

"Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the Man of heaven." (1 Cor 15:49)

I. A New Relationship With God

- a. Sometimes we are up and sometimes we are down. Sometimes we do not *feel* that God is near. This is an earthly reality but will not be a heavenly reality.
- b. In Heaven, God will be an ever-present reality. No more doubt or guessing, you will know His will 100% of the time. You will never misunderstand God's desire or His personal purpose for you.
- c. You will never doubt whether God is speaking to you. His voice will always be clear.
- d. Sin and brokenness will be a thing in your past.
- e. There will be personal and unimpeded access to God everywhere, not just in some designated holy place.
- f. You will be complete, never wanting to be someone else.

II. The Holy City of God (vv.9-22)

- a. *...the name of the city from that time on shall be, The Lord is There* (Ezekiel 48:35).
- b. God's permanent presence guarantees the security and peace for His people (Zech 2:2-5).
- c. *Foursquare* means equal on all sides or a perfect cube (meaning perfection).
- d. The city will be approximately 1,400 - 1,500 miles high, long and wide. The city would be 2/3rds the size of the United States. Imagine a 740,000-story building.
- e. If you are 1 mile away from the city you would not see the top, but you might if you are 10 miles away. At 5,000 miles away, the city would appear more than 130 times larger than the Moon.
- f. The layered foundation: **Jasper** (multicolored (red, yellow, brown clear crystal)); **Sapphire** (blue stone); **Agate** (multicolored); **Emerald** (green); **Onyx**, white streaked with brown (red and white); **Carnelian** (reddish-brown); **Chrysolite**, yellow quartz; **Beryl** (green/brown); **Topaz** (multicolored); **Chrysoprase (Chalcedony)** greenish-blue); **Jacinth** (orange-red); **Amethyst** (rich purple)
- g. The city is gold, transparent, like glass reflecting God's glory and presence. The city will not be an odorless, colorless, or tasteless void. It will be filled with life (sights & sounds), color, fragrances all appealing to our perfected senses.
- h. *The water of life* (v.6b): Clear water flows from the throne of God; trees will grow along its banks providing fruit and "healing" (Psalm 36:8; 46:4).

III. The Holy City is Made For God's People

- a. The city exists for us, but through God. *Note that the city is not made by hands.
- b. Perfection does not exist in the hands of man, but in the creative power of God.
- c. Only *holy people* will enter this new creation. Notice that *cowards* are at the top of the list (v.8) of those who *will not* enter.

IV. A New Home Just For You

- a. Heaven will not be a place of eternal rest, but a place of ceaseless activity. We will be raised to the power of infinity. We will have power to do the impossible, yet still be dependent.
- b. What is most striking to you about this description of Heaven?
- c. What are some things that won't be in the New Heaven and New Earth?
- d. Revelation 22:7 declares that we will "reign forever and ever." What do you think that looks like practically?