

**Welcome Home (Revelation 21:1-4)**

*(1) Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. (2) And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. (3) And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. (4) He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."*

*(1) "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. (2) In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? (3) And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. (Jn 14:1-3)*

*(1) Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. (2) For by it the people of old received their commendation. (3) By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible... (8) By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. (9) By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. (10) For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. (11) By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. (12) Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore. (13) These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. (14) For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. (15) If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. (16) But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city... (Heb 11:1-3, 8-16)*

*(17) "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind. (18) But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness. (19) I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people; no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress. (Is 65:17-19)*

*(4) Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. (5) But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. (Is. 53:4-5)*

*(21) ...the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. (22) For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. (Rom 8:21-22)*

*(8) He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. (9) It will be said on that day, "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation." (Is 25:8-9)*

1. Look and see by faith the new heaven and the new earth that is to come. Can you see it? Do you ever meditate on this reality? Try to imagine what John saw.
2. The heaven and earth that you now see and know will pass away. Don't put all your faith, hope, and love into it, and into what it contains. Put all of your faith, hope, and love into God and what He has done, is doing, and will do. If you do, your future is gloriously bright.
3. Look and see by faith the holy city, the new city, the new Jerusalem. This eternal city was designed by God, built by God, and was made for you to live in forever and ever. It is a gift from God to us. The greatest gift you could ever receive is the gift of God and the eternal home He has made for you. Will you receive this home and it's builder? Will you trust in Him? Will you turn to Him and away from trying to build your own life and home in your own way and by your own power?
4. The new city from God will be beautiful, glorious, wonderful, spectacular, fun, peaceful, and a true city of brotherly love. Do you look forward to going there? This will be better than any trip or vacation you have ever been on.
5. God is sovereignly ruling over history now, and He will in the future as well. He ruled over the past, is ruling over the present, and will rule forever. Do you see your past through the lens of God's sovereignty? Your present? Your future? Don't ever forget who is on the throne. Remembering this brings great peace, joy, hope, and thankfulness.
6. Do you hear God? Are you listening carefully to what He has revealed?
7. We will live with God forever. This is our true home... with God. We will experience His presence, see His glory, and enjoy Him forever! We will be His people, His family, His children. God's personal presence will satisfy our souls and bodies for eternity.
8. God will personally wipe all our tears away. Death will be no more. Grief, suffering, misery, and pain will be no more. All the former things that brought these afflictions have gone, they have passed away. Death has died and been defeated. Your pain and suffering will not last forever. You will only know life for eternity!