

## GOING HOME TO GLORY (Rev. 19:1-9)

Do you get fed up listening to all the dismal and depressing news with which we are constantly bombarded? It *is* sad when innocent people are involved, but it's hard to have sympathy for people who bring a lot of their woes upon themselves. ... If you put your hand in a blazing fire, you will be burned, so don't do it! ... That seems common-enough sense, and yet many have not worked it out yet!

Many of you remember the hymn sung by Jim Reeves, it begins, "This world is not my home, I'm just a-passing through; My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue ... The angels beckon me from Heaven's open door, and I can't feel at home in this world anymore". ... Do you sometimes feel like that?

We have a Saviour Who died for us, and by His death our sins have been cancelled, and we have been pardoned from our guilt. We belong to the family of God. We are in the care of our Heavenly Father. We are possessed by the Holy Spirit. This world is not our final resting-place. Even though we might not now be able to do what we used to do just as quickly, nonetheless, we recognise God has blessed us abundantly. The Lord Jesus is in Heaven interceding for us, and we have the Holy Spirit keeping us until the day we are called home to Glory.

It is good to be saved and to know your life is in God's hands, especially when you see the mess the world is in. ... Let's read Rev. 19, <sup>1</sup> And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God: <sup>2</sup> For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand. <sup>3</sup> And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever. <sup>4</sup> And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia. <sup>5</sup> And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great. <sup>6</sup> And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. <sup>7</sup> Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. <sup>8</sup> And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. <sup>9</sup> And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

A few days before going to the cross the Saviour promised His disciples, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also (Jn. 14:3). Jesus does not make 'false promises', He *is* coming again, ... and He also said, I go and *prepare a place for you* (Jn. 14:3) ... and since He made this beautiful world in six days, what will the Glory-land be like which He has been preparing for His people?!

If we were to attempt to imagine Heaven, we would fail. It would be like the Bride in the Song of Solomon straining her eyes through the lattice, trying to catch a glimpse of her Bridegroom (Songs 2:9). John's vision was clear though, for he had personally witnessed the Lord Jesus, and had beheld His glory, as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth (Jn. 1:14). Therefore, John could relate to his readers, when [*Jesus*] shall appear [*when He comes to this earth for the second time*], we shall [*become*] like him; for we shall see him as he is (I Jn. 3:2). ... So, let's glimpse and see something of what is awaiting God's people in Glory ...

**In Heaven, there is NO PRESENCE OF SIN** ... That's what we'll notice the moment we enter, - there is no sin, there is no sign of sin, there is no suggestion of sin, there are no symptoms of sin, for **Rev. 21:27** there shall in no wise enter into [*Heaven*] any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie ... Nothing false, or corrupt, neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind [*homosexuals*], <sup>10</sup> Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners [*swindlers*], shall inherit the kingdom of God (I Cor. 6:9,10). ... Sin in any form will not be there! ... Since the Fall in the Garden of Eden, sin has been everywhere, and the depraved nature has worsened. As Jeremiah observed, **Jer. 17:9** The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? ... And in these last days, evilness is manifesting itself without hardly being challenged, as Paul said it *would be*, **II Tim. 3:13** evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived ... but there is not even a *whiff* of sin in Heaven.

Here, sin makes the sinner believe he is invincible for it contaminates the mind and infects the soul with a poison for which there is no earthly cure. The sinner rebelliously believes the fallacy he/she is like God, in charge and in control ... and that is why sin cannot enter Heaven because God will allow nothing contrary to His holiness, and purity, and justice.

And the true believer will not want it either for we shall be glad to be rid of sin. Sin is an abhorrence to the child of God for it is an abhorrence to our Heavenly Father. He does not condone it in any shape or form ... and He will not allow it in Heaven.

As we think along these lines, we bow our heads in shame because we all know how easy it is to tolerate sin. We pass sin off by almost dismissing it, "it's the way of the world", ... but we must not dismiss sin, because *God* will not dismiss sin. As long as we are in this world, we are tainted by sin for it defiles and debases everything in its way, ... and Christians *are* affected by sin. However, when Jesus died as our Sacrifice and Substitute on the cross, He willingly offered Himself before His Father in our place, laden with all our sins, and His Father was perfectly

satisfied with His Son's offering ... and therefore, all our sins - the moment we enter Heaven, - have gone for we enter Glory sinless and perfect, like our Saviour.

