

Rigged for the Journey
THE ETERNAL STATE

Lesson 12F

Introduction:

- A. Heaven is for **Real!** It is not a concept, a figment of the imagination, a happy place to go in your thought life; but rather Heaven is more real than looking at Mt. Rainer on a beautiful sunny day. It is a place that Christ is preparing for His bride to join Him forevermore (John 14:1-3).

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if [it were] not [so], I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, [there] you may be also.” (John 14:1-3 NKJV)

- B. The Bible indicates that Heaven is up toward the **north** (Isaiah 14:13). No matter where we are on the face of the Earth, up is always north. The very word Heaven means to be raised high or a lofty place, it is a place where God is lifted high among His creation.

“For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north;’ (Isa 14:13 NKJV)

- C. Heaven is a **precious** place in the life of the believer.

1. Our **Savior** is in Heaven (Heb 9:24).

“For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, [which are] copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;” (Heb 9:24 NKJV)

2. Our **relatives** in Christ are in Heaven (Heb 12:23).

“To the general assembly and church of the firstborn [who are] registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect,” (Heb 12:23 NKJV)

3. Our **inheritance** is in Heaven (1 Pet 1:3-4; Rom 8:16-17).

“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, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,” (1Pe 1:3-4 NKJV)

“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with [Him], that we may also be glorified together.” (Ro 8:16-17 NKJV)

4. Our eternal **destination** is Heaven (Phil 3:20).

“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,” (Php 3:20 NKJV)

5. Our **rewards** are in Heaven (Matt 5:12).

“Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great [is] your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” (Mt 5:12 NKJV)

6. Our true **riches** are in Heaven (Matt 6:19-21).

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.” (Mt 6:19-20 NKJV)

7. Our **reservation** is secure in Heaven (Rev 21:27; Luke 10:20).

“But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.” (Re 21:27 NKJV)

“Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.” (Lu 10:20 NKJV)

“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” (John 14:6 NKJV)

I. Christ Ushers In the Eternal State

- A. The present creation is **destroyed** and a new Heaven and new Earth are revealed which do not contain the scars of sin’s devastating consequences (Rev 21:1; 13:1; 17:1, 15; 20:13).

“Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.” (Revelation 21:1 NKJV)

“Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name.” (Revelation 13:1 NKJV)

“Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, “Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters,” (Revelation 17:1 NKJV)

“Then he said to me, “The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.” (Revelation 17:15 NKJV)

“The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.” (Revelation 20:13 NKJV)

1. Our hearts are programmed to **long** for God and His perfect creation (Matt 6:10; Heb 11:13-14).

“Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as [it is] in heaven.” (Mt 6:10 NKJV)

“These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced [them] and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland.” (Heb 11:13-14 NKJV)

2. God has **promised** a New Heaven and New Earth that will last for eternity and will never be marred by sin (Isa 66:22; 2 Pet 3:13).

““For as the new heavens and the new earth Which I will make shall remain before Me,” says the LORD, “So shall your descendants and your name remain.” (Isa 66:22 NKJV)

“Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.” (2Pe 3:13 NKJV)

3. This New Heaven and New Earth will be so **magnificent** that we will forget all about the Old Heaven and Old Earth where we currently reside (Isa 65:17).

““For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind.” (Isa 65:17 NKJV)

- B. The principle feature of this new creation will be a **holy** city, the New Jerusalem (Rev 21:2; 21:9-21).

“Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.” (Revelation 21:2 NKJV)

1. Jesus will be the **centerpiece** of the New Jerusalem (Rev 21:22-23)

“But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb [is] its light.” (Revelation 21:22-23 NKJV)

2. The New Jerusalem is a **real** physical city (Rev 3:12).

“He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. And I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And [I will write on him] My new name.” (Re 3:12 NKJV)

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if [it were] not [so], I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, [there] you may be also.” (John 14:1-3 NKJV)

3. The New Heaven and the New Earth will be much **different** than the old creation.

- a. God will **dwell** with His people and be in direct fellowship with them for all eternity (Rev 21:3).

“And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God [is] with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them [and be] their God.” (Re 21:3 NKJV)

- b. God will eliminate all **pain** and suffering from His people forever (Rev 21:4).

“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.” (Re 21:4 NKJV)

- c. Nothing **unholy** will ever enter the New Heaven and New Earth (Rev 21:8, 27).

“But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.” (Re 21:8 NKJV)

“But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.” (Re 21:27 NKJV)

4. The **beauty** of the New Jerusalem is unparalleled with any other structural creation of God.

- a. The city reflects the very **Glory** of God (Rev 21:10-11).

“And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her light [was] like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.” (Re 21:10-11 NKJV)

- b. It has twelve gates made of **pearl** with the names of the twelve tribes of Israel written on them (Rev 21:12-13, 21).

“Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are [the names] of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west.” (Re 21:12-13 NKJV)

“The twelve gates [were] twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city [was] pure gold, like transparent glass.” (Re 21:21 NKJV)

- c. The walls of the city have twelve beautiful **foundations** named after the apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ (Rev 21:14, 18-20).

“Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.” (Re 21:14 NKJV)

“The construction of its wall was [of] jasper; and the city [was] pure gold, like clear glass. The foundations of the wall of the city [were] adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation [was] jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoptase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst.” (Re 21:18-20 NKJV)

- d. There will be streets of **gold** in the New Jerusalem, which will produce a mirror effect to the one walking upon them (Rev 21.18, 21).

