

HEAVEN #2

Previously, in Heaven #1

- ▣ Heaven: will it be a never ending church service.
- ▣ We think Bible says little – actually it says a lot.
- ▣ Approach – to be reasonable, logical, & common sense.
- ▣ Why shouldn't it mean what it says.
- ▣ “Set your mind on things above...” Col.3 v1.
- ▣ Plato taught physical fallen, so afterlife must be spiritual.
- ▣ We will rise with a physical body – just as Jesus did.
- ▣ Our new bodies will be in their prime, looking glorious.

Hell

Matthew 7 v13 Jesus says:
“Wide is the gate and
broad is the road that leads
to destruction, and many
enter through it.

But small is the gate and
narrow is the road that
leads to life, and only a few
find it.”



Hell

Luke 16, v19-31: The rich man and Lazarus in heaven/hell.



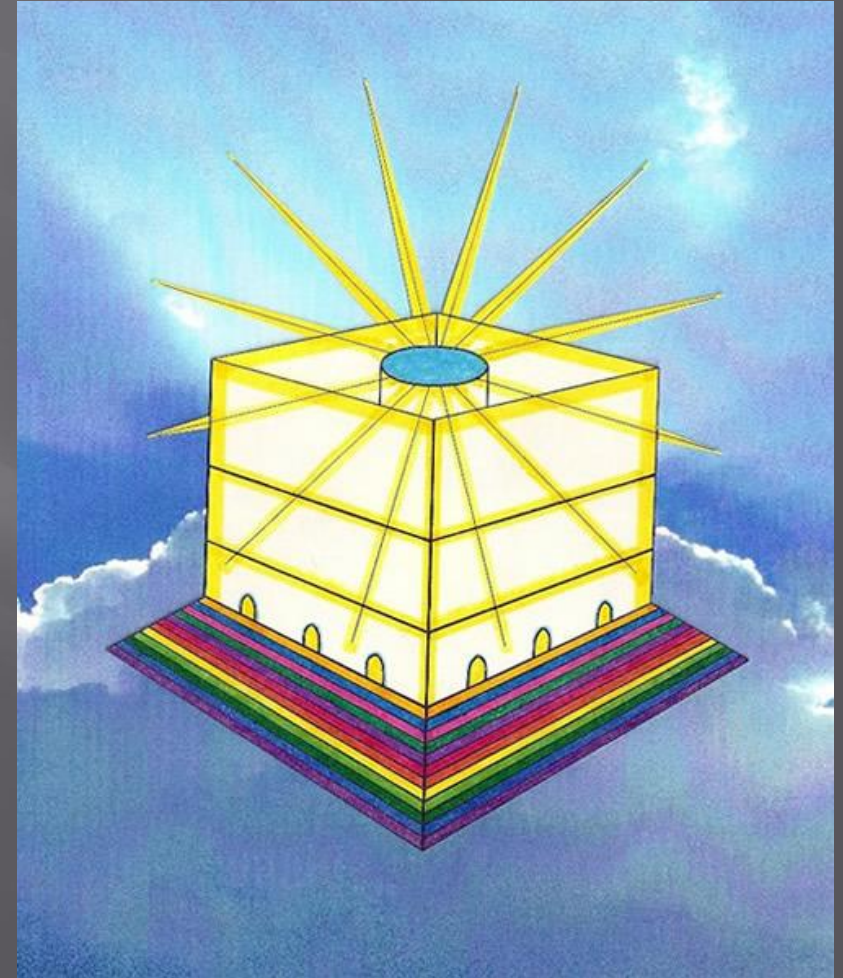
Revelation 21 v9-11

“⁹ One of the seven angels... carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. ¹¹ It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.



Revelation 21 v12-17

“¹² It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. ¹³ There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. ¹⁴ The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.