The true believer is anticipating Heaven for there, the glory, and honour, and the power of God reigns (Rev. 19:1) ... and we shall see Him clearly for there will be no sin to blur our vision. We shall have perfect eyesight, as Isaiah describes, *Is. 33:17* Thine eyes shall see the king in his beauty. ... The blind hymn writer Fanny Crosby tells of how she will see Him, "Oh, the soul thrilling rapture *when I view His blessed face* And the lustre of His kindly beaming eyes; How my full heart will praise Him for the mercy, love, and grace That prepared for me a mansion in the sky. ... Through the gates to the city in a robe of spotless white, He will lead me where no tears will ever fall; in the glad song of ages, I will mingle with delight, but *I long to see my Saviour first of all*". ... Our sight will be transformed and transfixed upon Him, and **there is no presence of sin in Heaven.**

**In Heaven, there is NO POWER OF SIN** ... in any shape or form. It has neither presence nor power in Glory. There will be no tears of sadness or failure, no death, no sorrow of any kind, no conflict. There will be no parting and no more pain or illness. ... Even the most beautiful paradise in this world is affected by the Fall, but there will be nothing out of harmony with God's perfect nature in Heaven ... and when the tabernacle of God, - as described in Rev. 21, - comes down from God out of Heaven, and when He comes to dwell eternally in the new heaven and the new earth ... what a glorious and everlasting day that will be! Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God (Rev. 21:3). ... When the apostle John introduced His Gospel, he declared, *Jn. 1:14* the Word *[that is, Jesus Christ]* was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and *we beheld* his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. ... In the past tense, - *we beheld*, - but in Glory there is neither past tense, present tense, or future tense for there is no time in eternity which means we shall be *beholding* Him forever. That's the occupation of every believer in Glory!

There will be no other gods, - no idols, no statues, or symbols, no Buddhas, no Allah, - ... only the one true, holy and eternal God Jehovah. There will be no worshippers from other religions, cults, or philosophies ... only those who have been saved from their sin by the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, shed once for all at Calvary. ... There is no sin in Heaven, and no possibility of sin ... There, everyone and everything works to please the King of kings. There is nothing there to contravene His law. Children will go along the lanes of the new creation without fear. They can play with what would have been the dangerous animals on earth, but they will be safe in Glory.

And there is no discord or hatred there either ... not even in the ‘mildest’ form ... It is so perfect, we on earth cannot grasp its perfection, for now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face ... then shall I know even as also I am known (I Cor. 13:12). ... No wonder the unsaved cannot grasp what we are looking forward to because it is beyond human comprehension. ... The issues you have been battling with, you will battle with no longer. ... This is our future in the Lord Jesus Christ for when we reach Heaven, **there is no presence of sin**, and **there is no power of sin**, and ...

**In Heaven, there is NO PEOPLE OF SIN**      An incredible change will take place when we reach Heaven. We shall find ourselves changed in an instant and we shall be glorified. We have never been glorified before because to be glorified in Heaven is to be *completely* out of this world. It is so much out of this world, it is beyond what we can understand. ... To be glorified awaits every believing child of God for we shall at last, - through God’s grace, - become what He intended us to be from the beginning, as Jesus promised, - quoting from Dan. 12:3, - **Mt. 13:43** Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. ... That is the perfect reflection of the Sun of Righteousness, - the Lord Jesus, - when he shall appear, we shall be like him; (I Jn. 3:2). ... It is beyond description and there are no sufficient words in any language to describe how we shall become in the Lord Jesus.

You will not find a solitary soul in Heaven who has taken the slightest piece of their old nature with them. That means you will not find an unrepentant soul in Glory. You will not find there a single person Who does not know Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. In fact, you will not even find a *single* person because every citizen in Heaven is *married* to the Lamb! ... Every occupant of Glory is joined *to* Him, *with* Him, and *in* Him because every citizen in Heaven has been saved and sanctified and sealed by God’s amazing free and sovereign grace. They have all repented of their sins, believed in Christ as Saviour, received Him as Lord, and lived a life holy to His glory. In Heaven the Saviour’s prayer in Gethsemane will be answered, He prayed, **Jn. 17:22** And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; *that they may be one, even as we are one;* **23** I in them, and thou in me, that they may be *made perfect in one* ... **24** Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; *that they may behold my glory.*

You will not find (Rev. 21:8) the fearful and unbelieving there. Neither will you find people so depraved they are not aware of what they are doing. And as for murderers who have not turned to Christ, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars ... you will not find them there!