“The construction of its wall was [of] jasper; and the city [was] pure gold, like clear glass.” (Re 21:18 NKJV)

“The twelve gates [were] twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city [was] pure gold, like transparent glass.” (Re 21:21 NKJV)

5. The **dimensions** of the city are like nothing man has created in the old creation (Rev 21:15-16).

“And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs. Its length, breadth, and height are equal.” (Re 21:15-16 NKJV)

- a. The New Jerusalem will be **square** and the length, width, and height will all be 12,000 furlongs. A furlong is equal to approximately 600 US feet. Therefore the following will be true about the Holy City:

- 1) The first floor alone will be **1,904,400** square miles, which is about 3 times the size of Alaska.
- 2) The total area of the Holy City will be **2,628,072,000** cubic miles. One cubic mile = 147,197,952,000 cubic feet.
- 3) Scientists and population mathematicians believe that approximately **106-108** billion people have lived and or died since the beginning of time. Most believe the generations

of humans began approximately 50,000 B.C., which is more liberal than conservative Christians. However, for the purpose of this illustration, we will use their statistics.^{1 2}

- a) If all 108 billion people were saved and went to Heaven (which the Bible denies); then there would be about **0.025** cubic miles or 3.7 billion cubic feet surrounding each person in the New Jerusalem.³
 - b) If only 10% of these 108 billion people accepted Christ since the time of creation; then there will be **0.24** cubic miles or 35.3 billion cubic feet surrounding each person in the New Jerusalem.⁴
- b. Each wall within the city is **216** feet tall (Rev 21:17). This would mean there would be approximately **33,333** stories inside the New Jerusalem.
- “Then he measured its wall: one hundred [and] forty-four cubits, [according] to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel.” (Re 21:17 NKJV)**
- c. As you can see, the New Jerusalem is large enough to **support** the entire world population since the beginning of creation.
6. The New Jerusalem is the **home** of all those who have placed their faith and trust in Christ alone for salvation from both the Old Testament and New Testament ages (Heb 12:22-24; Rev 21:24-27).

“But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn [who are] registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than [that of] Abel.” (Heb 12:22-24 NKJV)

“And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.” (Revelation 21:24-27 NKJV)

Conclusion:

- A. In the New Creation, God will be in **fellowship** with His people and there will be no more sorrow, evil, or unbelief throughout all eternity (Rev 21:3-7; Rev 22:1-5).

“And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God [is] with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them [and

¹ Population Reference Bureau, How Many People Have Ever Lived on Earth?;

www.prb.org/Publications/Articles/2002/HowManyPeopleHaveEverLivedonEarth.aspx, 10 May 2014.

² Scientific American, 7 Billion People and Counting, Fact or Fiction?: Living People Outnumber the Dead; www.scientificamerican.com/article/fact-or-fiction-living-outnumber-dead, 10 May 2014.

³ Kyle’s Converter, Cubic Miles to Cubic Feet; www.kylesconverter.com/volume/cubic-miles-to-cubic-feet, 10 May 2014.

⁴ Ibid.

be] their God. "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." 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." 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. "He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son." (Revelation 21:3-7 NKJV)

"And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, [was] the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each [tree] yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree [were] for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. They shall see His face, and His name [shall be] on their foreheads. There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever." (Revelation 22:1-5 NKJV)

- B. There is **no question** the events described above will take place (Rev 22:6-7; 22:18-19).

"Then he said to me, "These words [are] faithful and true." And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place. "Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed [is] he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book." (Revelation 22:6-7 NKJV)

"For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and [from] the things which are written in this book." (Revelation 22:18-19 NKJV)

- C. Therefore, now is the time of salvation. Now is the time to make a **decision** about Jesus (Rev 22:10-14).

"And he said to me, "Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand. "He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still." "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward [is] with Me, to give to every one according to his work. "I am the Alpha and the Omega, [the] Beginning and [the] End, the First and the Last." Blessed [are] those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city." (Revelation 22:10-14 NKJV)

- D. There is no place for the **ungodly** in God's new creation (Rev 22:15).

"But outside [are] dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie." (Revelation 22:15 NKJV)

- E. Believers should always be **ready**, because the return of Christ is sure and may occur at any moment (Rev 22:20; 2 Tim 4:8). Are you ready to meet Jesus?

“He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!” (Revelation 22:20 NKJV)

“Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.” (2 Timothy 4:8 NKJV)

Spending Time with the Master⁵

Day 1: 2 Peter 3:11-14

What God said:

My Response to God:

Day 2: 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

What God said:

My Response to God:

Day 3: Titus 2:11-14

What God said:

My Response to God:

Day 4: Philippians 3:20-21

What God said:

My Response to God:

Day 5: Colossians 3:1-4

What God said:

My Response to God:

Suggested reading: *Rigged for the Journey*, Chapter 11

Memory Verse: Colossians 3:4

**“When Christ [who is] our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.”
(Colossians 3:4 NKJV)**

⁵ Idea taken from MasterLife “Daily Master Communication Guide”, Avery T. Willis, Jr. and Kay Moore, *The Disciple’s Cross*, LifeWay Press: Nashville, TN., 1996, p. 14.