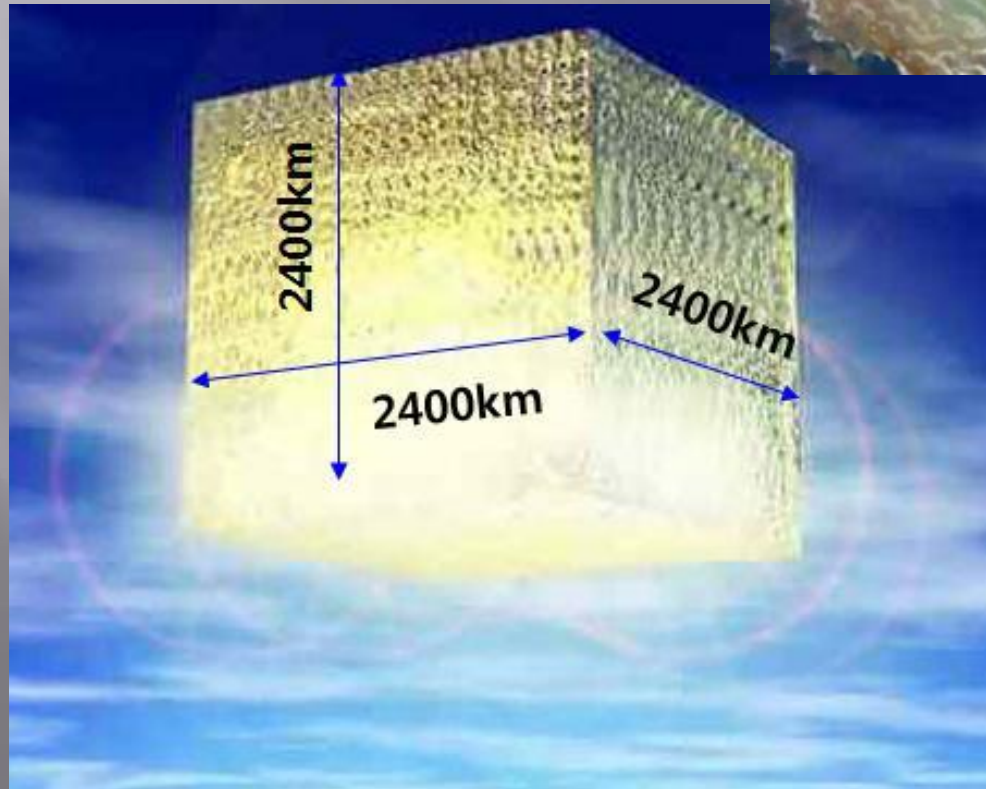
Revelation 21 v15-17

“¹⁵ The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city, its gates and its walls. ¹⁶ The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He measured the city with the rod and found it to be 12,000 stadia in length, and as wide and high as it is long. ¹⁷ The angel measured the wall using human measurement, and it was 144 cubits thick.”

i.e. 1,400 x 1,400 miles = 2,000,000 square miles

And walls 65 metres thick.

The City of Heaven



Rev 21 v19 - The Foundation Stones



Jasper,



Sapphire,



Agate,



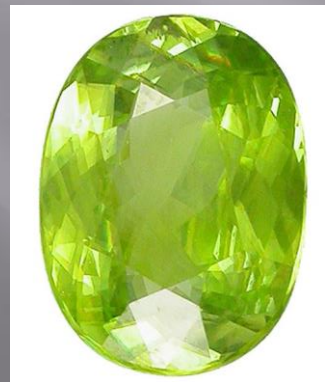
Emerald,



Onyx,



Ruby,



Chrysolite,



Beryl,



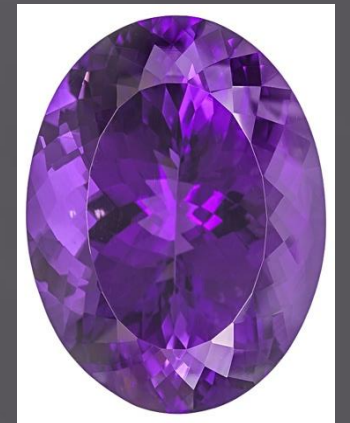
Topaz,



Turquoise,



Jacinth,



Amethyst.

