

## ***THE HOPE OF HEAVEN***

*Revelation 21:1-4*

God uses the pain of death to remind us of our own mortality and to awaken us to the truth that we are just pilgrims in this world. And as pilgrims in this fallen world, we should set our hope on God's promise of heaven (1 Thess. 4:13; Col. 3:1-2; John 14:1-3). Reflecting on the Apostle John's vision of heaven, here are three compelling reasons why we as believers of Christ should set our hope on the promise of heaven.

- 1. We will enjoy the glorious beauty of \_\_\_\_\_.***  
The plan of God in the future will be to transform this present heaven and earth into a perfectly restored and renewed creation (Rev. 21:1-2). God's saving plan not only includes redeeming His people from their sins. His saving work also includes redeeming the entire creation from the curse of sin (Rom. 8:20-21). The fulfillment of this plan of God to redeem His whole creation will happen when our Lord Jesus Christ returns to bring us, His people, to our eternal home, the new heaven and the new earth (Rev. 21:1-2; 2 Pet. 3:10-13; Isa. 65:17). This present universe which is cursed by sin will be purged of everything evil and sinful. In the new heaven and the new earth, there will be the permanent removal of anything wicked. In our eternal home, our eternal life will be marked by perfect holiness and joyful togetherness of God's redeemed people for all eternity (1 Thess. 4:16-18).
  - 2. We will enjoy the endless intimacy of \_\_\_\_\_.***  
The presence of God is what defines heaven. Heaven is heaven because God is there. The greatest beauty and attraction in the new heaven and the new earth is the personal presence of God. Heaven is a place where believers will enjoy the endless intimacy of unbroken fellowship and communion with God (Rev. 21:3). This enjoyment of God's presence is the glorious fulfillment of the Lord's covenant promise that God Himself will dwell with His people and He will be with them as their God (Lev. 26:11-12; Ezek. 37:27). God Himself is heaven's greatest reward. The culmination of this blessing is the beatific vision, the glorious experience of beholding the face of God in Christ (Rev. 22:4).
  - 3. We will enjoy the perfect peace of \_\_\_\_\_.***  
Ever since the fall of man into sin, men and women have shed countless tears. Sin has created tears: tears of guilt, tears of sorrow, tears of disappointment, tears of regret (Psalm 56:8). But praise God that one day, our Lord will cancel all our tears. The new heaven and the new earth is a place where we will enjoy the blessing of tearless eternity. Since God Himself will wipe away every tear from the eyes of His people, there will be perfect peace in our eternal home. In the words of the Apostle John, "*death shall be no more, neither shall be mourning, nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away*" (Rev. 21:4).
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