

13. FINAL GLORIFICATION AND HEAVEN

REVELATION 20 – 22

INTRODUCTION

- Confused?
- Not bothered? Because...
- Recommended reading
John Murray, *Redemption accomplished and applied*
Edward Donnelly, *Heaven and hell*

1. WHAT IS HEAVEN?

(a) The skies (e.g. Gen. 1)

(b) God's place

God's home (Psalm 33:13-14, Matthew 6:9), where his throne is (Psalm 2:4, Rev 4-5), the place to which the glorified Christ has returned (Acts 1:11). It is identified with God's temple (Ps 11:4, etc).

Heaven is the place from where God hears, blesses and reveals his wrath (2 Chron 7:14, Gen 19:24, Romans 1:18).

Here the real tabernacle/temple is to be found and this is where Christ enters to accomplish his redeeming work (Hebrews 8:5, 9:12-24).

Heaven can be thought of as the home of the angels, the spiritual realm and the spiritual powers (Job 1-2, Luke 2:12, 10:18, Matthew 18:10, Col 1:15-20, Eph 1:10, 6:12, Rev 12:7-13).

"Heaven" is NOT the Christian's future hope

2. HEAVEN IS ALL ABOUT THE GLORY OF JESUS

(a) Heaven is “glory”

Psalm 73:24, Hebrews 2:10

Luke 15:21

(b) Heaven is about Jesus

- **Being with Jesus**

John 14:3, “... that where I am there you may be also.”

John 17:24, ““Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.”

Luke 23:43, Philippians 1:23, 2 Cor. 4:14

Heaven = glory = Jesus

- **We will forever praise Jesus who brings us to glory**

Richard Baxter “Heaven is the fruit of the blood of the Son of God; yea, the chief fruit.” He gets us to glory.”

The “Lamb” – e.g. Rev. 7:10

- **Seeing Christ is the heart of heaven’s blessing**

Job 19:25, Isaiah 33:17, 1 Corinthians 13:12

John 17:24 “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.”

Revelation 22:4, “They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.”

“I want heaven in order to have Christ, not Christ in order to have heaven.”
(Samuel Rutherford, *Christ Dying and Drawing Sinners to Himself*).

3 OUR FINAL GLORIFICATION

(a) Our glorification occurs with the coming of Christ in glory

Titus 2:13, "while we wait for the blessed hope-- the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ"

1 Peter 4:13, "But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed."

(b) Our glorification occurs with the resurrection of the body

The blessedness of death (2 Cor 5:8, Heb 12:23, Phil 1:23)

Romans 8:23, "Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies."

1 Corinthians 15:51-54

(c) Our glorification is connected to the renewal of creation

Romans 8:20-23

(d) God will make us like his glorious Son

Philippians 3:21, "... who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body."

Romans 8:29, "For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers."

1 John 3:2 "Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is."

[Also 1 Thess 4:16-17, 2 Peter 3:12, Revelation 21:27, Revelation 22:3-4]

We will be "freed from a delight in sin and immoveably fixed in a delight in not sinning... There we shall rest and see; we shall see and we shall love; we shall love and we shall praise. Behold what will be, in the end, without end!" (Augustine, *City of God*, XXII.30).

CONCLUSION: THE POINT?

- Correct wrong thinking
- Warn unbelievers
- Woo unbelievers
- Let heaven move us to serve... be holy... experience hope and comfort

A HYMN

When trials come no longer fear

For in the pain our God draws near
To fire a faith worth more than gold
And there His faithfulness is told
And there His faithfulness is told

Within the night I know Your peace
The breath of God brings strength to me
And new each morning mercy flows
As treasures of the darkness grow
As treasures of the darkness grow

I turn to Wisdom not my own
For every battle You have known
My confidence will rest in You
Your love endures Your ways are good
Your love endures Your ways are good

When I am weary with the cost
I see the triumph of the cross
So in it's shadow I shall run
Till You complete the work begun
Till You complete the work begun

One day all things will be made new
I'll see the hope You called me to
And in your kingdom paved with gold
I'll praise your faithfulness of old
I'll praise your faithfulness of old

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HYMN

- Think over and pray about some of the Bible passages we've looked at today.
- Over the next two weeks we're going to think about assurance. For next time please read 2 Peter 1:1-15.