Hebrews

- ▣ Heb. 11, v9: “Abraham by faith... looking forward to a city with foundations, whose architect is God.”
- ▣ Heb. 11, v13: “...people living by faith when they died... looking for a country of their own, a heavenly one... He has prepared a city for them.”
- ▣ Heb. 13, v14: “For here we do not have an enduring city, but look to the city.”



The Prophets Agree

- ▣ Isaiah 65 v17 “Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind.”
- ▣ Isaiah 66 v22 ‘As the new heavens and the new earth that I make will endure before me, declares the LORD, so will your name and descendants endure.’
- ▣ 2 Peter 3 v13 ‘... we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth...’

Heaven

The glory of the Lord will be revealed throughout the whole earth (Isaiah 40⁵, Psalm 85⁹, Ezekiel 43²).

How else will He do this if it is not by recreating the Earth into something even better?



Revelation 22 v1-5

“¹ Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³ No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. ⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.”

Eden

- ▣ Old Persian word 'paradaesa' used to describe kings gardens.
- ▣ Closest thing to heaven we ever had on earth.
- ▣ Eden had two trees – knowledge of good and evil, and the tree of life.
- ▣ Eden not destroyed; guarded; off limits.



Could Eden be there, a bit like this?



Other attributes of Heaven

Revelation 6, v9-11 “⁹When he [the angel] opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. ¹⁰They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?" ¹¹Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and brothers who were to be killed as they had been was completed.”

Other attributes of Heaven

1. Souls – not disembodied spirits,
2. Instant relocation – there was continuity.
3. Same in heaven as on earth – total recall.
4. People in heaven remembered for their life on earth.
5. “Called out” – requires vocal cords.
6. “raised their voices” – expresses emotion.
7. The martyrs are fully conscious.
8. They know what’s happening on earth.

Other attributes of heaven

- ▣ 1 Corinthians 4 v9: “For it seems to me that God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession...”
- ▣ Hebrews 12 v1 “Therefore, since we are *surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses*, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.”

Other attributes of heaven

Luke 15, v10: Jesus says “...there is rejoicing in the *presence* of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”



Time

- ▣ Existed before the Fall.
- ▣ Weather, seasons, and time – all in Eden.
- ▣ It's our environment, not God's.
- ▣ Paul says last defeat is death, not time (see 1Cor 15:26).
- ▣ In Heaven we live *with* time, not *under* it.
- ▣ No more deadlines!



'New' – sun, moon and stars?

- ▣ Rev 21, v23: “The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is it's lamp. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendour into it.”
- ▣ Rev 22, v5: “no more light, no need for lamp because God will shine to give them light.”



'New' - animals

- ▣ 2 Kings 2 v11 Chariot and horses take Elijah up.
- ▣ Zech 1 & 8 Horses coming out of Heaven.
- ▣ Rev 19 v14 Jesus on a white horse in heaven.
- ▣ Rev 8 v13 Eagle flying above.
- ▣ Is 11 & 65 Mentions wolves, leopards, goats, lions, oxen, & cobra.

How will lion & lamb rest together
if no animals in heaven?



'New' – seasons, weather?

- ▣ Seasons and weather existed before the Fall.
- ▣ Vegetation presumably still needs sunlight.
- ▣ Mountains – could be even better than now.

Must the 'new' earth be robbed of all these for us, stripped and tamed?



Heaven is our Home

- ▣ Rev 21 v4 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.'



Heaven is our Home

Phil 3, v20 “But our citizenship is in heaven”.

- ▣ Why say that, if God doesn't mean that.
- ▣ When we think we need more things, really it's a relationship with Jesus we need, and heaven.
- ▣ Nothing more is-diagnosed than homesickness for heaven.
- ▣ “We need to plunder hell to populate heaven” –

Reinhard Bonke.

Bibliography

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- ▣ Writings of John Milton, Rebecca Springer, and Mitch Albom.

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