

- Heaven - No more Satan but more and more good angels
- Heaven - No more Sanctuary but the whole of life infused with God's presence.
- Heaven -

There is a beauty about the Bride / The church of Jesus...look at v11 and following verses ***It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel...***

The colours of heaven are emphasised with amazing crown jewels. The radiance of God's glory is reflected through these precious gems. Heaven is not a bland or dull place – it is gloriously filled with splendour that fills and overflows from every part.

'We will be forever in the presence of the eternal, holy God. We will have intimate, unbroken fellowship with Christ. We will be joint heirs with Christ. We will rule and reign with Christ. The full riches of heaven will be ours to possess and enjoy...'

All this is gloriously possible – remind yourself of v.6 ***It is done. I am the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End.*** The fulfilment of God's sovereign purposes and plans will come to their fullness.

Alan

HEAVEN HERE I COME

Study 4 : HEAVEN – THE FINAL CHAPTER!

Willesborough Baptist Church small group notes based on the Sunday sermon on 3rd July 2016 Revelation 21

Since we have been looking at the subject of heaven for several weeks now – have you found that you have thought more about heaven?

- In what way have such '*heaven thoughts*' affected you?
- Where do we go to get our information on heaven?

As Sunday was a service of Believers' Baptism – there is the helpful reminder that at Jesus' baptism heaven was opened. The presence of God was powerfully revealed and the presence came from God's home we call heaven.

- There was the **Vision** of the Spirit descending upon Jesus
- There was the **Voice** of the Father affirming his son

Revelation is the last book of the Bible and Revelation 21 is one of the last chapters.

No matter what is happening in the world – we know who ultimately wins. God does.

In the face of all the confusion following the EU Referendum, we have a deeply divided country and a leadership vacuum – it is helpful to find faith assures us of powerful and positive truths...that Jesus is still seated in heaven, the promises of God still stand and the great hope that Jesus is coming back again remains to be our heart cry.

Revelation 21 offers to us the glory of New Heavens and New Earth that will be the home for new resurrection bodies of all God's family.

What is heaven going to be like? Revelation offers some insight but heaven is impossible to fully describe.

C.S.Lewis in his narrative of heaven and hell:**The Great Divorce** –

speaks of how 'heaven is a coming out of the Shadowlands into the perfect, the authentic, the true, where everything is more real.'

The New Heaven will be united to the New Earth – they will be joined together as never before, united under one Lord, reigning and ruling over all. This theme is found in other parts of scripture, not just Revelation

Take a look at what Paul declares in Ephesians 1:10 where he speaks of God's plan '*to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.*'

Isaiah in the OT makes reference to this happening (65:17) '*Behold I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind.*'

Peter in the NT declares (2 Peter 3:13) '*But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.*'

In Rev 21:5 we have the further assurance from '*He who was seated on the throne said "I am making everything new."*'

- Take a few moments to scan through the chapter –and pick out a particular aspect of the image of God. Share some of them together and rejoice in the glory of God and how we are going to be recipients of such grace and goodness

There is the NEW JERUSALEM, the Holy City that described the church of Jesus Christ – ***coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.v.2*** also see v.10.

- How does this image of the Church being the Bride of Christ speak to you personally?

The church is not perfect but by the grace of God, He will make all things new and we will be wonderfully prepared as the bride of Christ.

- How should the Bride (ie the Church) prepare for this wedding day?
Read a further declaration in Revelation 19:6-9

Through Revelation 21 there is a long list of **NO MORE'S** that seeks to describe heaven.

As time allows – why not pick out several and share the impact that the particular 'no more' will have on heaven.

1. No more **Satan**
2. No more **Sanctuary**
3. No more **Shadows**
4. No more **Sin**
5. No more **Sorrow**
6. No more **Suffering**
7. No more **Sea**
8. No more **Sex**
9. No more **Shame**

Alan commented on one writer who suggested reversing the '**no mores**' to make a positive statement of what is going to be in heaven...

Try it for yourself....