

## OUR HOPE OF HEAVEN

JULY 25, 2021

## WORSHIP

All the Earth will Sing  
Your Praises, 'Til I See  
You, One Day (When  
We All Get to Heaven)

## WELCOME

Which place have  
you been to that feels  
heavenly to you?  
What makes the  
place heavenly?

## WORD

## REVELATION 21:1-4

<sup>1</sup> Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among the people, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, <sup>4</sup> and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."

**(READ REVELATION 21  
AHEAD OF TIME)**

The beloved apostle John was given a vision of the future. He then wrote a letter to the churches under extreme persecution, telling them to be aware and ready because Jesus is coming!

Many Christians who have studied the Bible agree that there are several key events that will take place as part of His end game: the Rapture, Tribulation, Battle of Armageddon, Second Coming of Christ, the Millennial Reign, Great White Throne Judgment, and the best yet to come—our hope of Heaven!

Heaven is beyond our imagination and has so much in store for us. Yet, many of us is attached to this earth and can't seem to let go (1 John 2:15). Here are three truths we need to understand for us to be excited and inspired to look forward to our heavenly home:

**1. GOD CREATES (Revelation 21:1-2)**

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth (**Genesis 1:1**). He took chaos, unformed mass, and created cosmos, the ordered system that we all enjoy today.

John described his vision (**Revelation 21:1**) by saying that the heaven and earth will pass away just like Jesus said (**Luke 21:33**). The heavens will pass away with a great noise and the elements of this physical universe will melt with fervent heat (**2 Peter 3:10**). The world will come to an end. God told Isaiah that He will create a new heaven and a new earth (Isaiah 65:17). God doesn't want any remnant of the past, sinful world to remain.

The new heaven and earth is a holy city (**Revelation 21:2**). It is new of a different kind—not just chronologically new but qualitatively new. God creates and designs a completely new place especially for you and me.

John used the most striking and most beautiful image a man will ever see---his bride coming down the aisle ready to meet him. This is how beautiful the new Jerusalem will be. This holy city, rather than being built on earth, comes out of heaven (**Revelation 21:10,15-16**). The city is indescribably beautiful (**Revelation 21, 22**)! This tells us about the creativity and artistic heart of God. He builds a beautiful city specially designed for us to dwell in. Heaven is real; not a state of mind or a dream. These words written to us are so limited for us to truly imagine what heaven will look like. It will be beyond anything we've ever imagined (**1 Corinthians 2:9**).

Application: (**Colossians 3:2**).

**2. GOD COMFORTS (Revelation 21:3-5)**

Heaven is God's presence! God is with us (**Revelation 21:3**). God will dwell among us there; no separation. This is how it was meant to be from the very beginning in Eden when God created Adam and Eve.

**Revelation 21:22** says there will be no temple because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. This holy city doesn't

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need the sun because the light will be the glory of God forever (**v.23**). We will forever bask in His light! Even time will cease to exist. We will have a glorified body just like Jesus (**1 Corinthians 15:42**). Relationships among God's people will be perfect because of how we'll treat each other in Christlikeness. We will joyfully worship the Lord and serve Him having responsibilities based on our giftedness and talents. Our work in heaven will be refreshing, creative, productive, and unhindered by sin. To be in His presence will be the very opposite of boredom. We will not run out of things to do; joy will never grow tiresome (**Psalms 16:11**).

The God who creates is also the God who comforts (**Revelation 21:4**). We are home. No more mourning, no more crying, no more sadness, grief, worry, or fear. Sickness, disease, ailments, and aches will be forever gone. We will have perfect bodies!

God reigns on the throne with all power, majesty (**Revelation 21:5**), and assures us by saying "I am making all things new." Our God will turn our lives completely around from how it was on earth. His words are faithful and true. We are to hold on to this promise.

Application: **Romans 8:18**

### 3. GOD CALLS (Revelation 21:6-8)

**Revelation 21:6** says "it is done". The task of creating a new heaven and bringing comfort to His children is as good as completed. God declares it with His unique, supreme, position of authority because He is the Alpha and the Omega—the beginning and the end. There is no one like Him. He calls and invites all those reading this letter. He has a free gift to all who thirst.

Jesus perfectly illustrates this with a woman whom He met at the well (**John 4:13-14**). He used the water that she drew as a metaphor of life's unsatisfying endeavors: materialism, relationships, success, popularity, even religion. Nothing will satisfy your thirst except Jesus. That promise of Jesus is fulfilled entirely and completely as soon as you give your life to Christ. You will be filled with abundance and satisfied forever.

God wants everyone to go to heaven. He loved you so much that he gave His one and only Son as a sacrifice to pay for your sin (**John 1:29**). Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, everyone has a choice to repent of their sin and receive Jesus' forgiveness and eternal life. God is longing for all of us to come to Him humbly in repentance. He wants to be our Father and our God (**Revelation 21:7**).

Sadly, not all will be in heaven (**Revelation 21:8**). Sin has cursed and ultimately destroyed this earth, and it will not be allowed into His holy city. Their part will be in the lake of fire and brimstone—the second death. It is certainly a place where no one wants to be in forever. It's a real place of judgment against all of those who chose to reject God and live for themselves. God's call of salvation, and the hope of heaven, is for everyone. How will you respond?

Application: **1 Corinthians 6:11**

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

### 1. Self-Check.

What do you look forward to the most in Revelation 21:4 — God's comfort in heaven? Why?

### 2. Setting It Right

What must you do to set your mind on heaven rather than on this earth?

### 3. Living It Out

How does God want to use you to call those who are living in the dark?

## WORKS

### PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for repentance from sin and longing to be in a personal relationship with God among your unsaved loved ones. Bring a taste of heaven to someone through your words and actions. Share the message that Jesus Christ is the only way to heaven.

## WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

### I. Thanksgiving

Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

### II. Country and the World

Upright and moral governance of Public Servants  
A God-centered Philippines  
Repentance and Salvation

### III. Church

That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples  
Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families  
Ministries and Churches worldwide

### IV. CCF Facilities

Worship and Training Center  
Prayer Mountain

### V. Personal Concerns

Deeper intimate relationship with God  
Righteous living  
Salvation of family and friends



The one who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.

### Revelation 21:7