But you *will* find at least one murderer, for Saul of Tarsus was involved in the murder of the saints, - *he’ll* be there ... and you will find at least one social outcast

there, Mary Magdalene. And you will find people from all backgrounds who were so steeped in sin, but the Lord saved them by His great grace ... Heaven is full of sinners, transformed and changed because they have been saved by the glorious Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. ... And that also means, you will not find anyone there on their own merits. Neither will you find anyone there because they were born into a religious family. Everyone there has made a personal decision while on earth to follow Christ. Every citizen in Heaven is *in debt* to the Saviour, for He has purchased their right to be there, and He has conformed them to His perfect image.

Heaven is for the Redeemed. It is the place where the Bridegroom will present His beautiful Bride ... His glorious Church, free from all her earthly defects, no spots, no wrinkles, no blemishes, adorned in Heaven's most magnificent splendour. She will be at her Bridegroom's side at the banqueting table, in the presence of the King of kings, at the resplendent marriage supper of the Lamb (Rev. 19:9).

And you will be reunited with your loved ones who died in Christ. You will see them for King David was confident he would see his little boy again, who died only seven days old. With overwhelming confidence, he believed, **II Sam. 12:23** now he is dead, *Why* should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me. ... David would meet his beloved son when he would enter through the gates of Heaven and dwell in the house of the LORD for ever (Ps. 23:6).

And there is more, regarding our relationships in Glory. ... The Sadducees tried to trick Jesus by asking Him a 'loaded' question, **Mt. 22:24**, Master, Moses said, If a man die, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother *Levirate marriage*, **Dt. 25:5,6**.<sup>25</sup> Now there were with us seven brethren: and the first, when he had married a wife, deceased, and, having no issue, left his wife unto his brother: <sup>26</sup> Likewise the second also, and the third, unto the seventh. <sup>27</sup> And last of all the woman died also. <sup>28</sup> Therefore in the resurrection whose wife shall she be of the seven? for they all had her. ... They were being ridiculous. ... If the first husband died, and his wife remarried the first husband's brother, and if the second husband died, and she remarried the third brother of her first husband, and this happened seven times ... whose wife would she be in Heaven?! ... And Jesus listened to them rambling on in their nonsense, and He quickly silenced them, <sup>30</sup> in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven. In Heaven, the relationships we have on earth are replaced with the perfect relationship with our beloved Bridegroom ... and the Heavenly marriage *to Him* will surpass the relationships we had previously been blessed with. ... There is only one marriage couple in Heaven, - the Bridegroom and His Bride, Christ and His Church!

**CONCLUSION**      What is all this saying to me? It is telling me when my earthly life is over, He will take me unto Himself the moment I breathe my final breath ... and in an instant, - quicker than I can blink my eye, *I shall see Jesus!* ... That's what Job believed, and I believe it too, *Job. 19:25* For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: <sup>26</sup> And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: <sup>27</sup> Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold. ... And *God's* perspective, He announces from Heaven, *Mal. 3:17* And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels ... "When clothed in His brightness, transported I rise to meet Him in clouds of the sky, His perfect salvation, His wonderful love, I'll shout with the millions on high" ... "When He cometh, when He cometh to make up His jewels, all His jewels, precious jewels, His loved and His own. Like the stars of the morning, His bright crown adorning, They shall shine in their beauty, Bright gems for His crown."

There may be many times when you wonder if you'll make it to Heaven, but *you will* for the Saviour Who saved you is the King Who is keeping you! Along every road, across every ditch, through every thorny hedge, He will be with you ... Paul spoke from personal experience, *II Cor. 4:16* For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup> For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; <sup>18</sup> While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

"What a day that will be when my Jesus I shall see, when He takes me by the hand, and leads me through the Promised Land, what a day, glorious day that will be". ... Your place in Heaven, and mine, is reserved and paid for by the Saviour's precious blood, "Oh, what a Saviour that He died for me!" ... We'll be there for *He* has made it happen. ... I know I'm not perfect, - and neither are you, - but the Lord will make sure we are when He takes us home to Glory ... "To God be the glory, great things He hath done ... but purer and higher and greater will be, our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see!"

Maybe you are not sure if you are going to Heaven. Well, you can be if you turn to God, repent of your sin, and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour. Believe in Him Who died on the cross for you and you will belong to His family, redeemed by His precious blood ... and **Going home to Glory!**