

The Doctrine of Heaven: Part 1

(Rev 21:1 – 22:5)

Introduction

This is the first in a three-part series. The brightest and clearest picture the Bible presents of our heavenly home is found in Revelation chapters 21 and 22. There are at least seven wonderful things about our heavenly home found in these two chapters.

- I. **Heaven's Existence (21:1)** It is a literal place, a city. Abraham looked for a city whose builder and maker was God (Heb. 11:10). John 14:2-3 states two times heaven is a “place,” Greek *topos* that also is a city called the New Jerusalem. Its size v. 16 = 12,000 furlongs or *stadia* or 1,500 miles on each side. It is a coming Kingdom in the sense of its arrival on earth, but it also exists now! Stephen saw it Acts 7:56; John saw it in Rev. 21:2 coming *out of heaven*.
- II. **Heaven's Beauty (21:9-21)** Prepared as a bride “adorned” for her husband, v 2, from the Greek *kosmeo* from which we get the English “cosmetics.” is described in detail in Rev. 21:9-21. It is a city of light – the light of the glory of God. It is a secure city with a wall of great beauty made of jasper, or diamond (vv. 12, 18, 21). It has 12 gates, 4 on each side each one made of a single pearl. An angel is stationed at each gate and on each gate is the name of one the 12 tribes of Israel. The foundation of the wall was made of 12 precious stones each engraved with the name of an apostle (v. 14, 19-20). The streets were pure gold as clear glass (vv. 18b & 21b). The city was symmetrical foursquare, 1,500 miles on each side, v. 16
- III. **God's Eternal Home (21:3)** One day our earthly flesh will be transformed to live with Him, Rev. 21:3 says, “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.**” This is John 1:14 in reverse. Everyone will have intimate personal fellowship with God (Jer. 31:31-34). In His presence there will be no more tears, sorrow, crying, or pain for God will wipe away every tear (v. 4; cf. 7:17 & Isa. 25:8).

Lamar E. Cooper, Sr.