

## Seek Those Things Which Are Above!

Are you ready to get something brand new out of God's Word this morning?

Luke 12:36-38 NLT

Be dressed for service and keep your lamps burning, as though you were waiting for your master to return from the wedding feast. Then you will be ready to open the door and let him in the moment he arrives and knocks. The servants who are ready and waiting for his return will be rewarded. I tell you the truth, he himself will seat them, put on an apron, and serve them as they sit and eat! He may come in the middle of the night or just before dawn. But whenever he comes, he will reward the servants who are ready.

"The first three seconds we are in heaven will make up for all of the disappointment and hurts and sufferings we have experienced on the earth!"

Colossians 3:1-4

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

Seek, Gr. zēteō - aim at; strive after; as in searching for physical objects

What will heaven be like? Are we there forever? Will we recognize people?

1. What will heaven be like?

2. Are we there forever?

Revelation 21:1-5 (Post-millennial)

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. 2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. 4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. 5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

Millennial Reign of Messiah Yeshua:

Isaiah 11:4-10 (NLT)

He will give justice to the poor

and make fair decisions for the exploited.  
The earth will shake at the force of his word,  
and one breath from his mouth will destroy the wicked.  
5 He will wear righteousness like a belt  
and truth like an undergarment.  
6 In that day the wolf and the lamb will live together;  
the leopard will lie down with the baby goat.  
The calf and the yearling will be safe with the lion,  
and a little child will lead them all.  
7 The cow will graze near the bear.  
The cub and the calf will lie down together.  
The lion will eat hay like a cow.  
8 The baby will play safely near the hole of a cobra.  
Yes, a little child will put its hand in a nest of deadly snakes without harm.  
9 Nothing will hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain,  
for as the waters fill the sea,  
so the earth will be filled with people who know the LORD.  
10 In that day the heir to David's throne  
will be a banner of salvation to all the world.  
The nations will rally to him,  
and the land where he lives will be a glorious place.

Isaiah 65:23-25 (NLT)

They will not work in vain,  
and their children (children will be born forever) will not be doomed to misfortune.  
For they are people blessed by the LORD,  
and their children, too, will be blessed.  
24 I will answer them before they even call to me.  
While they are still talking about their needs,  
I will go ahead and answer their prayers!  
25 The wolf and the lamb will feed together.  
The lion will eat hay like a cow.  
But the snakes will eat dust.  
In those days no one will be hurt or destroyed on my holy mountain.  
I, the LORD, have spoken!"

3. Will we recognize people?

Matthew 22:23-33 (NLT)

That same day Jesus was approached by some Sadducees—religious leaders who say there is no resurrection from the dead. They posed this question: 24 "Teacher, Moses said, 'If a man dies without children, his brother should marry the widow and have a child who will carry on the brother's name.' 25 Well, suppose there were seven brothers. The oldest one married and then died without children, so his brother married the widow. 26 But the second brother also died,

and the third brother married her. This continued with all seven of them. 27 Last of all, the woman also died. 28 So tell us, whose wife will she be in the resurrection? For all seven were married to her.”

29 Jesus replied, “Your mistake is that you don’t know the Scriptures, and you don’t know the power of God. 30 For when the dead rise, they will neither marry nor be given in marriage. In this respect they will be like the angels in heaven.

31 “But now, as to whether there will be a resurrection of the dead—haven’t you ever read about this in the Scriptures? Long after Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had died, God said, 32 ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ So he is the God of the living, not the dead.”

33 When the crowds heard him, they were astounded at his teaching.

Ephesians 5, marriage is a picture of our Lord’s love for His Redeemed. This picture becomes unnecessary once Christ’s Bride is with Him in glory. Furthermore, procreation will not be either.

- 1 Corinthians 7:39-40 (NLT)  
A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. If her husband dies (transitions), she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but only if he loves the Lord. 40 But in my opinion it would be better for her to stay single, and I think I am giving you counsel from God’s Spirit when I say this.
- Romans 7:2 (NLT)  
For example, when a woman marries, the law binds her to her husband as long as he is alive. But if he dies, the laws of marriage no longer apply to her.

Revelation 19:7 (NLT)

Let us be glad and rejoice,  
and let us give honor to him.

For the time has come for the wedding feast of the Lamb,  
and his bride has prepared herself.

The wife or wife or bride here is the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, which is the redeemed of all ages who will have part in the first resurrection and who will live in the New Jerusalem forever.

**The church is now married or betrothed and the wedding feast is coming!**

- Mark 2:19-20 (NLT)  
Jesus replied, “Do wedding guests fast while celebrating with the groom? Of course not. They can’t fast while the groom is with them. 20 But someday the groom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.
- John 3:29 (NLT)

It is the bridegroom who marries the bride, and the bridegroom's friend is simply glad to stand with him and hear his vows. Therefore, I am filled with joy at his success.

- John called Christ the bridegroom (Jn. 3:29). The Greek word for "bridegroom" in all these passages is numphios (G3566), a newly married man.

- Ephesians 5:22-23  
Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife, **even as Christ is the head of the church**: and he is the saviour of the body.

