

Heaven's To-Do List?

Hebrews 4:1-10; Revelation 22:1-6

East Berlin Community Church

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May 5, 2024

Introduction

- The "To-Do" List for my upcoming mini-sabbatical. The four "R"s
 - Rest
 - Reconnect
 - Reflect
 - Rejoice
- The excitement surrounding our heavenly, eternal sabbatical
 - The beauty and size of our eternal home
 - Eternal life and its blessings-- "No more"....

Heaven's To-Do List?

A. What Will We Be Doing?

1. Resting

- Hebrews 4:1-10-- *"Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it. For we who have believed do enter that rest, as He has said: "So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest,' " although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. For He has spoken in a certain place of the seventh day in this way: "And God rested on the seventh day from all His works"; and again in this place: "They shall not enter My rest." Since therefore it remains that some must enter it, and those to whom it was first preached did not enter because of disobedience, again He designates a certain day, saying in David, "Today," after such a long time, as it has been said: "Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts." For if Joshua had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day. There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His."*
 - a. God promised spiritual rest to Israel in Canaan, but they failed to enter it.
 - b. The promise of "rest" still remains for God's children
 - Hebrews 4:9-- *"There remains therefore a rest for the people of God."*
 - c. Heaven is the place of eternal rest with God. An "eternal" sabbatical.
 - d. Our eternal rest will be like the rest God had after finishing creating the world.
 - Genesis 2:1-3 -- *"Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made."*
 - e. Jesus Christ speaks of the "night" when our work will be done.
 - John 9:4-- *"I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work."*

- f. When we die or Christ returns for us, our work here will be done.
 - Hebrews 4:10-- *"For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His."*
 - Revelation 14:13-- *"'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.' 'Yes,' says the Spirit, 'that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.'"*
- g. But "rest" does not mean inactivity or laziness. But what makes work "work" here will be absent in heaven. For sin and the curse will be absent in heaven.

2. Serving

- Revelation 22:3-- *"there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him."*
- a. Who will be serving God throughout eternity?
 - Revelation 22:6 -- *"Then he said to me, 'These words are faithful and true.' And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place."*
- b. What service will we be rendering? Worship!
 - Revelation 5:11-13-- *"Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice: 'Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing! And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: 'Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!'"*

3. Reigning

- Revelation 22:5-- *"There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever."*
- a. Reigning with Jesus Christ and with God the Father in the eternal Kingdom.
- b. *Reigning over who or what?*
 - 1) Some believe that there will be "nations of people" who survive the Millennium and who enter the Eternal kingdom.
 - Revelation 22:24-- *"And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it."*
 - a) No scriptural support that they will undergo transformation like you and I in that the corruptible will put on incorruption, and the mortal will put on immortality.
 - b) They will possess "complete salvation" that is, complete freedom from not only the penalty and power of sin, but also from the presence of sin. Thus they will not age nor die, but will live in natural human bodies for all eternity.
 - c) But Revelation 21-22 describes the eternal habitation of the resurrected saints during the Millennial kingdom which will expand into the Eternal Kingdom
 - (1) The "nations of those who are saved" describes living people groups during the Millennial Kingdom, not during the eternal Kingdom.
 - (2) No living human beings at the end of the Millennium could survive the destruction of the earth by fire. So they could not enter the eternal Kingdom in their human bodies.
 - 2) Perhaps the answer is in the original domain of man.
 - Genesis 1:26-28-- *"Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the*

earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’”

- a) Man was originally given dominion over the fish of the sea, birds of the air, and over the animal kingdom.
- b) God will create a new heaven and new earth which we assume will be not empty and void but rather filled with beautiful gardens and with animals of all kind.
- c) Will God create a new human race over which we will one day reign?

B. Who Will We See? Will we see the “face of God”?

1. Adam and Eve lived in perfect fellowship with God! Adam saw God.
2. Others in the Old Testament had visible encounters with the living God.
 - Exodus 24:9-11-- *“Moses went up, also Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and they saw the God of Israel. And there was under His feet as it were a paved work of sapphire stone, and it was like the very heavens in its clarity. But on the nobles of the children of Israel He did not lay His hand. So they saw God, and they ate and drank.”*
 - Judges 13:22 -- *“We shall surely die, because we have seen God!”*
3. How can we reconcile these apparent appearances of God with the words of Christ in John 1:18a. *“No one has seen God at any time!”?*
4. Old Testament appearances of God are Christophanies, that is, pre-incarnate appearances of Jesus Christ.
 - John 1:18-- *“No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.”*
 - John 14:8-9-- *“‘Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”*
5. What about in eternity? Will we see God the Father face to face?
 - Revelation 22:4-- *“They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads.”*
 - a. Depends on the antecedent of the pronoun “His”
 - b. The “Beatific Vision”--a face-to face encounter with God!
6. **The Effects or Transforming Impact of the Beatific Vision**
 - a. **We will have perfect knowledge.**
 - 1) Now we have two channels through which we gather information concerning God.
 - a) General revelation-- Creation
 - Romans 1:20-- *“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.”*
 - b) Special revelation-- the Scriptures
 - 2) Our understanding of God today is incomplete.

- 1 Corinthians 13:12-- *"For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known."*
- 3) One day, when we see God face-to-face, our knowledge of God will be complete!
 - 4) Does not mean that we will know everything. But whatever we do know it will be perfect, true knowledge.
- b. **We will have complete sanctification.**
- 1) Currently we are undergoing partial, spiritual growth and character development.
 - 2 Corinthians 3:18-- *"But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord."*
 - 2) But when we see Christ, our spiritual transformation will be complete.
 - 1 John 3:1-2-- *"Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is."*
 - Revelation 22:4-- *"His name shall be on their foreheads."*
 - 3) Being in an immutable state of perfection in heaven is not to be confused with being in a static state. We do not become less active, but more active.
- c. **We will enjoy perfect fellowship with God!**
- Exodus 33:11-- *" So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend."*

Application: The warning: Missing the Eternal Sabbathical .

- Hebrews 4:1-- *"Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it."*
1. We can miss out by failing to believe the gospel.
 - Hebrews 4:2-3a-- *"For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it. For we who have believed do enter that rest."*
 2. Only those who have believed enter that rest!