

The Ultimate in Love: Heaven

I. Introduction

- A. The most amazing five minutes you and I will ever experience will be the first five minutes _____ we ____!

II. What Is Heaven/The New Creation Really Like?

- A. "Heaven sounds kind of _____ to me."
B. "Who would like to see the world set right once and for all? No more common colds, no more cancers. Everyone would have his day. There would be no second-class citizens. Prisoners and slaves would be free; hungry people would have plenty; no one would lift a finger to harm someone else! And we would all be at peace with everyone, even with ourselves. Anybody interested in that?" (Lewis Smedes)
C. Revelation 21:18, 21 (NLT) ¹⁸The wall was made of jasper, and the city was pure gold, as clear as glass. ²¹The twelve gates were made of pearls—each gate from a single pearl! And the main street was pure gold, as clear as glass.

III. Images of Heaven

- A. We will finally be perfectly "____"!
1. Revelation 19:7-8 (NLT) ⁷Let us be glad and rejoice and honor him. For the time has come for the wedding feast of the Lamb, and his bride has prepared herself. ⁸She is permitted to wear the finest white linen."
B. We will be _____ of being _____ to God in heaven!
1. Revelation 21:1 (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.
C. We will no longer be _____ from one another in any way!
1. Revelation 21:4 (NLT) He will remove all of their sorrows, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. For the old world and its evils are gone forever.
D. In heaven, ____ will _____!
1. Revelation 19:3 (NLT) Again and again their voices rang, "Hallelujah! The smoke from that city ascends forever and forever!"
E. Heaven is the only place where _____ is fully available!
1. The rising smoke is the image of the utter ____ of _____!
2. To reject ____ means to reject everything that makes _____ possible!
3. II Peter 3:9 (NAS) The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.
4. John 14:6 (NAS) "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."

IV. The Images of Jesus

- A. Revelation 1:12-18 (NLT) ¹²When I turned to see who was speaking to me, I saw seven gold lampstands. ¹³And standing in the middle of the lampstands was the Son of Man. He was wearing a long robe with a gold sash across his chest. ¹⁴His head and his hair were white like wool, as white as snow. And his eyes were bright like flames of fire. ¹⁵His feet were as bright as bronze refined in a furnace, and his voice thundered like mighty ocean waves. ¹⁶He held seven stars in his right hand, and a sharp two-edged sword came from his mouth. And his face was as bright as the sun in all its brilliance. ¹⁷When I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. But he laid his right hand on me and said, "Don't be afraid! I am the First and the Last. ¹⁸I am the living one who died. Look, I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and the grave."
1. _____
a. Proverbs 16:31 (NAS) A gray head is a crown of glory; it is found in the way of righteousness.
2. _____ in His _____ hand
3. _____ like flames of fire
a. Proverbs 15:3 (NAS) The eyes of the Lord are in every place, watching the evil and the good.
4. Two-edged _____ coming from His _____
a. In John's day, a sword was the symbol of _____!
b. Revelation 19:15a-16 (NLT) ¹⁵From his mouth came a sharp sword, and with it he struck down the nations. ¹⁶On his robe and thigh was written this title: King of kings and Lord of lords.
B. Revelation 1:17 (NLT) When I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. But he laid his right hand on me and said, "Don't be afraid! I am the First and the Last."
C. Revelation 19:9a (NLT) And the angel said, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb."
D. "All their life in this world...had only been the cover and title page. Now at last they were beginning chapter 1 of the Great Story which no one on earth has read; which goes on forever, in which every chapter is better than the one before." (C. S. Lewis, *The Last Battle*)

V. Conclusion