

Heaven
Will Heaven Be Boring? • Message 3
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Prayer Points for Prayer Time:

- Pray God would stir fresh excitement for eternity in us.
- Pray that you will rest in God's promise of "all things new".
- Pray that your hope in Heaven will shape how you live today.

Worship Psalm:

"Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever! Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble"

Psalm 107:1-2 (ESV)

Scripture Reading:

Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." 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 water without cost from the spring of the water of life."

Revelation 21:1-6 (NIV)

A. Introduction

Will Heaven Be Boring?

The other day I took TV/electronics away from one of my kids as a discipline for something that was done. About two hours into no TV.... do you know what I heard? *Dad, I'm bored. Dad, I'm bored.*

When I was growing up, a punishment was to be inside. Now when my kids are in trouble, I'm like, *That's it... go outside and play with your friends...* And then my child said, *What are we going to do?... we will be bored.* I reminded him that when I was growing up we didn't have technology like they do now... and we did just fine... and he goes, *Dad, you're ancient.*

Multiple times I heard, *Dad, I'm bored.*

Now why do I tell you this... sometimes I think we can treat Heaven like my kids...where we aren't all that excited to go to Heaven because it feels like we are losing out... and one of the top secrets that most people think is, *Won't Heaven be boring?*

Now don't get me wrong, most of us here believe that Heaven is way better than the alternative, but we often think it will be boring...

Think about it... I know most of you wouldn't do this, but every once in a while someone will complain about a service going a little long. One Sunday someone said the service was a little long, and I just smiled and said, *Well, wait until you get to Heaven... Spoiler alert: there, services are way longer...* and his eyes got real big...

But think about it... most of us have this idea of sitting on a fluffy cloud in Heaven... with those fat little angels... maybe strumming a harp... or church services that literally never end. And we can feel a little guilty, but a lot of us, if we are truly honest, aren't excited like we should be... and some of us think we are going to get to Heaven and be thinking, *Dad, I'm bored.*

So today I want to talk to you about what Heaven is really like... and why we can be excited about Heaven.

B. Will Heaven Be Boring?

1.) Heaven is a place of **ADVENTURE**.

(Revelation 21:1-2. C/R: Isaiah 11:6-8; 2 Peter 3:10)

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

Revelation 21:1-2 (NIV)

Notice right here: a new heaven and new earth... Remember, in Hebrew culture they believed in three heavens... the first is the earth, the second is the cosmos or universe, and the third is the place where God dwells.

Then it says there is no sea... Do you know the Greek word for “sea”? it means cats... because in Heaven they are no more... Now some think it means evil, others believe it’s literally sea... notice it doesn’t say water. But seas divide, so some believe there won’t be an ocean... maybe more like lakes.

In this New Jerusalem, we won’t be confined to this space... think of it as the capital city, and from it will be a place of exploration...

Notice it says, *I saw the Holy City coming down out of Heaven...* this is important... we don’t leave or escape this earth...Heaven crashes into this earth, and it is transformed.

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

2 Peter 3:10 (NKJV)

Notice it says “burned up” ... it’s not the idea of being annihilated or completely destroyed... it means to be stripped bare... think of someone restoring a car or chair... they will strip it down and make it new... this is the idea of Heaven, and here’s why this is awesome...

Think about it... think about how beautiful places in the world are right now even in this fallen world... imagine the sights, the sounds, the views when Heaven has completely restored creation...

Think of the most amazing sight you have ever seen on this earth. (Show picture)... a hot air balloon ride... in the Bible there is a word called *Selah*- it’s a holy pause... its why we named our daughter Selah... the problem is we had twins and had to find another spiritual name... but we got there...

But think of the colors we have here... think of the beautiful spaces in a fallen world... but imagine the colors and scenes and sights once we get to Heaven...

The colors, the glory in the new heavens, will be like nothing we can see or even comprehend...it will be a place of adventure and exploration...

Also think about this... think about the animals... growing up, my whole life I wanted a dog... and I begged my parents for one... and one day they showed up and said, *We got you something...* now I thought it was a dog... but any guesses on what they got me? Wait for it... a canary. Yep... now you understand why I'm so messed up...

