

# Guide & Record of your thoughts

10/31/10 Pt 37 - Revelation 21:1-21

## Following the Message:

Scripture refers to heaven more than 500 times. The Bible delineates three heavens (2 Cor. 12:2). The first heaven is the earth's atmosphere (Gen. 1:20; Job 12:7; Ezek. 38:20); the second heaven is interplanetary space (Gen. 15:5; 22:17; Deut. 1:10; 4:19; Ps. 8:3; Isa. 13:10); the third heaven is the dwelling place of God (Deut. 4:39; 1 Kings 8:30; Job 22:12; Ps. 14:2; Dan. 2:28; Matt. 5:34; Acts 7:55; Heb. 9:24; 1 Pet. 3:22).

- 1) Heaven is an **ACTUAL** place, not a state of spiritual consciousness.
- 2) vs 1- As ch 21 opens we see God has created a **NEW REALM** to dwell in forever, specifically called a new heaven and a new earth.
- 3) vs 1- God originally created earth to be man's **PERMANENT** home-entrance of sin corrupted earth/universe, and God will destroy them (20:11)
- 4) Vs 2 begins a description of the capital city of eternity. The "New Jerusalem" mentioned is not heaven, but heaven's **CAPITOL**. In the Bible **JERSUALEM** is called the **HOLY CITY**-because it was set apart for God's purposes.
- 5) Believers who die go to the "heavenly Jerusalem," where Jesus has gone to **PREPARE** a place for **US**. (John 14:2)
- 6) When God creates the new heaven and new earth- the "new Jerusalem" **DESCENDS** into the midst of an entirely new creation (21:10). This becomes the dwelling place of the **REDEEMED** for all eternity.
- 7) vs 3 The supreme joy of heaven is the Person of God **WILL DWELL** among the inhabitants of the new city. This **TRUTH** is so staggering the voice John hears repeats it **3** times.
- 8) In vs 4-6 we see the complete **REVERSAL** of the "**CURSE**" placed on the original **CREATION** back in Gen 3 as the result of sin and the fall of man.
- 9) Vs 7 verifies that Heaven belongs to the "**OVERCOMER**" – Nikao. It is a **PROMISE** from God himself
- 10) In vs 11 we see the first and most distinguishing feature of Heaven is that it is covered with the "**SHEKINAH**" **Glory, meaning the unlimited brilliance of God's PRESENCE**.
- 11) Vs 12-14 Heaven has not one "pearly gate" but **12 GATES**, allowing entrance from all directions. At the entrances we see the legacy of God's

work through the **CHOSEN** people (Israel), but built upon the Foundation of the work of the **CHURCH**.

## Greek & Hebrew words used today:

**Kainos** kahee-nos' *new* (especially in *freshness*) something brand new, fresh, never before seen  
**Technitēs** (tekh-nee'-tace) [architect] an *artisan*; (*Creator*):- builder, craftsman  
**Kosmos** kos'-mos; orderly arrangement, *i.e.* decoration  
**Skenē** (tabernacle) - dwelling place or tent  
**Nikaō** (nik-ah'-o) (nike); to *subdue* :- conquer, overcome, prevail, get the victory  
**Phōstēr** foce-tare'; (brilliance) something from which light radiates an illuminator, (concretely) a luminary, or (abstract) brilliancy

## Reflecting on the Text

The truths given to us in Ch 21 have been given from God to excite our hope.

Those who focus on the promise of heaven can endure anything in this life. When we face suffering, we can say with Paul, "For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison" 2 Cor. 4:17

When believers die they will be there immediately (Luke 23:43; 2 Cor. 5:8). Those believers alive at the Rapture will also be transported to heaven immediately (1 Thess. 4:13–18; 1 Cor. 15:51–55).

*How appropriate! All other precious gems are metals or stones, but a pearl is a gem formed within the oyster—the only one formed by living flesh. The humble oyster receives an irritation or a wound, and around the offending article that has penetrated and hurt it, the oyster builds a pearl. The pearl, we might say, is the answer of the oyster to that which injured it. The glory land is God's answer, in Christ, to wicked men who crucified heaven's beloved and put Him to open shame. How like God it is to make the gates of the new Jerusalem of pearl. The saints as they come and go will be forever reminded, as they pass the gates of glory that access to God's home is only because of Calvary. Think of the size of those gates! Think of the supernatural pearls from which they are made! What gigantic suffering is symbolized by those gates of pearl! Throughout the endless ages we shall be reminded by those pearly gates of the immensity of the sufferings of Christ. Those pearls, hung eternally at the access routes to glory, will remind us forever of One who hung upon a tree and whose answer to those who injured Him was to invite them to share His home. **John Phillips***