

Lecture 6 – What is Heaven Like?

Outline

1. Scripture is vague and shadowy on the subject of heaven
 - A. There will be a radical change in our nature; the seed sown in dishonor, raised in honor
 - B. There will be a continuity of personal identity
2. Pascal describes humans as beings of highest grandeur and lowest misery (“paradox of man”)
 - A. Grandeur: Our ability to imagine a far better life
 - B. Misery: Our inability to create such a life
 - * No one is ever 100% satisfied with life
3. Scriptural glimpses into heaven (Apocalypse/Revelation)
 - A. John’s experience; Christ commanded John to write of his vision (Rev. 21:5)
 - B. New heaven/new earth (Rev. 21-22)
 - * Redemption plan (perfecting of creation, not destruction of it)
 - * “No more sea” (Rev 21:1); Jewish symbolism in literature, poetry (sea = chaos, darkness)
 - * River is the positive image (Rev. 22:1-2)
 - * “God Himself will be with them” (Rev. 21:3); God’s presence will be permanent
 - * “God will wipe away every tear” (Rev. 21:4); deepest gesture of intimacy; there will be no more reason for sadness (no death or sickness in heaven)
 - * “I am making all things new” (Rev. 21:5)
 - * Measurements are symbolic (immense size of the New Jerusalem)
 - * No temple or sun or moon (Rev. 21:22-23); “For the glory of God illuminated it”; “The lamb is its light”
 - * We shall see His face (Rev. 22:4); scene from the movie “Ben Hur”
4. Conclusion
 - A. The sufferings of this world are not worthy to be compared to the joys of heaven
 - B. Death is the gateway to paradise

Scriptural References

- 1 Cor. 15: 42-44 (earthly body vs. resurrected body)
1 Cor. 15: 45-49 (Jesus as the exemplar of what our resurrected bodies will be like)
1 Cor. 15: 50-54 (continuity and discontinuity)
Phil. 1:19-24 (heaven is “far better” than life in this world)

Notes