

## SERMON OUTLINE

**SERMON TITLE:** A Guided Tour Through Heaven

**SERMON REFERENCE:** Revelation 21

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #2371

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Revelation 21:9-10
  - i) An angel gave John a guided tour of Heaven.
- b) Some may criticize Christians for being so heavenly minded that we are of no earthly good.
  - i) The opposite is most likely true: many of us are so earthly minded that we are no good to Heaven or Earth.
  - ii) Colossians 3:1-2
    - (1) We are to be heavenly minded.
  - iii) Matthew 6:20-21
    - (1) If your heart is not in Heaven, it is because your treasure is down here.
      - (a) It is not our treasure that God wants; He wants our hearts.
- c) As we take this guided tour through Heaven, we need to remember that the book of the Revelation is full of symbolism.
  - i) Many of the things we find in this chapter of Revelation are symbols and prophecies of the greater glories of Heaven that the human mind cannot comprehend without the use of symbols.
    - (1) There is no way we can intellectually understand everything about Heaven, so God gives us some glorious symbols.

2) THE GEOGRAPHY OF HEAVEN (Revelation 21:1-2)

- a) Heaven is a real, material place.
  - i) It is not some gaseous, mysterious or ephemeral thing.
- b) In this passage in Revelation, John sees a new Heaven and a new Earth.
- c) John 14:2
  - i) Jesus did not go to prepare a state of mind.
  - ii) There will one day be a real, literal resurrection of the body; where will it be going?
    - (1) There has to be a resurrected place for the resurrected body to walk around on.
- d) Hebrews 11:9-10
- e) The Apostle Paul took a sojourn to Heaven while he was still in the ministry here on this Earth.
  - i) 2 Corinthians 12:2-3
    - (1) This passage tells us that we can go to Heaven in our spirit or with a body.
- f) Jesus is in Heaven in a resurrected body.
  - i) After Jesus walked out of the tomb, the apostles saw Him, and Thomas touched Him.
  - ii) Jesus went to a real place.
- g) The Bible mentions new heavens and a new Earth.
  - i) This present Earth and this present atmosphere will be burned up.
  - ii) 2 Peter 3:10-13

- (1) The Greek word for “fervent heat” in this passage is literally internal or fever heat.
  - (2) Planet Earth is destined for fire; it is stored with fire.
    - (a) We now know about the atomic nature of the universe.
    - (b) Everything contains molecular fire.
      - (i) Clothes are stored with fire.
      - (ii) Paper is stored with fire.
      - (iii) Chairs are stored with fire.
    - (c) The Earth itself has a molten core packed with fire.
    - (d) The atmosphere is stored with fire.
  - (3) One day, God will unleash the power of the atom that He holds together by His mighty power.
    - (a) The atmospheric heavens and this Earth will be dissolved and burned up.
    - (b) God will take the remains and make with it new heavens and a new Earth.
  - (4) 2 Corinthians 5:17
    - (a) The Greek word for “new” in this passage is the same word that is used in 2 Peter 3:13.
    - (b) Just as we (the old man) are purged by the blood of Jesus, the old world and the old heavens will be purged by fire; and there will be new heavens and a new Earth.
  - h) The new Jerusalem is the capital city of the new Heaven.
    - i) The Bible speaks of the new Jerusalem as a bride.
      - (1) Revelation 21:2
      - (2) Revelation 21:9
- 3) THE GOVERNMENT OF HEAVEN (Revelation 21:3-8)
- a) Heaven is a majestic place.
  - b) God will rule in majesty in Heaven.
  - c) The speaker in this passage in Revelation 21 is Jesus Himself.
  - d) God dwells with His people in Heaven.
  - e) Because the Lord rules in majesty in Heaven, there are some “no mores:”
    - i) There will be no more sorrow.
      - (1) Revelation 21:4
      - (2) There is coming a time when God will turn every tear to a telescope, every hurt to a hallelujah and every Calvary to an Easter.
      - (3) There will be no more tears in Heaven.
      - (4) There will be no more sighing and no more dying.
      - (5) There will be no more disease.
    - ii) There will be no more sin.
      - (1) Revelation 21:8, 27
      - (2) Sin is what has messed up planet Earth.

- (a) Sin is ultimately behind every sorrow, tear, heartbreak, sickness and pain.
- (b) We live in a world that has a curse of sin upon it.

