

Things Which God hath Prepared!

#3077 1015 23P
Revelation 21

God has promised so we are hopeful—He is making everything new and getting it ready for us to occupy! John 14:2-3 “*In my Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*”

We cannot make light of this *preparation* on earth—He wants us to occupy that mansion; He wants us to be with Him forever, and He is doing everything possible to have us be ready to move in! Let us not *hinder* Him working in our life but be always *willing* to learn from the situations we meet along the way.

Revelation 21:2 “*And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*” The same word “*prepared*” is used 1 Corinthians 2:9 “*But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.*”

It is a *prepared* city for people who allowed God to *prepare* them while here on earth—to be *ready* for our home in Heaven. We allow God to *prepare* us by our meeting the difficult things we encounter in life in a scriptural way by the power of the Holy Spirit. Responding to those things

scripturally brings *spiritual growth*—something we *must* see in our life!

Revelation 21:1 “*And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.*” We could feel *disappointed* to know that some things we thought were so important or we placed so much value on will not be available in the next life—but we must know that anything in Heaven we no longer *see*, will be *replaced* by God with something that is *many times better*—so *far superior* that the old interest would not be missed for a second.

Two-thirds of the earth’s *surface* is water and the remaining one-third includes large areas of mountains and deserts that cannot be used for much of anything. However, with God’s new Heaven and earth, He will eliminate the *barriers* of mountains and deserts that once separated people and nations and cultures—everyone will come together under His lordship.

Down through human history, all the people who ever truly trusted God in faith, will be in this New Jerusalem—Isaiah, Jeremiah, Elijah, Elisha, and all the prophets. There will be Sarah, Ruth, Mary, Martha, David, Noah, Jonah, Peter, James, and John—*anyone* who was a true *believer* and *trusted* God for everything as He requires—like Adam and Eve trusted Him before they rebelled.

All those we loved who passed away in the faith will be there. So many of our loved ones that we are longing to see and talk with again will be there—it will be a grand *reunion* and a great *gathering* of true believers—all sharing life and experiences with those we loved so much while on earth! *It will be worth it all when we see Jesus.*

The best part is that God Himself will be there—living with us as He originally wanted it to be. Seeing God will be like seeing everything else for the *first* time—seeing Him will be the *lens*

through which we now see people and the events of the past life on earth.

God speaks to us from Revelation 21:3, “*And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.”*”

Many people say that they are “*Longing for Heaven*”—because deep down inside, there is a longing to see God and all that He has prepared for us. Ecclesiastes 3:11 “*God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God’s work from beginning to end.*”

In the Old Testament, *God* would meet *His people* in the tabernacle—the *Tent of Meeting*. Only the priests could enter the most holy part of that tent, where the presence of God resided, and then only once a year on the Day of Atonement.

The *tabernacle* was later replaced by the *temple*, but the manner in which they approached God was essentially the same. God seemed separated from the people in the Old Testament, and they did not feel close to Him.

Jesus and the Cross of Calvary *changed* all that—because of what Jesus accomplished by His death on the Cross and His resurrection to life three days later. Now the tabernacle of God—His dwelling place—is with *us* on earth as He dwells *within* us through His Holy Spirit.

Jesus removed the dividing wall between us and God. Ephesians 2:13 “*But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. 14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us.*”

In this new Heaven and new earth, everyone will have total access to God at *any* time and *all* the time—whenever we need to *speak* with Him or

just be *with* Him He is available. And no appointments are ever necessary.

If we could live in any era of history, most of us would choose the *first century*, so that we could be on earth when Jesus walked in Jerusalem. We would have wanted to be one of his disciples or have been among those who followed Him and listened to Him whenever He spoke about salvation and the new world to come.

Every Christian believer would love to have *had* the opportunity to just be *near* Him during the time He was on earth—but it was an opportunity we did not have. On the new earth we *will*, however—and everyone will be able to approach Jesus at any time and all the time—speaking with him about anything—and He would never turn anyone away.

Since this New Jerusalem *comes down* out of Heaven, it is reasonable to assume that the many believers who have gone before us, will be spending time *in* that city while they are there in Heaven. That magnificent city of God descends to the earth as both earth and Heaven become one Revelation 21:2.

Cities have buildings, main streets, restaurants, schools, churches, places for entertainment and including playgrounds or parks. We do *not* know, of course, if Heaven will have *any* of those things, but the Bible does say that we will gather with others to eat meals in Heaven, and that indicates that we will know one another and speak with each other.

We also know that most of the time spent in Heaven will be *serving the Lord* in this new city. We will be *about our Father's business*—Revelation 22:3 “*His servants shall serve Him.*” Like those who came out of the Tribulation Revelation 7:15 “*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.*”

What does a future in Heaven have in store for each of us—is the question on our minds. We do not know for sure—so many of our *hopes* and *plans* and *goals* in this life never come to fulfillment, but now we think in a very *limited* and *human* way.

God does not go by time as we do today—Eternity is something that is difficult to imagine, but God sees the *beginning* to the *end* of everything and of every experience. The *past*, *present*, and *future* are all viewed the same by Him.

What God has in store for those who qualify for an endless existence in Heaven, we cannot know for sure, but it is possible that some of the *hopes* and *plans* that went unfulfilled in *this* life, will be gloriously fulfilled in the *next* one.

For this reason and for so many more, we need to maximize our opportunities and live in the light of God's Truth by the power of His Holy Spirit. We need to live each day by faith in God with the time He has allotted to us.

Ephesians 5:15 “*See then that ye walk circumspectly [be very careful how you live], not as fools, but as wise, 16 Redeeming the time [making the most of every opportunity], because the days are evil.*”

The Word of God touches every *part* of our life and speaks on every *aspect* of daily living. With millions of distractions today, and with so many ways to divide our time—the seemingly *little* time allotted to us as days fly by, must be used wisely—we need to be *sure* we are focusing on and concentrating on seriously *living* the Truth God has given us.

The apostle says Ephesians 5:18 “*And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; 19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.*”

Mega millions of people in every walk of life and from every culture, love music and each group has their own type or style—songs that are played, heard, and shared with friends. Those same millions also speak to each other with secular melodies—but is it “*Making melody in your heart to the Lord?*” Or is it: *singing songs from our heart to the world—that is the issue!*

The words from the Lord keep reminding: Ephesians 5:15 “*Be very careful, then, how you live—not as [fools] but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.*”

How can we *be careful how we live*? First, by being *sure* that we start each day with the *Word of God* and by *reading* the Bible with real interest—asking *God* to open our heart to what He has to say to us as we begin the day's activities.

We are spiritually *wise* when we begin with scriptural *advice* from the Holy Scriptures. God had His Book written for that very *purpose*—so we could *understand what the Lord's will is* as each day begins. We must keep in memory: “*Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.*”

Yes, God is making *everything new*; His Son is *preparing* a mansion for us; and we want to be *part* of that greatest of all experiences—it is an experience that *cannot* be said about *any* experience on *earth*—because this one lasts *forever!*



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