



Family Devotions



Our Eternal Home

Scripture: Revelation 21:1-22:5

Also, Isaiah 65:17; John 14:1-3; Hebrews 11:10

Memory Verse: Revelation 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.”

For My Family

Start this time of devotions by asking each of your family members to describe heaven. This past Sunday, Pastor Joe ended his study on 2 Peter 3:13, which mentions God’s promise of a new heavens and new earth. Today, we are going to read about what that place will be like! People have many different ideas about what heaven will be like, but we don’t have to wonder (at least not about all of it). God wants us to look forward to our future home, like Abraham, who “waited for the city... whose builder and maker is God” (Hebrews 11:10), and describes much of it in detail for us. As you read through Revelation 21-22, encourage your kids to use their imaginations and try to picture in their minds what is being described. Maybe they can even draw what’s being described after or as you read.

The first thing we see is that there is “a new heaven and a new earth.” God will create a whole new earth for us to explore and enjoy! It will be much different from this one, but in a bigger and better kind of way. We may find it strange, but on the new earth we are told there will be “no more sea.” This means there will be a lot more land to explore full of mountains, valleys, forests, and more! But no more sea is just the beginning. There are lots of things that are not in this new earth: no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying... no more pain (21:4); no temple; no need for the light of the sun or moon (21:21-22), since there will be no night there (21:25;22:5); and nothing wicked or sinful or untrue (21:27). All of those things (the former things) will be in the past and will NEVER be a part of the new heavens and earth. God says, “I have made all things new... It is done,” and will never be undone.

But what *will* be there? Well, in this new earth there is going to be a huge city for us to live in called New Jerusalem. It’s in the shape of a cube (square), which means the four walls are as high as they are long (12,000 furlongs = 1,500 miles). To put this in perspective, the city walls would go from Maine down to Florida, then all the way over to Colorado, with the height of the walls being as high as three hundred Mount Everests stacked on each other. Plenty of room for all the people who will live there!

This city is not only big, but it’s bright, shining with God’s glory. Those big walls are made of a crystal-like material, always shining and over 200 feet thick. Did we mention how you get inside? Each of the four walls of the city has three gates, each made of a single giant

pearl, with an angel standing at each gate (maybe to help you find Noah's house, or anyone else you might be looking for). Under the city are 12 foundations made of different precious jewels of different colors. Usually, foundations are hidden underground and aren't very beautiful, but these shine with God's glory. They are laid out side by side, like a check-board, meaning that some of the city will be all lit up in sapphire blue, and other parts all lit up in emerald green, and others in red (sardius), gold, and other colors depending on which foundation is there. Oh, did I mention the streets are made of pure gold?

Speaking of gold, the whole city is gold, so pure it's like clear glass. But the most amazing thing about the new kingdom is not the massive walls, the pearl gates, or the beautiful foundations, or even the gold city. The most amazing thing is Who is at the center of this city: our King! The One who made it possible for us to be there! There's no temple where people go to meet with God because God is the temple! We will forever live in His presence. There is no darkness because He is the light, and the whole city was made to be shining with His glory. Even we will be shining, having bodies like his glorious body, dressed in robes of righteousness, shining like the sun. We will serve Him and worship Him. We will see His face and hear His voice. From His throne will come a river, as clear as crystal, that flows through this giant city, and on either side of this river will be the Tree of Life, which will grow a different fruit each month for us to enjoy!

What an amazing place! What an amazing God! All of those who have trusted in Jesus as their Lord and Savior will call it home. I am so excited to get there. I can't wait to be reunited with family and friends, and to meet the amazing people we read about in the Bible. But most of all, I can't wait to see Jesus face-to-face.

Questions for Young Children:

Apart from Jesus, who are you most excited to meet and talk to in heaven (Someone from the Bible, a relative or friend, etc.)?

What color foundation would you like to live on?

How can you be sure you will go to heaven?

Questions for Teens and Pre-teens:

Apart from Jesus, who are you most excited to meet and talk to in heaven?

Why does God give us these details about heaven?

How should understanding that this world is not our home affect how we live and the choices we make?