

On Wednesday April 21, 2021, I was blessed to host an open forum of Q&A. One of the questions focused on what heaven would be like. There are several items to consider when discerning what our existence will be after we depart this life.

1. There are two ways to depart this life.
  - a. One, we die physically. For the believer in the gospel of Christ who dies, he/she goes immediately to the presence of the Lord Jesus.
    - i. “We are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.” 2 Corinthians 5:8
    - ii. Those who have died before the rapture will be resurrected and given glorified bodies.
      1. “Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly. I Corinthians 15:49
      2. “For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality...” 1 Corinthians 15:53–54
  - b. The second alternative is that we will be raptured.
    - i. “Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.” 1 Thess. 4:17
2. After the resurrection, we will be like Jesus.
  - a. Jesus had a physical body. We will have a physical body.
    - i. “Then He said to Thomas, ‘Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side, and do not be unbelieving, but believing.’” John 20:26–27
  - b. Jesus was recognizable. We will be recognizable.
    - i. “Therefore, that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, ‘It is the Lord.’” John 21:7
3. We will have glorified bodies like Jesus.
  - a. “Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him because we will see Him just as He is.” 1 John 3:2
4. We will be like the angels in confirmed holiness. We will have physical bodies but not the need to procreate.
  - a. “For in the resurrection, they neither marry nor are given in marriage but are like angels in heaven.” Matthew 22:30
5. After the rapture and during the seven years of the Great Tribulation, we will participate in the Bema Seat evaluation. We will not be judged for sin. That was dealt with on the cross.
  - a. “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive compensation for his deeds done through the body, in accordance with what he has done, whether good or bad” (worthless). 2 Corinthians 5:10

- b. “But as for you, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or you as well, why do you regard your brother or sister with contempt? For we will all appear before the judgment seat of God.” Romans 14:10
- 6. There will be the marriage of the Lamb. Christ, the Head of the Body, will be united with His glorified Church, the universal body of believers from all ages.
  - a. “Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His bride has made herself ready.” It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.” Revelation 19:7–8
- 7. We will judge the world and angels with Jesus.
  - a. “Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? If the world is judged by you, are you not competent to constitute the smallest law courts? Do you not know that we will judge angels?” 1 Corinthians 6:2–3
- 8. After the Millennial Kingdom, we will enter the Eternal State (see the following)

## **II. LIFE IN THE ETERNAL CITY**

### ***Pentecost, J. Dwight. Things to Come. Zondervan Academic. Kindle Edition.***

*Nowhere does Scripture give details of the life in the eternal kingdom of God. Occasionally the curtain is drawn back to give a slight glimpse of that life, of which our present experience with Him is only “a foretaste of glory divine.”*

**A. A life of fellowship with Him.** *For now, we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face [1 Cor. 13:12]. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is [1 John 3:2]. I will come again, and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there ye may be also [John 14:3]. And they shall see his face [Rev. 22:4].*

**B. A life of rest.** *And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them [Rev. 14:13].*

**C. A life of full knowledge.** *...now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known [1 Cor. 13:12].*

**D. A life of holiness.** *And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb’s book of life [Rev. 21:27].*

**E. A life of joy.** *And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away [Rev. 21:4].*

**F. A life of service.** *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 [Rev. 22:3].*

**G. A life of abundance.** *I will give unto him that is a thirst of the fountain of the water of life freely [Rev. 21:6].*

**H. A life of glory.** *For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory [2 Cor. 4:17]. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory [Col. 3:4].*

**I. A life of worship.** *And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power unto the Lord our God [Rev. 19:1]. After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb...Blessing and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen [Rev. 7:9-12].*

*No redeemed individual could ever fully understand the glory of the prospect set before him. John summarized the anticipated glory by saying, "we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him" (1 John 3:2). The glory of our expectation is that we shall be transformed into His likeness, being sinless, deathless, and experiencing the perfection of development.*

*Oh, Christ! He is the fountain—The deep sweet well of love! The streams on earth I've tasted,  
More deep I'll drink above! There, to an ocean fullness, His mercy doth expand, And glory, glory  
dwelleth In Immanuel's land.*

*There is the danger that the redeemed one will become so occupied with the anticipation of his own experience of glory that the supreme glorification of the Godhead is lost. Our occupation in the eternal state will not be with our position or glory but with God, Himself.*

*John writes: "We shall see Him as he is" (1 John 3:2). We shall be fully occupied with the One "that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father" (Rev. 1:5-6), ascribing "Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power,...unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb forever and ever"(Rev. 5:13), saying, "Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen" (Rev. 7:12), for "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory and blessing" (Rev. 5:12).*

*The bride eyes not her garment, But her dear bridegroom's face; I will not gaze at glory, But on my King of Grace— Not at the crown He giveth, But on His pierced hand:— The Lamb is all the glory Of Immanuel's land.*

