

PATHWAY TO PEACE: BIBLE STUDY GUIDE – LESSON 27**Lesson 27: “Heaven and New Earth”**

Now if you look in the first two chapters of the Bible, Genesis 1 & 2, you see humanity made by the hands of loving God living in perfect beauty. You notice that this world called earth was not stained with the horribleness of sin that we witness today- misery, pain, deceit, hatred, war, and death. You see Earth with perfect peace and harmony. You also see that humanity had a face to face communication with their Creator God. They enjoyed seeing, talking, and learning from Him. Now if you flip your Bibles to the last two chapters, Revelation 21 & 22 you see that this Earth is restored to its original state of beauty and splendor. Humanity’s face to face communication with God is restored. Perfect peace and harmony is restored, and sin is totally destroyed forever. Isn’t that exciting! Can you image it, a perfect beautiful world in which death, pain, misery, and strife is unknown? Friends, this is not a fantasy world. This is reality. At the beginning and the end of the Bible you notice that there is perfect peace, harmony, and beauty. When you explore and study all things in between Genesis 1 and Revelation 22 you will see that man disobeyed and sinned against God. Because of man’s sin, this world of perfect peace, harmony, and beauty was contaminated by the awful effects of sin. Sin disrupted the face to face communication that humanity had with God. Because of sin man distanced themselves from God. You see that they were doomed to the devastating consequences of sin – eternal death. You will see our Creator become our Saviour in this world’s greatest search and rescue mission known to man. God sent His son to die for all humanity, so that those who believe in His Son will be rescued from eternal death into eternal life.

In this lesson we are going to explore the positive end results of the universe’s greatest drama for those who believe in God and walk in His way of righteousness through Jesus Christ. We are going to study about heaven and this earth made new. The purpose of today’s study is threefold: 1. it is to give encouragement to the genuine faithful who are holding on to the truths and promises of God, 2. it is to convict and inspire the minds of individuals who have not totally surrendered their life to Jesus Christ., and 3. it is to prompt the proper arrangement of personal pursuits and life priorities for those who “have not time” and are wearied by the pursuits and cares of this life. God has a lot in store for you, if you surrender your life to Him. Let’s dig in the Word learn more about the truths of the Heavenly city and the earth made new.

1. What precious and encouraging promise does Jesus give to those who are faithful and overcame sin through Jesus Christ?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: John 14:1 – 3; Hebrews 11:10 & 16; Isaiah 65:17, Revelation 21:5; Revelation 22:14; Acts 3:20, 21; 1 John 3:2

Write Bible Answer: _____

Jesus says in John 14:2 “**In My Father's house** are many mansions...” The Greek word for “house” is referring to a residence or home of a family. The Greek word for “mansion” is “mone” which means “a staying” referring a room inside a home. In other words, Jesus reveals that in Daddy's family home He has many rooms. And Jesus continues, that He is going back to prepare a room or “space” for you in our Daddy's home, the King. Once we have a room in Daddy's home, His home becomes our home, because we are family! Wow! Jesus promises those who believe in Him and walk after His likeness will dwell with Him in a literal city with a room in the King's house. Hebrews 11:10 and 16 reveals that God has a city whose builder and maker is God. And He wants us to live with Him in that city.

2. **Where is the home and city of God?**

Read ALL the following Bible texts: Ecclesiastes 5:2; Psalm 123:1, Matthew 5:16; John 6:38; John 3:13; Revelation 21:2;

Write Bible Answer: _____

The Holy City of God in which Jesus lives is currently in the heavens physically out of reach from sinful humanity. This city is known to as Heaven or the New Jerusalem built by God.

3. **How real is this city? And what is the description of this heavenly city?**

This city is very real. Revelation 21:12-21 has the most splendid and beautiful physical description of this real heavenly city. Let's take a glimpse at the description of this city.

Read ALL the Bible Texts below:

Reality of City: Revelation 21:1-4, 10, 11

Write Bible Answer: _____

Foundation of City: Revelation 21:14, 19 - 21

Write Bible Answer: _____

Size of City: Revelation 21:16

Write Bible Answer: _____

Now let's put that in the terminology of our measuring standards. 12,000 furlongs is equal to 1,500 miles. The total perimeter of the city is 1,500 miles. The length, width, and height are equal, a perfect square. But let's break down. The actual size of the heavenly city is 375 miles long, 375 miles wide, and the height of it is 375 miles high! This is a very large city. Remember, I am only describing the size of the heavenly city itself and not the surrounding area and land outside the city. New York City, our largest city in the USA, does not even compare to the size of God's heavenly city. Just some perspective, this city is bigger than the whole state of Colorado. And the height the city is more than halfway to space at 375 miles high!

