

“WHAT JOHN DID NOT SEE IN HEAVEN”

REVELATION 21:22-27

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INTRODUCTION

It is important in life to notice as many details as possible.

We have been looking at some amazing details about the New Jerusalem in 21:1-21; but, in the last several verses of this chapter we observe some details about things that John does not see in Heaven.

Therefore, we need to focus on what lasts and what is truly important.

- I. NO TEMPLE IN HEAVEN (22)
 - Cf. I Cor. 3:16; 6:19—the church and individual believers are temples.
 - In Heaven, all believers have the privileges of a High Priest; everyone can enter the Holy of Holies.
 - The Object of worship is there—The Lord God, the Almighty.
 - The Sacrificial Lamb is there. They are its Temple! Full deity of Christ.

- II. NO SUN OR MOON IN HEAVEN (23) [See Is. 60:19; Rev. 22:5]
 - The city is lit from within, not from without.
 - God’s glory illumines it.
 - The Lamb is its “lamp.” [Again, His deity and equality with the Father]
 - See I Jn. 1:5-7; Jn. 1:7-9; 8:12.
 - His light shines both inward and outward—illuminating both body and soul.

- III. NO NIGHT IN HEAVEN (25)—always “daytime”

- IV. NO LIMITED ACCESS IN HEAVEN (25)—“Its gates shall never be closed.”
 - See Is. 60:11
 - There are no dangers to threaten.
 - All have ease of access.
 - All nations and peoples come and walk by its light (24; Isaiah 60:3).

- V. NO SELF-EXALTING KINGS OR NATIONS IN HEAVEN
 - A. “Kings” bring their glory into it (24; Is. 60:11).
 - B. “Nations” bring glory and honor into it (26).
 - John “borrows” language used in the OT prophets that was used of conditions in the historical era and the Millennium, and he continues to use it of the eternal state—at times retaining words that are not fully appropriate to that period (Mounce, 385).
 - The group being described here must not be regarded as a third group separate from and inferior to the Church and Israel.

VI. NOTHING UNCLEAR IN HEAVEN (27)

- Not that there are unclean people or things elsewhere in the earth!
- “Unclean”, “abominable,” and “liars” never come into it in the first place.
- Those whose names are written in the **Lamb’s book of life** are living there.
- The tense of the verb is perfect—names have been written there and remain there!

CONCLUSION

Heaven would not be “Heaven” if certain people and things were not omitted from it!

II Cor. 4:17-18—**Let us focus our vision on things that are truly important and that are eternal.**