

1982

Bible Study

Harold Willmington

Liberty University, hwillmington@liberty.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/will_articles

Recommended Citation

Willmington, Harold, "Bible Study" (1982). *Articles*. 31.

https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/will_articles/31

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Willmington School of the Bible at Scholars Crossing. It has been accepted for inclusion in Articles by an authorized administrator of Scholars Crossing. For more information, please contact scholarlycommunications@liberty.edu.

BIBLE STUDY

by Harold L. Willmington

A popular but totally perverted concept of heaven would describe that future life in the skies in terms of some disembodied spirits piously perched on fleecy clouds and strumming their golden harps. This may be heaven according to Walt Disney, but New Testament it is not. Scripture would indicate that:

Heaven will be a place of singing.

Sing, O ye heavens; for the Lord hath done it; shout, ye lower parts of the earth: break forth into singing, ye mountains, O forest, and every tree therein: for the Lord hath redeemed Jacob, and glorified himself in Israel (Isa. 44:23).

Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee (Heb. 2:12).

And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth (Rev. 14:3).

And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints (Rev. 15:3).

There are of course some songs we sing down here that we won't sing up there. We will not sing "When We All Get to Heaven" or "Sweet Hour of Prayer." But other earthly hymns will be appropriate to sing up there, such as "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" and "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name."

Two of heaven's greatest songs will have for their theme God's two great works. (1) The hymn praising God for His mighty work of creation:

Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created (Rev. 4:11), and (2) The hymn praising God for His mighty work of redemption:

And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation (Rev. 5:9).



Harold Willmington is Director of the Institute of Biblical Studies at Liberty Baptist College, Lynchburg, Virginia.

Heaven will be a place of fellowship.

One of the most beloved gospel songs is entitled "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms." The first stanza begins: "What a fellowship, what a joy divine..." Sometimes, however, as one observes the petty squabbling which goes on in local churches, this verse might be rephrased to read: "What? A Fellowship? What? A joy divine?" But in heaven real and eternal fellowship will prevail.

Not only will believers enjoy blessed fellowship with other believers, but, even more important, we shall know and be known by the Savior in a far more intimate way than ever possible here on earth. Note the things this good and great and chief Shepherd will do for His sheep in heaven as listed by John:

He will feed us that hidden heavenly manna; He will give us a new name.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it (Rev. 2:17).

He will lead us beside the living waters; He will dry all our tears.

For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes (Rev. 7:17).

He will allow us to sit with Him on His throne.

To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne (Rev. 3:21).

He will dress us with His own righteousness.

And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints (Rev. 19:8).

Heaven will be a place of testifying.

Let the redeemed of the Lord say so... (Ps. 107:2).

Jesus...saith... Go... tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee (Mark 5:19).

It has already been suggested that heaven's human population may approach (or exceed) 30 billion. Each of this staggering number will have his or her unique and personal testimony. Thus, the first few million centuries might well be spent in the hearing of these redemption reviews. Add to this number the untold trillions of angels, each doubtless desiring to share what their Creator has done for and meant to them.

Worship.

is entitled "Leaning
za begins: "What a
es, however, as one
s on in local chur-
read: "What? A
eaven real and eter-

lowship with other
shall know and be
iate way than ever
his good and great
in heaven as listed

anna; He will give

? Spirit saith unto the
to eat of the hidden
in the stone a new
g he that receiveth it

; He will dry all our

the throne shall feed
is of waters: and God
ev. 7:17).

lis throne.

o sit with me in my
down with my Father

usness.
arrayed in fine linen,
ghteousness of saints

ifying.

Ps. 107:2).
things the Lord hath
hee (Mark 5:19).

heaven's human
billion. Each of this
nique and personal
turies might well be
reviews. Add to this
h doubtless desiring
and meant to them

MENTALIST JOURNAL

Heaven will be a place of serving.

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).

Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them (Rev. 7:15).

While we cannot be dogmatic on the exact nature of this service, we do know from the following passages that a portion of our labor for the Lamb will be that of exercising authority and judgment over men and angels:

Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? And if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know ye not that we shall judge angels? How much more things that pertain to this life? (1 Cor. 6:2,3).

If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us (2 Tim. 2:12).

And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever (Rev. 22:5).

Heaven will be a place of learning.

For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away (1 Cor. 13:9,10).

What will we learn about in heaven?

We will learn concerning the Person of God. Let us suppose in heaven we are able to double our learning each year concerning the person and attributes of God. This is not at all an unreasonable assumption, for the Christian will possess a sinless and glorified body, along with a holy and tireless desire to know more about Jesus! So here is a believer who begins

eternity with X amount of knowledge about God. At the beginning of his second year he has doubled this, the third year four times as much, the fourth year he knows eight times as much, etc. By the end of his eleventh year he will increase his knowledge concerning God a thousandfold. At the conclusion of year number twenty-one the figure jumps to one million. At the end of the thirty-first year the number leaps to one billion. Following the forty-first year it reaches one trillion! As he finishes his first century in eternity his knowledge of God (doubling each year) would reach 10³⁰ (ten followed by 30 zeros).

This figure is thousands of times more than the combined total of all the grains of sand on all the seashores of the earth. But this number simply marks his first one hundred years. How much knowledge doubling will he have experienced at the end of his first one million years? This staggering figure cannot even be comprehended by the mortal mind, but whatever it is, and however many zeros it represents, it will double itself the very next year! The point of all the above is simply this. Throughout the untold and unnumbered trillions and trillions of years in timeless eternity, each child of God can double his or her learning about the Creator each year and yet never even remotely exhaust the awesome height, depth, or length of the Person of God! Our testimony will continuously be: *O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!* (Rom. 11:33).

We will learn concerning the plan of God. One of the most painful questions asked here on earth by Christians is why a loving and wise God allows certain terrible tragedies to occur. As an example, here is a young, Spirit-filled pastor. He has spent a number of years diligently preparing for the ministry.

His wife has sacrificed to help put him through school. But now all is paying off. His church is experiencing an amazing growth. Souls are saved weekly. New converts are baptized each Sunday. Additional Sunday school buses are purchased and a new building is planned. A skeptical community slowly finds itself being profoundly influenced by this vibrant and exciting pastor and his people. Suddenly, without any warning, the minister is killed in a freak accident. Shortly after the funeral the still-confused and stunned congregation extends a call to another man. But the new minister shows little compassion and less leadership ability. Soon the flock is scattered and the once-thrilling testimony of a growing and glowing work is all but stilled!

How many times since Abel's martyrdom at the dawn of human history have similar tragedies like this taken place? One need only change the names, places, and rearrange some of the details. The searing and searching question remains. Why does God permit such terrible things?

We may rest assured, however, that in heaven God will take each of us aside and explain fully the reason for all our sufferings and trials. We then will say the words once stated by a Galilean crowd in Jesus' day: *He hath done all things well...* (Mark 7:37).

We will learn concerning the power of God. *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth* (Gen. 1:1). Just how vast is our universe? It is so huge that it takes a beam of light (which travels some 700 million miles per hour) over ten billion years to cross the known universe! Within this universe are untold trillions of stars, planets, and other heavenly bodies. God made them all to instruct man concerning His power and glory (Ps. 19:1; 147:4; Isa. 40:26). We shall someday therefore visit each star and explore every corner of our Father's universe! □