“*I am He who searches hearts & minds and I will repay each of you according to your deeds*,” Revelation 2:23

“People only live for a higher purpose when they see a higher purpose”, Randy ALcorn

**Created for a Person & a Place**

**Revelation 21 & 22~**

Intro: God longs to dwell among us. From Genesis (in the garden) to Moses Tabernacle to David’s Temple to Jesus’ incarnation, death (for the joy before him) & resurrection….to the infilling of the Holy Spirit in us…to the end of this age, God longs to be with us.

1. **A Prepared Place: Heaven is my home** (Revelation 21:1-2)
2. Read from Revealing Heaven (by Kit Karr) pages 25-29
3. Isaiah 65:17-19 (NLT) “*Look! I am creating new heavens and a new earth—so wonderful that no one will even think about the old ones anymore. Be glad! Rejoice forever in my creation. And look! I will create Jerusalem as a place of happiness. Her people will be a source of joy. I will rejoice in Jerusalem and delight in my people. And the sound of weeping and crying will be heard no more*.”
4. The Bible tells us that we are pilgrims, strangers, aliens, ambassadors working far from home
5. Read Hebrews 11:13-16 & I Peter 2:11
6. Our citizenship is in heaven (Philippians 3:20) but we’ve become so attached to this world that we live for the wrong kingdom.
7. CS Lewis, “Our Father refreshes us on the journey with some pleasant inns, but will not encourage us to mistake them for home.”
8. James tells us that our life here on earth “*is but mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes*”
9. Peter encourages us to “*look forward to that day and hurry it along—the day when God will set the heavens on fire and the elements will melt away in the flames. But we are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth he has promised,* ***a world where everyone is right with God***,” 2 Peter 3:12-13
10. We forget our true home, built for us by our bridegroom king
11. “*There are many rooms in my Father’s house and I am going to prepare a place for you….when everything is ready, I will come and get you so that you will always be with me where I am*” John 14:2-3
12. Every detail has been prepared; it is thought through
13. The Creator designed the Garden in the beginning of earth’s history and at the end of the story another Paradise is prepared.
14. Adam & Eve
15. 1st face he/she saw was a loving Father
16. 1st voice he/she heard was a loving Father
17. 1st feeling he/she felt was His loving touch (the embrace of a Father)
18. 1st experience he/she had was the Presence of God
19. Placed in Eden (Pleasure) ~ they were to live from that place
20. **A Perfect Place**—**No More Tears** (Revelation 21:1,3,4,5)
21. Vs 3 & “*I will live among you and I will not despise you. I will walk among you; I will be your God and you will be my people*,” Leviticus 26:11-12
22. Vs 1--No more sea (which represents separation)
23. Think about those things which separate: misunderstandings, critical spirit, living from the flesh, wars, divorce, pain, wounded hearts
24. There will be no more suffering, death, pain, grief, fear
25. Vs 4—Jesus will wipe away all our tears
26. All emotional pain will be gone
27. Healing to all memories
28. All sin done away with!
29. The old order of things have passed away—everything is fresh, clean, perfect!
30. All emotional, physical, spiritual suffering gone!
31. No matter what you are going through, it’s not the last word—God has written the last chapter and it all ends very well for those who are His.
32. Isaiah 35:10, *“…the ransomed of the Lord will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will have been transformed*.” HALLELUJAH!
33. **A Physical Place – Beauty Beyond Description** (Revelation 21:9-13, 15-19, 21)
34. Vs 9-13—The holy city shines like a precious jewel
35. The city has no lights in it; it radiates with the glory of God with the city itself reflecting the many facets that are God.
36. Walls--Inside the walls there is safety; nothing to fear; 200 feet thick
37. Walls are made of Jasper (God himself is described as appearing like Jasper—Rev. 4:3) indicating that everything in the city would radiate His Presence!
38. Foundations--Foundations show it is stable & unmovable; nothing will ever shake us
39. The jewels that make up the foundations are connected to imagery of the high priest going into the Most Holy Place one time/year….in this new city of God, all of God’s people will be in His Presence – never to be separate from Him.
40. Measurements—The city measures 12, 000 stadia (roughly 1400-1500 miles square) : The measurements are all multiples of 12, the number of God’s people {12 tribes; 12 apostles, walls are 144 (12x12); 12 layers in the walls; 12 gates in the city
41. Gates—Each of the 12 gates was made from a single pearl and they are 200 ft thick; they will never be shut (for there is nothing to keep out)
42. Pearls are formed by irritation (suffering). Every time we enter the city we will remember the suffering Jesus did to redeem us to Himself. He is represented at every gate!
43. Streets—Streets are made of gold, clear as glass, like a mirror. We will glorify Jesus with every step we take, reflecting His Glory in us. The emphasis is on purity & transparency in everything in order to radiate the glory of God.
44. **The Presence of a Person: The Lord God Almighty & The Lamb** (Revelation 21:7, 22- 27)
45. Vs 7 --There is a choice to each person, whether or not to live with God, in His glorious Presence
46. He will be our God and we will be His people and we will never be separated from Him for the rest of eternity…..
47. Vs 22- This is the home of the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb! It is His Home~ the Most Holy Place. There is no need for a temple
48. The center of God’s Presence among His people will be everywhere thoughout the city.
49. Vs 23 – No need for light because the Glory of God will be your everlasting light
50. Isaiah wrote, “*No longer will you need the sun or the moon to give you light, for the Lord your God will be your everlasting light, and He will be your glory. The sun will never set; the moon will not go down. For the Lord will be your everlasting light,”* Is. 60:19-20
51. Never any darkness or shadow
52. Our faith will be made sight
53. **A People of God: Activity & Authority** (Revelation 21:24-27 & Revelation 22:1-5)
54. Vs 24-27 – People from every tribe, nation, people, language will be part of the family of God (God is the creator of diversity); those whose names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life
55. Believers bodies will be transformed (I Corinthians 15:35-57)
56. Walk through walls like Jesus did (John 20:26, “*Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them…”) &* John 20:19
57. I John 3:2 tells us that we will be like Jesus *“…for we will be like Him, for we will see Him as He really is…”*
58. We will eat because Jesus cooked fish & ate with his disciples after the resurrection (John 21)
59. Matthew 8:11, “*I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the Kingdom of Heaven*.”
60. Marriage supper of the Lamb (Rev 19)
61. We will be able to “transport” by thought because Jesus did
62. Luke 24: 31, *“…..then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight*”
63. Rev 22:2 “*On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing 12 crops of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.”*
64. All the hurts of the nations will be healed.
65. The river will be a constant stream of blessing & refreshment
66. Rev 22:3 *“….and His servants will serve Him…”*
67. We will be active in assignments
68. God will surely give us more creativity in heaven because we will not be affected by sin/weariness/comparison/etc. or unlimited in mortality. There will be no hindrance to our capabilities
69. We will compose, write, paint, sing, build, plant, carve, etc….
70. There will be caretaking responsibilities and cities to govern ~ to rule and reign with Him (Rev 5:10).

This is our inheritance!