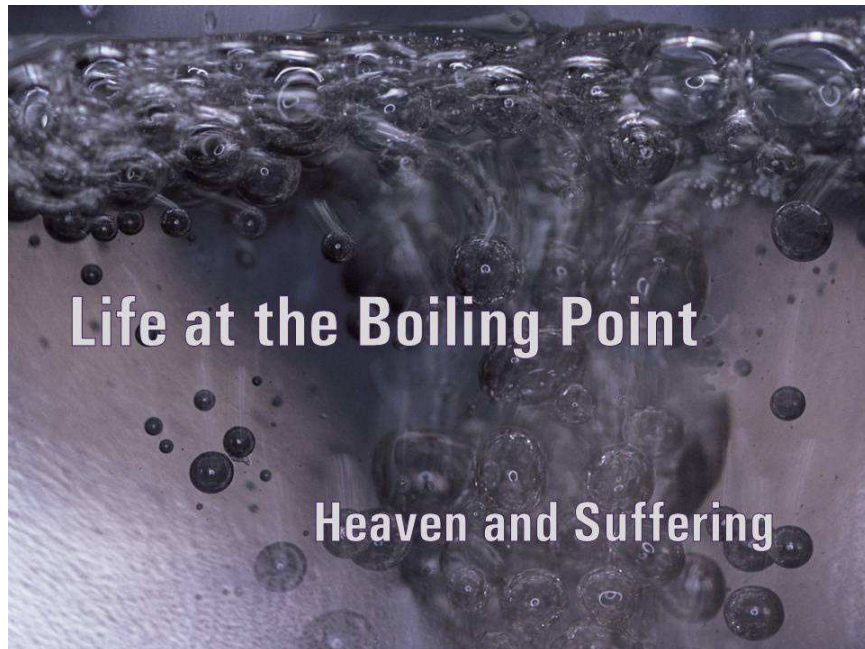


# **A Glimpse of Heaven**

Revelation 21:1 - Revelation 22:5

Pastor Jeff Burkholder

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**Reasons why we want our names written in the Book of Life:  
(Revelation 3:5; 20:12-15; 21:27)**

**1. We will be united with our groom—Christ.  
(Revelations 21:1-3, 9, 22, 23; Revelation 19:5-9)**

“We may imagine we want a thousand different things, but God is the one we really long for. His presence brings satisfaction; his absence brings thirst and longing. *Our longing for Heaven is a longing for God*—a longing that involves not only our inner beings, but our bodies as well. Being with God is the heart and soul of Heaven. Every other heavenly pleasure will derive from and be secondary to his presence. God’s greatest gift to us is, and always will be, himself.”

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“Once we see God as he really is, no one will need to beg, threaten, or shame us into praising him. We will overflow in gratitude and praise. We are *created* to worship God. There’s no higher pleasure. At times we’ll lose ourselves in praise, doing nothing but worshipping him. At other times we’ll worship him when we build a cabinet, paint a picture, cook a meal, talk with an old friend, take a walk, or throw a ball.”

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**2. We will be set free from the ramifications of the Curse.  
(Revelation 21:4, 5; 22:3)**

“If the present Earth, so diminished by the Curse, is at times so beautiful and wonderful; if our bodies, so diminished by the Curse, are at times overcome with a sense of the earth’s beauty and wonder; then *how magnificent will the New Earth be?* And what will it be like to experience the New Earth in something else we’ve never known: perfect bodies?”

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“The removal of the Curse means that people, culture, the earth, and the universe will again be as God intended. The lifting of the Curse comes at a terrible price: ‘Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us’ (Galatians 3:13, ESV)...Jesus guaranteed the lifting of the Curse from mankind and from the earth.

In bringing us salvation, Christ has already undone some of the damage in our hearts, but in the end he will finally and completely restore his entire creation to what God originally intended (Romans 8:19-21). Christ will turn back the Curse and restore to humanity all that we lost in Eden, and he will give us much more besides.”

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**3. We will avoid the fiery lake of hell.  
(Revelation 21:8; 20:11-15)**

“Earth leads directly into heaven, just as it leads directly into hell. Life here is a running start into one or the other. Heaven and hell are both retroactive to earth. The best of earth is a glimpse of heaven, the worst of earth a glimpse of hell. Earth is the inbetween world touched both by heaven and hell, affording a choice between the two...”

We’ve bought into Satan’s lie that it’s unloving and uncivilized—even unChristlike—to talk about hell. But the truth is, our Lord Jesus said more about hell than anyone else (e.g. Matthew 10:28; 13:40-42; Mark 9:43). So, either Christ wasn’t Christlike, or our perspective is wrong.”

*In Light of Eternity* by Randy Alcorn, Copyright © 1999,  
Waterbrook Press, p. 74.

**4. We will enjoy a beautiful place/home.  
(Revelation 21:10-26; John 14:1-4)**

“But this city will be different—it will have all the advantages we associate with earthly cities but none of the disadvantages. The city will be filled with natural wonders, magnificent architecture, thriving culture—but it will have no crime, pollution, sirens, traffic fatalities, garbage, or homelessness. It will truly be Heaven on Earth.”

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**5. We will reign with Christ forever.  
(Revelation 22:1-5; II Timothy 2:12)**

“...the need for government didn’t come about as a result of sin. God governed the universe before Satan fell. Likewise, he created mankind as his image-bearers, with the capacity for ruling, and before Adam and Eve sinned, God specifically commanded them to rule the earth. Ruling isn’t a bad thing, it’s a good thing. God has called us to it and has equipped us for it—to rule the earth, rule it well, and find pleasure in ruling it. Because we’re sinners, power tends to corrupt us. But on the New Earth there will be no sin. Therefore, all ruling will be just and benevolent, devoid of abuse, corruption, or lust for power.”

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“We’ve been born into the family of an incredibly wealthy landowner. There’s not a millimeter of cosmic geography that doesn’t belong to him, and by extension to his children, his heirs. Our Father has a family business that stretches across the whole universe. He entrusts to us management of the family business, and that’s what we’ll do for eternity: manage God’s assets and rule his universe, representing him as his image-bearers, children, and ambassadors.”

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The government of the New Earth won’t be a democracy. It won’t be majority rule, and it won’t be driven by opinion polls. Instead, every citizen of Heaven will have an appointed role, one that fulfills him or her and contributes to the whole. No one will ‘fall through the cracks’ in God’s Kingdom. No one will feel worthless or insignificant.”

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