

Heaven

- **The crown jewel of our hope.**
- **Quality of our eternal life based on the beauty, complexity and ability to enjoy the place where we live it.**
- **The resurrected body will be raised in: *incorruption, glory, power & immortality.***
1 Cor 15:42-44, 56
- ***Our home will reflect this body.*** **1 Cor 15:47-49; 1 Pet 1:3-6**

Body Raised

- *The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is of heaven. 48 As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. 49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. 1 Cor 15:47-49*

Home will reflect the body

- *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 1Pet 1:3-4*

- From the beginning God has promised:
 - City whose builder/maker is God. Heb. 11:10
 - A heavenly country Heb. 11:13-16
- This country is in the new heavens & earth 2Pet 3:9-13
- It is here:
 - We lay up Treasures Mt 6:19-21; 19:21
 - Our Great Reward Mt 5:12

Meditations of the Unseen as we Age

- *Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.*
- *17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory*
- **What is this Eternal Weight of Glory?**

In Heaven

- God will do all this for us!
 - Create a new heavens and a new earth
 - A better country and a new city.
 - He will restore our treasures / reward.
- As “*heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ*” Rom 8:17 and “*heirs of the kingdom which he promised*” Jas 2:5 We will “*inherit the kingdom prepared from the foundation of the world*” Mt 25:34

Many Changes

- **We will see many things changed:**
- *neither marry nor are given in marriage, are equal unto the angels Lk 20:35-36*
- *The “second man is from heaven” “we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.” 1Cor 15:47*
- *And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” Rev 21:4*

Many Different Things

- What kind of world brings:
- No more death
- Nor sorrow
- Nor crying
- No more pain?
- In what kind of world will:
- All the former things have passed away?

Answers in Book of Revelation

- Outside of Revelation there are few details of our new home to imagine and meditate upon.
- A great limitation:
- The symbolism is joined to a strong warning:
- *if anyone adds to them, God shall add to him the plagues which are written in this book;*
- *if anyone takes away from the words God shall take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, Rev 22:18-19*

Why Symbolism

- *The former things have passed away. 5 Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." NKJV*
- *the first things have passed away." 5 And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true." NASB*
- New: recently made, fresh, recent, unused, unworn

To Him Who Overcomes

- *Ephesus: eat of the tree of life Rev 2:7*
- *Gen 2:9; 3:22-24 Real Tree brought back?*
- *in paradise of God*
- *Paradise* – Greek word for garden.
- Third use in NT: Jesus on cross; Paul caught up to and here.
- Used of the “*paradise of Eden*”
- Literal or Figurative Symbolism?
- Is this promise for here or for heaven?

Our Great Concern

I testify unto every man that hears

If any shall add to them,

***God shall add to him plagues** written in
this book*

if any shall take away from

***God shall take away his part from the tree
of life,** and out of the holy city, which are
written in this book. Rev 22:18-19*

Overcomes

- νικάω, ... to conquer, prevail, vanquish, (*Liddell and Scott Abridged Greek Lexicon NT:3528*)
- *And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. 7 He who **overcomes** shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.*
Rev 21:6-8

To Him Who Overcomes

- *Smyrna:*

- ***the crown of life*** *Rev 2:11*

- *an incorruptible crown 1Cor 9:25*

- *crown of righteousness 2 Tim 4:8*

- *crown of glory fades not away 1Pet 5:4*

- ***not hurt by second death***

- *The lake of fire Rev 20:14; 21:8;*

- *unquenchable Fire Mt 3:10-12;*

- *Furnace of fire Mt 13:42, 50*

- *Eternal fire Mt 18:8-9;*

To Him Who Overcomes

- Pergamum: Rev 2:17
- *hidden manna*; Ex 16:31-35; Num 11:7
- *white engraved stone*; ???
- Thyatira: Rev 2:26
- **the morning star** ???

To Him Who Overcomes

- Sardis: *Rev 3:5*
- **white garments**; *Mt 17:2; Mk 16:5; Jn 20:12; Acts 1:12*
- **name in book of life** *Ex 32:32-33; Ps 69:28; Phil 4:3; Rev 20:12-15)*
- **Confess name before Father** *Mt 10:32-33*

To Him Who Overcomes

- Philadelphia: *Rev 3:12*
- *pillar in temple go out no more.*
- *Already stones I Pet 2:4-6; 1Cor 3:12-15*
- *Name written ???*
- *New Jerusalem coming down out of heaven; Heb 12:22; Rev 21*

To Him Who Overcomes

- Laodicea: Rev 3:21
- *sit with me in my throne,*
- *as I sat down with my Father in his throne*
- *If we endure we will reign with him 2Tim 2:11-13*
- No reason not to take these things literally.
- They are validated in other Scriptures and placed in a literal context.

