

THE GLORIOUS NEGATIVES OF HEAVEN

Revelation Chapters 21 & 22

“The blessed will not only be free from sin but also from all the consequences of sin, from ignorance and error (John 6:45), from death (Luke 20:36; 1 Cor. 15:26; Rev. 2:11; 20:6;14), from poverty and disease, from pain and fear, hunger and thirst, cold and heat (Matt. 5:4; Luke 6:21; Rev. 7:16-17; 21:4), and from all weakness, dishonor, and corruption (1 Cor. 15:42)” [Reformed Dogmatics, Herman Bavinck]

The Negative Attractions of Heaven by Octavius Winslow
<https://www.monergism.com/negative-attractions-heaven>

Heaven can't be fully understood or adequately described in our language. Here in Revelation 21 and 22 it's described for us. Here we're told what isn't in Heaven. The revealed descriptions of Heaven are, for the most part, of an obscure and “negative” character. By portraying to us what Heaven isn't, we form a more correct and bright conception of what Heaven really is.

NO MORE CURSE

“No Longer will there be anything accursed.” Revelation 22:3

A Clear Gospel Picture! — Galatians 3:13 & Romans 8:1

NO MORE NIGHT AND SUN

“And there shall be no night there.” Revelation 21:25

Heaven has no sunrises or sunsets? Genesis 1:5

No Sun? No Moon? No Need! Illumination comes from the Glory of God in Christ. Revelation 22:5

“But the absence of night in heaven bids us look beyond the present scene of suffering and sorrow to that glorious world where shall be no drapery of dark and mysterious providences. In that light, pure and transparent as the atmosphere which encircles the throne of God, we shall read all the lessons of His love, interpret all the symbols of His providence, understand all the mysteries of His dealings.”

—Octavius Winslow

NO MORE SEA

“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.” Revelation 21:1

No walks on the beach that God created? Genesis 1:10

One way to look at this — New Earth is one large body of land. No borders or barriers.

Sea is not your friend! A symbol of destruction. Isaiah 57:20-21 & Psalm 46

A symbol of life and nourishment = well, river, spring.

NO MORE HUNGER AND THIRST

“They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. or the lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water.” Revelation 7:16-17

God uses physical hunger to get the attention of his children. Psalm 107:1-6

As well as servants like Paul. Philippians 4:10-13

Along with physical hunger and thirst there is spiritual hunger and thirst. - Matthew 5:6 & Psalm 42:1-2

In Heaven we will be fully satisfied and will no longer be hungry or thirsty spiritually or physically.

NO MORE PAIN

“...neither shall there be any more pain.” Revelation 21:4

No physical pain. Christ experienced it for our sake - Isaiah 53:4 & Matthew 8:17

No mental pain — Anxiety, unkindness, broken spirit, forsaken
Matthew 26:38-39; 27:46; Isaiah 53:4-5; Galatians 1:4

The pains we experience serve a purpose and are from the loving hand of our Father.

NO MORE TEARS

“God shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall be no more crying.” Revelation 21:4

Tears come for many reasons: Sorry, grief, joy.

Paul was not ashamed to cry - Corinthians 2:4 & Philippians 3:18

Do we want to escape pain? Endure it until the new world – 2 Corinthians 1:3-7

NO MORE DEATH

“There shall be no more death.” Revelation 21:4

What is the cause of death? Romans 5:12; 7:13; 6:23

Christ abolished the sting of death by bearing our sins and atoning for them on our behalf.
2 Timothy 1:10 & John 3:36

This negative of Heaven is the absence of all persecution, suffering, and death.

"O death, where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory?"

NO TEMPLE

“And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.”
Revelation 21:22

Why no temple? No need for an earthly symbol of the presence of God when God will be with us in reality!

The absence of a Temple does not imply the absence of worship. Christ indeed says that He goes to prepare a place for us (John 14:3) — but Heaven is a state as well as a place.

Homework

Read Revelation 21 and 22. It's a letter from heaven addressed to you describing what this place is that Christ promised us. Be encouraged. For when we all get to heaven, what a day of rejoicing that will be.