Devotion #271

**What Will Heaven Be Like?**

**Isaiah 65:17 (NASB)***"For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former things will not be remembered or come to mind.”*

What a wonderful day of celebration we had as we honored the Lord Jesus for His resurrection power. It truly was a joy-filled morning being together with all God’s people. And for my wife and me, the rest of the day was just as joyful. We spent the day enjoying family and each other. And as the day was closing, we sat on our deck to absorb the last hour or so of the warmth of the sun and the blue sky. In fact, as I was enjoying all the moments of the day, I looked up and wondered what heaven will be like?

Like any other person, I wonder what difference there will be once we are there with Jesus forever. The reason I was contemplating it so was because of what we know of in this life. What we know of life now is that all things are for a season. Everything you and I experience is only for a very short time, whether it is a joyful occasion like we had yesterday or whether it is a difficult time. The truth is that everything is temporary. It is hard to imagine what life will be like without the pain and struggles. So I pondered that for a few minutes, but I had to stop because I couldn’t get very far in my thinking because it is too remote. Not that I don’t believe all Jesus taught about heaven, I certainly do. I believe Him with all my heart. But still, my human mind can only go so far in understanding what it will be like to be free from the issues of life we face now. I’m thankful that the Lord taught us about the Kingdom of God. In fact, He specifically said, “The Kingdom of heaven is like…”, over twenty some times. Each time He used the phrase, He was giving more details of what it will be like to live there. But still, it is hard to comprehend it fully.

What we do know is that it will be so different that the things of this earth will be removed from our minds, according to Isaiah. I take that to mean that God will do whatever is necessary to remove the pain and suffering of this life because, if He didn’t, we would never fully enjoy the heavenly realm. In fact, Isaiah says, all sorrow will be gone. **Isaiah 65:19 (NASB)** *"I will also rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in My people; And there will no longer be heard in her the voice of weeping and the sound of crying*.” To be clear, Isaiah is talking about the time of the millennial kingdom, the thousand years of Christ’s reign before God destroys all we know now and makes a new heaven and new earth. (Revelation 21:1) But for Isaiah it seems that he combines both the millennial reign of Christ and the new heaven and earth because both will be so different for believers.

Isaiah points to a few more differences between our lives now and the millennial reign. One is that people will live much longer. Isaiah says, **Isaiah 65:20 (NASB)** "*No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, Or an old man who does not live out his days; For the youth will die at the age of one hundred And the one who does not reach the age of one hundred will be thought accursed.”* Even our prayers will be answered much more quickly. **Isaiah 65:24 (NASB)** 2"*It will also come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear*.” And my favorite difference will be that there will be safety for all of God’s people. **Isaiah 65:25 (NASB)** "*The wolf and the lamb will graze together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox; and dust will be the serpent's food. They will do no evil or harm in all My holy mountain," says the LORD.*” Again, Isaiah is speaking of the time of the millennial reign of Christ, but that will be but a drop in eternity as we will be moved from that time right into the eternal state where all evil will be gone and only peace and joy will reign.

How blessed we are beloved. Even if we don’t understand it all now, God’s Word is sure. So we can put our hope in what He said, not in what we understand or don’t understand. I’m looking forward to that day. It will be so glorious. For now, however, we are to keep trusting, keep obeying, keep working so that many souls will come to know Jesus as Lord. One day we will leave this place to be with Him and each other forever and ever. Amen!