

## The Heavenly Home

By Dr. Peter Wiseman

There are two things," said Alexander Stewart, "we wish to know about our dear departed ones. They are these: 'Where are they?' and 'How does it fare with them?'"

Paul answers this, for he says to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord (II Cor. 5:8): to be absent is to be present. Again, "with Christ which is far better" (Phil. 1:23).

### Heaven Is A Place

God's dwelling place, "Hear Thou in Heaven Thy dwelling place" (I Kings 8:30, 39, 43, 49). "One is your Father which is in Heaven (Matt. 23:9).

Heaven is a place to which our Lord went and from whence He will return. "I go . . . I will come again" (John 14). It is a place of many mansions, abiding places, "many resting places" (Weymouth). "They rest from their labors" (Rev. 14).

Heaven is called a "city," a "country," a "better country," "Father's house." It is the home of the holy, the place of angels, the Eden of delight, the country of a cloudless day, the dwelling place of God. It is a place built by Almighty God on the everlasting hills of glory for the eternal abode of His people; a place of beauty—a beauty far surpassing the beauty of this world of nature and art. What would this world have been had sin not entered? A world without sin-stain!

### Heaven Is a Place of Perfection

"He showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations" (Rev. 22: 1, 2).

1. "And there shall be no more curse"—perfect government.
2. "and his servants shall serve him"—perfect service.
3. "and they shall see his face"—perfect union.
4. "and his name shall be in their foreheads"—perfect possession.
5. "and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord giveth them light"—perfect glory.
6. "and they shall reign for ever and ever"—perfect blessedness.
7. "they shall hunger no more"—perfect supply.
8. "the Lamb shall lead them"—perfect guidance.
9. "they shall go no more out"—perfect safety.
10. "A wall great and high"—perfect security.

Says John Bunyan, of that fair land: "Now, just as the gates were opened to let in the men, I looked in after them, and behold, the City shone like the sun: the streets also were paved with gold, and in them walked many men with crowns on their heads, palms in their hands, and golden harps to play withal."

A place of perfection means a place without a shadow:

1. No shadow of sin: "And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination or maketh a lie" (Rev. 21:27).

2. No shadow of sorrow: "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." This includes death itself: "There shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying," no pain.

3. No shadow of removal. "For here we have no continuing city but we seek a continuing city."

4. No shadow of separation: A woman who had lost her husband and two sons at sea off the Northumberland coast, on being asked regarding Heaven, what she most liked to think about without hesitation replied: "And there shall be no more sea." To her, the sea had been cruel, and she loved to think of the Better Land as sealess, that is no separation; an eternal reunion.

5. No shadow of need: No more the words, "Keeping the wolf from the door"—"They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes."

6. No shadow of night: "There shall be no night there."

7. No shadow of weariness: New body, suited to the immortal soul for eternal duration. Never tired or weary.

8. No shadow of disorder: For God is the God of order, not of confusion. "I go," said Richard Hooker, as he neared the city; "I go to a world of order." It seems that heaven appealed to the author of "Ecclesiastical Polity" as a place of perfect government. And it is that.

9. No shadow of suspicion: A little girl's idea of heaven was that it was "a place where everybody loved everybody."

10. No shadow of the absence of the central Person, Jesus: The Light and Joy of heaven; His name will be heaven's melody and His praise heaven's harmony.

### Heaven Is a Place of Perfect Personalities

As to their number, listen to this: "I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; and cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb."

"And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen."

There is in this record a stern rebuke to narrow sectarianism. What a multitude up there in the heavenly country! Thank God!

What a holy company! God will be there. Jesus Christ our Redeemer and Saviour will be there. Stephen in the hour of death, looked up steadfastly into heaven, and said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." The Holy Spirit will be there. An innumerable multitude of angels will be there. All the saints of all the ages will be there.

## FEW THINGS ARE IMPORTANT

By Leon Chambers

It was past midnight when I was awakened by the call. I knew, all of us knew, that it was a death call. We rushed to the hospital to stand helplessly by as a loved one died.

Even now, I remember my thoughts as I walked back and forth. I wasn't thinking of money, job, position in life, not even of a home. I thought of eternity. I thought of God. It was strange to discover so many things that I thought to be so important were unimportant after all.

It seemed that here in the presence of death I could think more clearly. I understood a little more about eternity. I could even understand the Bible better. In the presence of death I did not debate the right or wrong of an issue. If it were questionable, I gave it up. It never came to my mind to walk close to the world, but there was a hunger to be more like Him. I could see so clearly that the things of the world would soon be gone; therefore, they were not important.

I have no desire to see how close to the world I can live and still be a Christian. I would know more about Him. I would not be a child of time, but a son of God. I would not live for today, but for eternity. I would not love the world, but only God. There is only One important—that One is God. There is only one relationship that is important and that is man's relationship with God. The things of the world fade, but eternity dawns.—Herald of Holiness.

At the end of life we shall not be asked how much pleasure we had in it, but how much service we gave in it; not how full it was of success, but how full it was of sacrifice; not how happy we were, but how helpful we were; not how ambition was gratified, but how love served.

—Hugh Black.

Why, there will be an army of Christian martyrs alone amounting to the millions. My precious father will be there. I shall see him again, for I am bound for that beautiful city. One of the first things I expect to tell him when I get there is how much I have appreciated him. He did not leave me riches, but he did leave me an inheritance in Christian character for which I shall always praise God. My dear mother will be there. What a great heritage is a good mother; nothing was too hard for her to do for us.

### Heaven Is a Prepared Place For a Prepared People

"What are these?" The answer is that they are from the earth, and they came up out of great tribulation.

The character of the multitude is also stated. "White robes," which signifies purity of character, fullness of joy. Bridal attire is white. "They washed their robes," the washing of regeneration; "and made them white," the cleansing of sanctification, "in the blood of the Lamb." Through the atonement of Jesus Christ they were enabled to appropriate its benefits to the extent of "the washing of regeneration, and the renewing of the Holy Ghost."

To those who say there is no such place, or that it is just a dream, we would answer in the words of the good old Christian sister who, when an infidel was trying to tell her that her belief of heaven was only a dream, said, "Hush, hush! If it is only a dream please don't wake me."