Marriage

### Will we recognize one another in Heaven?

- Consider that Elijah and Moses were recognized at Jesus' transfiguration (Matt. 17).
- Furthermore, Paul comforted the Thessalonians with the hope of being "caught up together with them [those who died before us]" at the Rapture (1 Thess. 4:17).

- **You will see and recognize them again!!**

#### 1. David And His Son in 2 Samuel 12

The story of David and his son illustrates the point that we will know our loved ones. After the child died, David said:

"While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, 'Who can tell whether the Lord will be gracious to me, that the child may live?' But now he is dead; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me."  
2 Samuel 12:22-23

David is acknowledging the fact that he will someday be united with his son.

#### 2. Transfiguration

At the Mount of Transfiguration, Moses and Elijah appeared with Jesus:

And Elijah appeared to them with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, ' Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah (Mark 9:4,5).

**In the spirit, they recognized all of them and who they were.**

Luke 24:13-16

And, behold, two of them\* went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs (8 miles). 14 And they talked together of all these things which had happened. 15 And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them. 16 But their eyes were holden that they should not know him.

\*Cleopas, father of James and husband to Mary. The other is thought to be Luke.

3. Jesus mentioned sitting down with the patriarchs in heaven.

And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 8:11).

**This demonstrates that each person will keep their individual identity.**

4. Rich Man And Lazarus

The rich man recognized both Abraham and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31). Likewise Abraham recognized the rich man. Though, his name is not mentioned.

Job 24:19-20 (NLT)

The grave consumes sinners

just as drought and heat consume snow.

20 Their own mothers will forget them.

Maggots will find them sweet to eat.

No one will remember them.

Wicked people are broken like a tree in the storm.

5. Our knowledge in heaven will be greater than it is now, not less.

1 Corinthians 13:12

For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

Consequently, we will recognize one another.

6. No more tears:

“He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying or pain” (Revelation 21:4).

Those bodies will never grow old or tired, nor will they ever experience pain or suffering or death.

"For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed" (1 Corinthians 15:52)

7. We will be just like Jesus:

1 John 3:2 (NLT)

Dear friends, we are already God's children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is.

### **Seeking the City:**

Colossians 3:1

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

Hebrews 11:8-10

By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. 9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: 10 For he looked for a city\* (not earthly) which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

### **The New Jerusalem, the capital city of God over the universe:**

Hebrews 11:13-16

These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. 14 For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. 15 And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. 16 But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

Hebrews 12:22-24

But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, 23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, 24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

Hebrews 13:14

For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.

### Revelation 3:11-12

Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. 12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

### Revelation 21:1 - 22:7 (NLT)

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. 2 And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

3 I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. 4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever."

5 And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new!" And then he said to me, "Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true." 6 And he also said, "It is finished! I am the Alpha and the Omega—the Beginning and the End. To all who are thirsty I will give freely from the springs of the water of life. 7 All who are victorious will inherit all these blessings, and I will be their God, and they will be my children.

8 "But cowards, unbelievers, the corrupt, murderers, the immoral, those who practice witchcraft, idol worshipers, and all liars—their fate is in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."

9 Then one of the seven angels who held the seven bowls containing the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come with me! I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb."

10 So he took me in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and he showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God. 11 It shone with the glory of God and sparkled like a precious stone—like jasper as clear as crystal. 12 The city wall was broad and high, with twelve gates guarded by twelve angels. And the names of the twelve tribes of Israel were written on the gates. 13 There were three gates on each side—east, north, south, and west. 14 The wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were written the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

15 The angel who talked to me held in his hand a gold measuring stick to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. 16 When he measured it, he found it was a square, as wide as it was long. In fact, its length and width and height were each 1,400 miles. 17 Then he measured the walls and found them to be 216 feet thick (according to the human standard used by the angel).

18 The wall was made of jasper, and the city was pure gold, as clear as glass. 19 The wall of the city was built on foundation stones inlaid with twelve precious stones: the first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, 20 the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst.

21 The twelve gates were made of pearls—each gate from a single pearl! And the main street was pure gold, as clear as glass.

22 I saw no temple in the city, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. 23 And the city has no need of sun or moon, for the glory of God illuminates the city, and the Lamb is its light. 24 The nations will walk in its light, and the kings of the world will enter the city in all their glory. 25 Its gates will never be closed at the end of day because there is no night there. 26 And all the nations will bring their glory and honor into the city. 27 Nothing evil will be allowed to enter, nor anyone who practices shameful idolatry and dishonesty—but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.

1 Then the angel showed me a river with the water of life, clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb. 2 It flowed down the center of the main street. On each side of the river grew a tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, with a fresh crop each month. The leaves were used for medicine to heal the nations.

3 No longer will there be a curse upon anything. For the throne of God and of the Lamb will be there, and his servants will worship him. 4 And they will see his face, and his name will be written on their foreheads. 5 And there will be no night there—no need for lamps or sun—for the Lord God will shine on them. And they will reign forever and ever.

6 Then the angel said to me, “Everything you have heard and seen is trustworthy and true. The Lord God, who inspires his prophets, has sent his angel to tell his servants what will happen soon.”

Jesus Is Coming

7 “Look, I am coming soon! Blessed are those who obey the words of prophecy written in this book.”