

What will we do in Heaven?
Part 5

Understanding death and Life

1/23/2011

I. A quick review:

1. When I die, I will go to the present Heaven

"We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord." 2 Cor. 5:8

For those of us who are trusting in Jesus as Lord and Savior --- if we die before Jesus comes, the Bible says, that our bodies will remain here but our soul will be with Jesus.

2. When Jesus returns to the earth, we will come with Him.

"When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall you also appear with Him in glory." Col. 3:4

The Bible says that Jesus will return to the Earth accompanied by the saints and the angels.

3. At the return of Christ, we will be reunited with our bodies.

"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord." 1 Thess. 4:16-17

Those who have died before Jesus comes, will come back with Him. Those who are still alive when Jesus comes will meet Him in the air as He is coming. And all of our bodies will be translated into

new bodies.

The whole world will see Jesus and all of His followers coming back to earth.

The bodies of the dead will be resurrected from the grave and reunited with their soul. But our resurrected body will be the same body we have now but glorified and perfected.

"But there's far more to life for us. We're citizens of high heaven! We're waiting the arrival of the Savior, the Master, Jesus Christ, who will transform our earthy bodies into glorious bodies like his own. He'll make us beautiful and whole with the same powerful skill by which he is putting everything as it should be, under and around him." Phil. 3:21 (The Message)

4. We will reign with Christ here on this earth for 1,000 years.

"Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years." Rev. 20:6

The devil will be bound and thrown into a pit with Christ and His people rule. During this time there will still be non-believers living on the Earth.

At the end of the 1,000 year reign, the devil will be released to deceive the nations but in no time at all cast into the lake of fire.

"Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison. The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever." Rev. 20:7,10.

5. Jesus restores all of creation to its original glory by removing the curse.

“No longer will there be any curse.” Rev 22:3

“Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.’ Then He who sat on the throne said, ‘Behold, I make all things new.’” Rev. 21:1-5

II. Something new

"The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord As the waters cover the sea." Isaiah 11:6-9

This passage from Isaiah reveals some very interesting facts about Heaven:

1. There will be animals in Heaven.

It is not just people who will be renewed but also the earth and “all things” in it. Including, animals, horses, cats, dogs, deer, dolphins, squirrels.

Christ emphasis isn't on making new things but on making old things new.

“And all flesh will see the salvation of God.” Luke 3:6, NASB

The Greek word translated for “flesh” is the word: “sarx.”
Sarx = anything that has flesh, which would include animals.

Will Rogers said, “If there are no dogs in heaven, then when I die I want to go where they went.” I think this statement reflects a “God-given affection for animal.”

Therefore, I believe that you will see:

- a. Your pets in Heaven
- b. Animals and plants which are now extinct.

2. In Heaven, there will be people of different ages.

When someone dies, how old are they in Heaven?

Not everyone is going to be the same age in Heaven. My Mom and Dad will always be older than me and my children will always be younger than me.

Time is not a part of the curse. The effects of time are a part of the curse.

“And a little child shall lead them...”

“The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole...”

“And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den...”

Can you imagine the hope that this gives to parents who have lost a child early in life? I believe that the Bible is telling us that those children who are now with the Lord will have a chance to be parented by their earthly parents or family even after we get to Heaven.