In Matthew 7 it says, *What father whose son ask for a fish, will give him a snake?...* Well, I asked for a dog, and I got a canary... I'm just saying...

But the reason I tell you this... was not only did I get a canary, but it was so violent that it would bite you if you tried to pick it up. So we literally would have to wear gloves to hold this stinking bird. That thing hated us...

The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the cobra's den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.

Isaiah 11:6-8 (NIV)

Think about it... right now there are predators... animals that aren't safe. It wasn't like that in the garden. There was a perfect relationship with animals... that's why it says animals will live together. Commentators believe animals in Heaven will be herbivores... the point is, a child will lead them...

Think about it... the devil wants you to think Heaven is boring... yet you will go to the zoo to see animals in

100-degree weather and spend 23 dollars on some ice cream... and go, *That was great...*

Literally, in Heaven you will be able to lay beside a lion or a wild animal... this is amazing...

2.) Heaven is a place of ACTIVITY.

(Revelation 22:3)

One of the reasons so many people believe Heaven will be boring is... they don't think they will have anything meaningful to do. No meaningful work or purpose.

But notice this...

No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him.

Revelation 22:3 (NIV)

One of the most common themes in Heaven is the idea of serving... the idea of working...

Two things people often struggle with are tedious or meaningless work, but they also struggle with idle time with nothing to do...

Heaven will be filled with excitement and purpose... we won't be worn out or empty or dreading working and serving God.

James Seagraves (show picture) loves what he does. He is always filled with joy and smiles... it is almost like he is saying, *Thank you for letting me be here...* some of you don't have that. Some of you have it now, and you are worried about not having anything to do in Heaven... but listen, in Heaven you will have meaningful work, you will find purpose.

I imagine the angels are going, *Imagine how well the traffic will be flowing in Heaven once James gets there...* you have a work there, and it will be 1000 times more meaningful than here on earth.

Remember in the garden, after the curse, the land was hard to work. There was futility in work... like nothing is easy... I say this to people all the time: try putting a car seat in and not swearing... because work is difficult.

But in Heaven it will be filled with life and joy...

Think about how good you feel when you accomplish a home project, a work project, a hobby, or craft... Now imagine those feelings without all the frustrations.

There are tasks in God's kingdom to be accomplished...

Think... Adam was given the task of naming all the animals. God was there, yet Adam did it... and he crushed some of the names like hippopotamus or elephant, centipede, dolphin... but then ten hours later, I think he just got burned out... fly, rat, cat, cow, yak, pig.

Point is, God could have named animals, could have worked and managed the land, He could have ruled over everything... but God tasked Adam and Eve...

There will be jobs and activities in Heaven... and they won't be boring...

I like how Randy Alcorn says it...

“God isn’t boring. There is no greater nonsense. Our desire for pleasure and the experience of joy come directly from God’s hand. He made our taste buds, adrenaline, sex drives, and nerve endings that convey pleasure to our brains. Likewise, our imaginations and our capacity for joy and exhilaration were made by the very God we accuse of being boring. Are we so arrogant as to imagine human beings came up with the idea of having fun.”

– Randy Alcorn.

3.) Heaven is a place of APPRECIATION.

Sometimes people feel like no one sees what they do, or they feel like they are under the radar... or let’s be honest, people can get on our nerves... Heaven is a place where you are appreciated and where you appreciate everyone.

One of the things people ask me is, *Will we recognize friends and family in Heaven?*

I believe we will. Let me just give you a couple verses to look into...

In 2 Samuel 12:23, David says he won’t see his son on earth, but he shall go to him.

In Matthew 17, at the Mount of Transfiguration, Peter recognized Moses and Elijah in their glorified state.

But imagine being in a place where you have perfect relationships... where there is no more backbiting, gossiping, and slander... some of you have been really affected by difficult relationships, and in Heaven there is perfect intimacy. You are appreciated, and you appreciate other people.

Relationships will be redeemed, deepened, and made eternal. There will be kindness and honesty. There will be real love in Heaven. Friendship will be amazing in Heaven!

Now - Not Yet.. we still experience brokenness. It’s a double-edged sword... we can experience good things, but also broken things... but He will make all things new...