

Advent

PREPARE THE WAY

Joy

Revelation 21:1-7

Revelation 21:1

¹ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

- Is 65:17-18, Matt 5:17-18, 2 Pet 3:10
- All storms, tempests and occasions for tumultuous agitation are forever gone

Revelation 21:2

² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

- Completely pure & beautiful - Rev 21:22-27

Revelation 21:3

3...“Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man...God himself will be with them as their God.

- Edenic relationship / perpetual presence
- Jn 1:14 & Jer 31:33-34

Revelation 21:4

4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more...for the former things have passed away.”

- Isaiah 25:8-9

- Death will no longer threaten us!

Revelation 21:5

⁵ And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

- Statement of certainty

Revelation 21:6

⁶ And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.”

- *It is finished...* (Jn 19:30)
- Free gift of life – Isaiah 55:1 & Jn 4:13-14

Revelation 21:7

⁷ The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

- Perseveres to the end – Rev 2 & 3
 - Who remains true to his testimony
 - Whose deeds reveal true transformation

Ok, let's get practical!

Do you joyfully believe “Heaven” is real?

- Heroes of the faith believed – Heb 11:13-16
- Paul believed – Phil 3:13-15
- We are studying this today (Rev 21:1-7)

Are you joyfully looking forward to leaving?

- Death is painful and it's an enemy, but it is the final pain and a defeated enemy

Rev 20:12-14

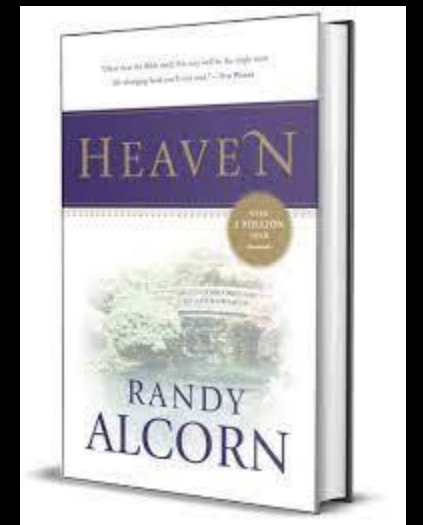
- Death does not separate us from life, it ushers us into the presence of Jesus

Rom 8:38

Are you joyfully wondering “why am I still here”?

- God has you here for a purpose – Eph 2:10

- What am I to do – Matt 25:34-40



Do your deeds reveal that you joyfully believe?

- *“Only one life will soon be past, only what done for Christ will last”* – 1 Cor 3:13-15
- American Dream/Retirement or Heaven?
 - Are you willing to invest at least 10%?
 - Malachi 3:10-12
 - Are we “cheerful givers” – 2 Cor 9:6-13

“I believe; help my unbelief!” (Mark 9:24)

- Do you...
 - Reflect on your mortality?
 - Realize there are only two destinations?
 - Remind yourself this is not your home?
 - Reflect your future home is the New Earth?
- Make decisions in light of our future reality!

Jesus did

Heb 12:1-2

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