

April 5, 2020 “Eternal Life” Bible Studies for Life Senior Adults

If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be?

Disney World	Hawaii	Alaska
On a farm	In the city	In the mountains
At the beach	My home town	Where you live now

All of these places have positives and negatives. Location, location location. Ads will say this is the best place to live, this is the best place to retire, or this is the most affordable place to live. Some people would choose a warm climate and some would choose a cold climate. Some would choose the beach and others the mountains. No matter where we live, God is with us. When we live with God in Heaven, we will live forever in His presence. Heaven will be the perfect home and we will have the best of everything.

POINT: We can live forever in the presence of God.

Revelation 21:1-5 (NIV) “1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” 5 He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

Isaiah 66:22 says, “As the new heavens and the new earth that I make will endure before me,” declares the LORD, “so will your name and descendants endure.” In the Old Testament, God promised to create a new heaven and a new earth.

According to Revelation, what will this be like?

New heaven and new earth No longer any sea Holy City – the new Jerusalem Dwelling of God with men He lives with them No tears No death	No mourning No crying No pain Old order of things passed away He will be seated on the throne Everything new
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Our home with God will be perfect because we will be in the presence of God. The One who spoke the world into place has promised to spend eternity with us. Satan will be confined to the lake of fire.

In what life situations are these verses comforting?

- We won't have to worry about our health

- We will not experience the lose of our loved ones
- We won't have to worry about our finances
- We won't have to worry about the world's declining moral values
- There won't be loneliness

John said he saw "The New Jerusalem" and compared it to a beautiful bride walking down the aisle for her husband. Have you ever attended a wedding and saw the joy and radiance on the bride and groom as they look at each other? Even this will not compare to the beauty we will experience in Heaven. We will live together in harmony.

There will no longer be sin or death and we will be surrounded by God's holiness.

Why is it important to understand that heaven is a place where everything is made new?

- the old earth is stained by sin, it will be replaced
- the new heaven is made even more beautiful
- Jerusalem had been destroyed at the time of John's writing ... it was rebuilt
- we are told that at salvation we are a new creation (spiritually) 2 Cor. 5:17 "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" Everything (including us) will be literally new creations
- Jesus told the Disciples that He was going away to prepare a place for you (John 14:2).

What are the promises that God has made to us?

- We will be in His presence
- He will wipe away every tear
- Death will be no more
- There will be no crying or pain
- We will be free of sin
- We will worship Him, praise Him

Next, we will discover more about eternal life.

Revelation 21:6-8 (NIV) He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. 7 He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son. 8 But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars--their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."

"It is done." Jesus completed the work He came to earth to do. John 19:30 says, "It is finished." Jesus said, "I am the Alpha and Omega: the beginning and the end." He existed in the beginning and He will exist to the end. Everything had its beginning in Him and everything will end with Him.

What does the Lord promise as the blessing of the redeemed?

- I will freely (for nothing, without cost) give to the thirsty from the spring of the water of life. Water is a symbol of Eternal life. Jesus will quench our thirst.
- We will have spiritual satisfaction.
- We will inherit all of God's blessings.
- We will be adopted into God's family.

Who does God say will experience "the lake that burns?"

Cowards	Murderers	Idolaters
Faithless	Sexually immoral	Liars
Detestable	Sorcerers	

The Lord makes it clear that not everyone will make it into heaven. People who choose to remain in sin rather than ask Jesus into their life will experience a second death. They will experience eternal separation from God. In John 14:6, Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Revelation 22:1-5 (NIV) "Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb 2 down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. 3 No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. 4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5 There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign forever and ever."

Using images from Genesis 1 – 3 and Ezekiel 40, John showed that Eden is regained. A river flowed through the garden of Eden. The tree of life was present in Eden. Because of Jesus' death on the cross, we will eat from the tree of life.
How did God describe heaven to John?

The River of the Water of Life flowing down the middle of the city's main street
clear as crystal flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb
John's readers living in Asia Minor would have understood the rivers as clear as crystal.

Tree of Life standing on each side of the river
bears 12 kinds of fruit produces fruit every month
leaves are for healing the nations – no more sin, sickness, death, no more physical or spiritual wants

Throne of God and of the Lamb	
We will worship Him	We will see His face
His name will be on our foreheads	No night or darkness
God will provide light	God will reign forever

What will we do in Heaven?
We will worship God

We will serve God
We will reign with God

These words are faithful and true (Revelation 22:6)
Have you made a profession of faith? Is your name written in God's Book?

A = admit you are a sinner and have made mistakes
B = believe that Jesus is God's son and He chose to die on the cross for you
C = commit yourself to a life of following Jesus and serving others

Application

Look to Christ.

- If you have not trusted Christ, place your faith in Him.
- He desires for you to come to Him and live with Him for eternity.

Focus on heaven.

- As a follower of Christ, your citizenship is in heaven (Phil. 3:20).
- Don't let the temporary things of life consume you.
- *"Seek the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on earthly things"* (Col. 3:1-2).

Invite others to heaven.

- Identify specific people you know who have no hope of eternal life because they have not placed their faith in Christ.
- Pray and seek opportunities to tell them how they can have an eternal life in heaven with Christ.