Walls of City: Revelation 21:17-18

Write Bible Answer: _____

The walls are 144 cubits. "Cubit" in the Greek means "forearm". Typically a cubit was the length of the forearm measuring from the elbow to the middle finger of the hand. This equals approximately 1.5 feet. So

based on these calculations the walls to the heavenly city are $144 \times 1.5 = 216$ feet high. Also the walls are made of pure gold so pure you can see through it like glass! Beautiful

Gates of City: Revelation 21:12,13, 21

Write Bible Answer: _____

We see here 12 gates, 3 on each side. Each gate is made of a single pearl!

Streets of the city: Revelation 21:21 (last part)

Write Bible Answer: _____

Streets are transparent gold! Wow!

Thus far from our brief exploration of the physical description of this real heavenly city, can you imagine how beautiful this city is? There is nothing on earth that can compare with such beauty.

4. What features in this beautiful city will guarantee each citizen dwelling there eternal youth and vitality and life?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: Revelation 22:1 – 2; Genesis 3:22

Write Bible Answer: _____

The scriptures reveal that the quintessence of life will flow as a river FROM the throne of God through the middle of the gold streets of the city. We also see here that the tree of life is once again given access to man as it was for Adam and Eve in Genesis 3:22 in which it says, “Take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever.” This is the tree of life in the midst of the city as it was in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:9). It will be bridged on both side of the river that is flowing from the throne of God. Every month the tree of life will yield a new kind of fruit. The citizens of this city will never again experience the pains of sin. According to Revelation 21:4, “the former things [death, misery, sickness, blindness, hatred, stress, tragedy, etc.] are passed away.”

5. Will those citizens living in this heavenly city be real physical beings?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: Acts 1:1 – 3; Luke 24:36 – 51; Acts 1:11; Philippians 3:20, 21; 1 Corinthians 15:51 - 53

Write Bible Answer: _____

When Christ rose from the dead, ascended to heaven and then temporarily returned to earth for 40 days according to Acts 1:3 He dwelt and spoke with the disciples about the things of His kingdom. When you read Luke 24:36-51, Christ appeared to His disciples for the first time after His resurrection and proved to them that He was flesh and bone. The disciples touched Jesus and Jesus ate food with them. In Luke 24:39, Jesus told the disciples, who thought they saw a ghost, “Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.” And when He ascended back to the heavenly city, Jesus returned as flesh and bone. In Acts 1:11, it says “This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven.”

The Bible is clear that those saved in the heavenly city will have real bodies as Christ. We are not talking about the corruptible fleshy body in which we currently have. We are talking about new and incorruptible bodies, not marred by the stains of sin. The Bible does not teach that the saved will be “spirits” or ghost floating on a cloud playing harps. That is foolish teaching of man inspired by Satan. The Bible clearly reveals that God’s redeemed will have real physical bodies dwelling in a real physical and beautiful place. They will be enjoying all the wondrous things of heaven.

6. What are some of the many activities that the righteous citizens will be involved in this heavenly city and newly established kingdom?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: Isaiah 65:17, 21, 22; Isaiah 66:22, 23; Isaiah 11:6 – 9; Zephaniah 3:17; Revelation 14: 1 – 3; Matthew 8:11; Revelation 22:4; Psalm 16:11; 1 Corinthians 2:9

Write Bible Answer: _____

According to the Bible we will be real people building, planting, learning, and exploring many things. We will be gathering every seventh day of the week, Sabbath, to worship before God. Most of all, we will be able to communicate face to face with God, our Creator. These texts only describes a few of the many activities that God has in stored for His people in the heavenly city and the earth made new. Many other Bible texts reveal that, you will have too much to learn and do to get bored. ***First Corinthians 2:9*** says “But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him.” No human language can really describe what God has in store for His children Amen. The richest man in the world can not buy it. In the end God will restore all that Adam lost. The end of the Bible’s drama will reflect the beginning of it. Friends, today, even in our “I have no time” and “I have too much to do” lifestyles, we must take time, and study and learn of God’s rich truths of the Bible for ourselves. Matthew 6:33, says “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” It is true, ALL heaven will be given to you if you actively believe in Jesus Christ and walk as He walked in this lifetime.