

WHAT KIND OF PLACE IS IT? (Revelation 21:1-12)

I. It is a prepared place (vs. 2).

- A. It's coming down out of heaven is symbolic of the fact that it is of divine origin.
- B. Notice Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 5:18.
- C. To comfort His apostles in a discussion prior to His death Jesus had these words to say (John 14:1-3).
 - 1. He told them He was going to prepare a place for them.
 - 2. It is a place of many mansions.
 - 3. It is a place prepared by the Lord Himself.
 - 4. Notice He said, "I go to prepare a place for you."
 - a. This should be no surprise.
 - b. It is He who framed the worlds with His voice.
 - c. It is He who built the church.
- D. This is the same city for which the patriarchs of old sought (Hebrews 11:10).
- E. The city has been made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.
 - 1. Men, do you remember the first time you saw your wife in her wedding gown?
 - 2. I still do, and still remember how beautiful she was.
 - 3. That is the idea that the Holy Spirit is conveying to us about the beauty of that city.

II. It is a purged place (vs. 4).

- A. It is purged of death - death causes great sorrow, but it is really in our best interest.
 - 1. The wicked would only grow in sin and the sick would only get sicker with no relief in sight.
 - 2. For Christians, it is the doorway through which we must pass to gain heaven.
 - 3. All who live in heaven will have immortal, incorruptible, spiritual bodies that will never grow old.
 - 4. Death will be completely abolished (1 Corinthians 15:25-28).
- B. It is purged of sorrow.
 - 1. There are a lot of causes of sorrow in this life.
 - 2. All of these will be totally absent from heaven.
- C. It is purged of crying.
 - 1. No tears in heaven is a song we enjoy singing.
 - 2. There will be nothing there to cause us to cry.
- D. It is purged of pain.
 - 1. How many people do we know that have some type of constant pain.
 - a. This is a result of sin entering into the world.
 - b. This pain exists in our diseased or maimed bodies.
 - 2. In heaven, all sources of pain will be abolished and we will have

perfect spiritual bodies.

III. It is a pollution-free place (vs. 8).

- A. There is a sign at Lupton posted on a pole in the pick up line that asks people to not let their cars idle because the kids can be affected by pollution.
- B. Heaven will be free of greater pollution than this.
 - 1. The fearful are those who shrink back from taking a stand for what is right and are unable to pay the cost of discipleship.
 - 2. The unbelieving are those who have gone back on their belief in Jesus as the way as well as those who never obeyed the gospel.
 - 3. The abominable are those who are morally bankrupt.
 - 4. We know what murderers and fornicators are, but included in with fornication are all manner of sexual sins.
 - 5. Sorcerers in the original language included the use of drugs .
 - 6. Idolators are those who worship things both visible and invisible that take the place of the Almighty.
 - 7. Liars are those who practice deceit, whether verbally or by remaining silent.
- C. All of these pollute our world and our lives as we strive to live for Jesus.
 - 1. These things seek to distract us from Christ.
 - 2. It is best, but difficult, to live by the words of Paul (Phillipians 4:8).

IV. It is a precious place (vs. 10-11).

- A. We know the value of many of these building materials mentioned in these verses.
 - 1. For a house to have any of these in it as building materials would cause it to be opulent in our world.
 - 2. Most of us can barely afford a ring with one or two of these type metals, let alone use them to build our homes.
- B. Not only that, it is precious because the glory of God fills it.
 - 1. Think that for all eternity, we get to live in the presence of God Almighty who has loved us so much to prepare this type place for us.
 - 2. The glory of God filled the tabernacle (Exodus 40:34) and the temple (1 Kings 8:11).
 - 3. Those priests could not stay in the temple when He entered it, but we will be with Him for all eternity.

V. It is a protected place (vs. 12).

- A. Earthly cities at the time of this writing depended on the strength of their walls for protection.
 - 1. The higher and thicker the walls, the more protected the city was.
 - 2. It would take longer for invaders to conquer, thus causing some to not even try.
- B. Heaven is pictured as having a great wall and twelve gates.
 - 1. Not only is protection afforded by the walls, each gate has an angel stationed at it.
 - 2. They will not let anything in that is not authorized by God.

C. There is nothing that will be able to enter heaven to bother us.