4) THE GLORY OF HEAVEN (Revelation 21:9-21)

- a) In this passage in Revelation, all of the things that we consider as indescribably beautiful are used as a symbol and a prophecy of the greater glories of Heaven.
- b) Jerusalem is the only capitol city in Heaven.
  - i) The source of the city:
    - (1) It comes down from God.
      - (a) Revelation 21:9-10
      - (b) This means that it is already up in Heaven.
      - (c) It is already a place where the resurrected dead (those resurrected after Jesus' resurrection, known as the firstfruits), are already there.
    - (2) John 14:2
  - ii) The sights of the city:
    - (1) It shines with the very glory of God.
      - (a) Revelation 21:23
    - (2) We do not need the moon or the sun; the glory of God will lighten the city.
    - (3) The city is breathtakingly beautiful.
      - (a) The city itself is a city of gold.
        - (i) The gold is so pure that it is translucent.
        - (b) There are colored jewels and other brilliant colors.
      - (c) It has walls of jasper.
        - (i) The walls are not there to keep us in because the gates are open.
        - (ii) The walls are not there to keep the wicked out; they are in Hell.
        - (iii) These walls are there for the glory of God, and they are monumental.
          - 1. The names of the twelve tribes of Israel are on these walls.
          - 2. The names of the twelve apostles are in the foundation.
            - a. Revelation 21:12-14
              - i. There is coming a time when Jew and Gentile will be together; when we will be one in the Lord Jesus Christ like never before.
  - iii) The sounds of the city:
    - (1) Our song will be the song of redemption.
      - (a) Revelation 15:3
      - (b) Today, our Jewish friends look to Moses, and we look to Jesus; but we will sing in Heaven the song of Moses and the Lamb.
  - iv) The size of the city:

- (1) Revelation 21:15-16
  - (2) The city is foursquare.
    - (a) It is 1500 miles in each direction and 1500 miles straight up.
    - (b) The city is 225,000,000 square miles at its base.
  - v) The sanctuary of the city:
    - (1) Revelation 21:22-23
    - (2) The Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple.
    - (3) The Old Testament temple was a picture and a prophecy of the Lord Jesus Christ.
      - (a) It had a gate; Jesus said, "I am the door."
      - (b) It had an altar; Jesus shed His blood for us.
      - (c) It had a laver; we are now cleansed by His Word.
      - (d) It had a table of bread on it; Jesus is the Bread of Life.
      - (e) It had a golden candelabra; Jesus is the light of the world.
      - (f) Incense was burned; Jesus is our High Priest.
    - (4) Jesus Christ is the sanctuary of Heaven.
      - (a) The Old Testament prophecies are prophecies of something more glorious.
- 5) THE GODLINESS OF HEAVEN (Revelation 21:24-27)
- a) Heaven is a "made-new" place, and we must be made new in order to be a part of it.
  - b) Heaven will be inhabited by multiplied millions and billions of people.
    - i) Every little aborted baby will be there.
    - ii) The saints of all the ages will be there.
    - iii) The nations of the world will be there.
  - c) No one above the age of accountability who did not receive Jesus Christ as his or her personal Savior and Lord will be in Heaven.
    - i) 2 Corinthians 5:17
  - d) Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people.
    - i) Have you ever come to the cross?
    - ii) Have you repented of your sin?
    - iii) Have you ever truly, honestly trusted Jesus?
      - (1) Not trusting in your religion, church membership, humanitarianism - but have you trusted in the shed blood of the Lord Jesus?
- 6) THE GLADNESS OF HEAVEN (Revelation 22:1-5)
- a) Heaven is a meaningful place.
  - b) Heaven will be a place of satisfaction.
    - i) Revelation 22:17
    - ii) We will enjoy deep satisfaction in Heaven because we will drink from the Crystal River.
      - (1) This river symbolizes that our deepest needs are going to be met.
      - (2) Every thirst we have that is God-given will be satisfied in Heaven.

- c) Heaven will be a place of sufficiency.
  - i) Revelation 22:2
  - ii) There will be trees there bearing fruit each month.
    - (1) This symbolizes the sufficiency of Heaven.
  - iii) The glow of health will be upon everyone in Heaven.
- d) Heaven will be a place of service.
  - i) Revelation 22:3
  - ii) Heaven will not be a great big retirement home.
    - (1) We will serve the Lord.
- e) Heaven will be a place of incredible sight.
  - i) Revelation 22:4
  - ii) We shall see Jesus.
  - iii) John 17:24

## 7) CONCLUSION

- a) John 11:26
- b) Would you like to know that you have a home in Heaven?
  - i) You must trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.
- c) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- d) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
  - i) Romans 3:23
  - ii) Romans 10:9-10
  - iii) Romans 10:13
  - iv) Acts 16:31
  - v) John 3:16