

Heaven is for Real Revelation 21:1-8.

- This past Anzac day I read the story of Elvas Jenkins who was born in 1888 at Ararat and was the eldest of seven children. When Elvas was 12 years of age the Jenkins family moved to Melbourne where he completed his schooling and as a family they connected at the local Methodist church where Elvas became a keen follower of Jesus Christ. In 1903 Elvas left school at 15 to begin a printing apprenticeship. He was good at his job and well-liked by his work mates, but in 1910, he felt “called” to train for the Methodist ministry. He resided at Queens College on the Melbourne University campus where he met Jeannie who was studying medicine. They were later to become engaged to be married.
- In 1914 war was declared. Elvas enlisted and was soon at Gallipoli. On May 7 a bullet struck him but his life was saved when the bullet struck his Bible in his shirt pocket. The Bible literally saved his life on this occasion.
- We are reminded that many soldiers gave their lives in war service including Elvas a few months later at Somme. He was shot while leading a prayer meeting with men under his charge before a dangerous mission. Death is a reality for all of us and one of the hardest consequences of current COVID-19 regulations is we are so restricted in attending the funeral services of friends and relatives. This past week Jan and I have watched live streaming of 3 funerals.. And I have officiated at a 4th funeral. Despite the dangers of war and fighting disease we have a wonderful hope in Jesus that transcends all.

Embedded bullet



The Three Big Questions in Life

- Where have I _____ from? Origin
- Why am I here? Purpose.
- Where do I go after I die? Destination

1. The New Heavens and the New _____

The first earth and heavens were made perfect in the beginning (Genesis 2:31... “very good”). But people disobeyed and sin entered the world with terrible consequences. Genesis 3:14-24

Revelation 21:1-5....*Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.*

Genesis (first 3 chapters)	Revelation (last 3 chapters)
Heavens and earth created 1:1	Heavens & earth re-created 21:1
Satan is temporarily “victorious” 3:6	Satan is defeated 20:7ff..
Sin enters the human race 3:6ff	Sin is removed 21:4..
People run & hide from God 3:8	God dwells with His people 21:3.
The curse announced, 3:14–17	The curse is no longer 22:3
Death enters history, 3:19	No more _____ 21:4
Man driven from the tree of _____ 3:24	Followers of Jesus can again eat from the tree of life 22:14

- For the Christian, the follower of Jesus, heaven is our final home—the place where we will be spending all of eternity. The Bible gives us some clues as to what heaven is like

Eye cannot see, ear cannot hear, mind cannot comprehend what God has prepared for those who love Him 1 Corinthians 2:9

- The wonder and beauty of our earth—eg a stunning sunset, or a snow covered mountain reflected in the stillness of a turquoise coloured lake or the first smile of a small child are semblances of beauty in a very sin damaged world.. Romans 8:22.. It is just a small fore-taste of the incomprehensible wonder and beauty of heaven
- Knowing the wonderful future that awaits the follower of Jesus gives us hope to to “*keep persevering with the journey set out before us looking unto Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith*”... Hebrews 12: 2. This gives us courage to press on in this world., to endure hardship and to avoid giving into temptation.. This world is not our home.. We are just passing through...

2. . The New Jerusalem comes _____ vs 2.

- Some nations want to build a city in space and travel to it—but this is nothing compared to what God has got planned! Note the New Jerusalem comes down from heaven—not like the tower Babel which was humankind's vain attempt to reach up to heaven.



- Jesus told His disciples 2000 years ago... “I go to prepare a place for you”... John 14:2.. The word “prepare” is a special Greek word ἐτοιμασαι - the same word is used in Hebrews 11:6... *He (God) has prepared a city for them*
- For those of you who have been involved in wedding preparations you know of the intense effort that goes into getting ready for the big event. Many brides spend hours selecting just the right dress. Then she must find the right headpiece to go with the dress. Next she searches for the right shoes to go with the dress.. As a bride adorns herself for her husband so will God adorn and beautify this city for His loved ones
- This was the city which Abraham was looking forward to when at the age of 80 he left a brick house to live in a tent for the rest of his life... in summer and winter. It’s the city that modern day followers of Jesus look forward to as they serve sacrificially—some going off to Ebola affected areas or deliberately risking health by volunteering to serve in a Covid-19 situation—risking life and limb to serve in the Name of Jesus. Some move into a re-mote location to learn a language and culture– & translate the Bible & share the Good News. Others serve locally faithfully serving in many ministries..

3. God changes His _____ Rev. 21:3. ...

The angel loudly proclaims in 21:3.... *“Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and He will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God.*

- An amazing thing we hear at the end of the book of Revelation is God changing His “address”.. He is now in highest heaven and we pray to Him there. But in the end times when the New Jerusalem comes down out of heaven to earth God comes too..
- We had a foretaste when *“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us full of grace and truth”* John 1:14. There is new communion—God dwells with His people again—on earth. When Jesus came - it was a visit—and He went back again. This is what makes heaven “home”—the Father is there.

4. No mourning or _____ Rev. 21:4...

He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

- There is a new level of comfort—Our Heavenly Father will wipe away every tear. Now God comforts us in our troubles. Then—there will be no more troubles. *No more death*. What comfort and reassurance this brings to the troubled heart... No more bed side vigils. No more police being wiped out by a truck, no more death’s on the battlefields..No more funerals... no more terrible suffering... Death was an intrusion after sin entered the world. “The suffering of this present time is not worth comparing to the glory that is to be revealed to us” Romans 8:18..



- No more crying.... There is so much distress here on planet earth.... No more broken relationships, no more financial problems, no more starvation, no more thirst....No more pain... so many people have to put up with unrelenting pain....What joy, what relief - the old order of things has passed away
- Love replaces hate, light replaces darkness, hope replaces hopelessness... joy replaces sadness and depression... No security problems —no enemies, no danger, no burglar alarms; children can play in the streets; no “no go” streets; no stranger danger... a beautifully clean place.. No more disease—no more Covid-19.. No suffering—the curse is gone. So wonderful, so marvellous—for ever and ever....

5. These words are trustworthy and _____ vs 5.

He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then He said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true... Revelation 20:5...

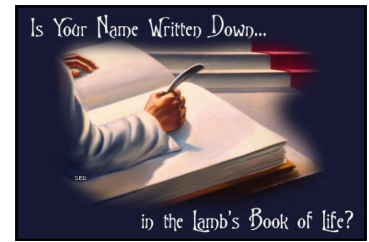
- These words are absolutely true—they are fact—because God Himself gave us these words. These words are revealed no where else—not in Nostradamus or in any other religion/belief system.. . Worship God alone!

He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. ... Revelation 20:6...

6. The Throne of _____ . 20:11– 14

And I saw a Great White Throne and the One sitting on it. .. Rev. 20:11..

- If a person's name is found in the Book of Life (Vs 12) then he/she will escape this judgement. The only way my name can be in this book is to repent and follow Jesus (Acts 3:19)...*Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,* Is your name in the Book of life? What about your friends?



- **Destination of those who ignore/reject Jesus:** Horrible!!! Jesus died a horrible death to save us from a horrible destination!! ...*But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.*” Revelation 20:8..

There is a wonderful hope for all those who love and serve Jesus Christ...

He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. 7 Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

Repent of our sin (Acts 3:19) & follow Jesus faithfully and courageously all the days of our lives and one day we will enter into His presence and live with Him for ever...

The last words of the Bible: Revelation 22:20,21..

He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.”

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.