



Adventures in Bible Study

The Garden of Eden

In the beginning the world was created to be a beautiful home for mankind who was created in the image of God. Physically, mentally and spiritually we resembled our maker. We only have a glimpse of the glory of the past, but it is enough to whet our thirst for the new world that is to come—Eden restored.

From the Bible and scientific discovery we have learned several fascinating things about the world as it came fresh from the Creator's hand. The earth was surrounded by a water vapor canopy (Genesis 1:6). This would have shielded the earth from too much radiation, and at the same time produce a higher oxygen content promoting optimal life and health. Antarctica, for example once had a tropical climate.¹



Plants and animals were bigger as originally created (Genesis 6:4). A website devoted to preserving the record of giant human remains may be found at: www.returnofthenephilim.com. For example, if Adam (yes, there really was Adam & Eve. The January 11, 1988 issue of Newsweek DNA evidence supports the Bible's claim) was 15' tall he would have weighed about 2,000 lb, have 30' running stride (run the 100 yd. dash in 3 seconds), and would have had amazing strength. No doubt Adam's eyesight, hearing and other sensory abilities were phenomenal.



The world was beautiful. Mankind and all creation lived together in peace and tranquility. Unfortunately, sin came into our world with its sickness, pain and death. In the garden of Eden God promised Adam and Eve it

would all be restored someday because of the sacrifice of Jesus (Genesis 3:15). Ever since that time the followers of God have longed for the day when Eden would be restored. "But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them." **Hebrews 11:6**. God has promised to restore the world to its origi-

nal beauty and purity. "For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." **Luke 19:10**. "Then He who sat on the throne said, 'Behold, I make all things new.'" **Revelation 21:5**.

No doubt, many wonder what heaven will really be like. I'm sure all of us have seen heaven depicted as a place of clouds with people sitting on the clouds playing a harp throughout all eternity. Fortunately, the Bible gives us an entirely fresh and beautiful picture of the new earth that will be our home. We must always remember, however, "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." **1 Corinthians 2:9**.

The New Jerusalem—A wonderful part of God's kingdom is His capitol city, the New Jerusalem. "And I John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband." **Revelation 21:2**. This is the city of God, which all of God's people have looked forward to from the time sin entered the world. Of Abraham the Bible says: "For he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God." **Hebrews 11:10**. This New Jerusalem has an apartment in it just for you, for Jesus promised us He would go to His Father's house to prepare a place for us (**John 14:1-3**).

While John was in exile on the little island of Patmos, off the coast of Turkey, God showed the aged disciple the New Jerusalem in vision. The city has 12 foundations like an ancient ziggurat, and each foundation is made of a different precious stone (**Rev. 21:14, 19**). It is laid out as a square with approximately 400 miles per side, or about the size of the state of Oregon (**Rev. 21:16**). The height of the city is also 400 miles! Obviously the new earth that God will create will accommodate an atmosphere prepared for such a city. There can be no doubt that the city is plenty large enough for everyone who chooses to live there.



"And the construction of its walls was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. . . And the twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of

one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.” **Revelation 21:18, 21**. “Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal.” **Revelation 4:6**. The river of life, the tree of life with 12 kinds of fruit, the companionship of God and the angels, and everlasting day are just a few of the wonders of that place (**Revelation 22:1-5**). If that city were on earth today, people would be packing up and moving to that place. But the good news is that soon that beautiful city will be the capital city of the new earth. God Himself will live with us (**Revelation 21:3 & 22:4**).

The New Earth—It may come as a surprise, but the Bible teaches that the final home of the redeemed is the earth—an earth made new again. Jesus said the meek would inherit the earth (**Matthew 5:5**). The apostle Peter wrote that the earth would be cleansed by fire and made new again (**2 Peter 3:10-13**). And Isaiah also said God would create new heavens and a new earth where God’s people will build their own houses and gardens (**Isaiah 65:17, 21-22**).

Everyone will have perfect bodies and eternal youth. All disabilities will be removed and all diseases healed (**Isaiah 35:5-6**). We will all eat from the tree of life and drink water from the river of life (**Revelation 22:1-2**). “The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, . . .” “. . . and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, . . . They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain.” **Isaiah 11:6, 9**. “And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying; and there shall be no more pain for the former things have passed away.” **Revelation 21:4**.



For approximately six thousand years this earth has been the one plague spot in the universe. The one world where sin has come. But soon God will cleanse the earth with fire, and the universe will be at peace again, and it will remain that way. Sin will not rise up again (**Nahum 1:9**), and everyone will worship the Lord. ““And it shall come to pass that from one new moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, all flesh will come to worship before Me,” says the Lord.” **Isaiah 66:23**. God promises that there will be special times of worship and fellowship with our Creator. What an exciting time that will be, getting together to sing praises and rejoice in the city each Sabbath! The new earth will be a happy place, and God Himself will be our teacher.

The food there will be delicious, beyond our ability to anticipate. We will have two homes—one in the city, and one in the country (**John 14:1-3 & Isaiah 65:21**). We will know one another there (**1 Corinthians 13:12**), and it will be so good to see each other in that happy place. Families separated by death will enjoy each other’s presence through all eternity. Children who have been taken by death will be restored in that day, and they will grow

up in heaven (**Jeremiah 31:16 & Malachi 4:2**).

With all that we have just learned from the Bible we must remember that no matter how hard we try to visualize what heaven will be like: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” **1 Corinthians 2:9**.

There is no need for anyone to miss heaven or the new earth for God is not willing that any of us perish (**2 Peter 3:9**). Sometimes people think that only a few people will be saved, but Jesus said it would be many (**Matthew**



8:11). Jesus encourages us by saying, “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions. . . I go to prepare a place for you. “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.” **John 14:1-3**. Heaven is not an exclusive club that only a few may participate in. John was shown in vision the crowd of people that would be there and he said, “After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’” **Revelation 7:9-10**.

Won’t you choose to be in heaven? “And the Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come!’ And let him who hears say, ‘Come!’ And let him who thirsts come. And whosoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.” **Revelation 22:17**.

¹ http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761565002/Antarctica.html