to believe that these are figments of the imagination of some lame brain. I do not believe any man has the right to say that these precious messages mean anything but God's description of a literal place created for saved men just as the earth was created for Adam and his posterity.

In Rev. 21:25 we read, "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 honor of the nations into it." In other words, they will pay tribute and honor to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords who reigns in that beautiful city.

1. Elements of Food and Water are There

Rev. 22:1-2 says, "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."