

HEAVEN

THE GATE

Week 1 - Revelation 22:12-17

INSPECTION - "WHAT DOES IT SAY?"

- When Jesus returns, what will He bring with Him? Verse 12
- How many personal, descriptive images of Jesus do we find in the text?
- Who are the ones given the right to the tree of life? Verse 14
- Who are the ones kept on the outside of the gate? Verse 15
- What do the Spirit and the bride say? Verse 17

OBSERVATION - "WHAT DOES IT MEAN?"

- What is meant by the phrase "tree of life" in verse 14?
- What role do the churches play in the message of salvation? Verse 16
- How is Jesus the "Root" and "Offspring" of David? Verse 16
- What is meant by Jesus being the "bright Morning Star" as seen in verse 16?
- According to verse 17, what is necessary to take of the water of life?

LIFE APPLICATION - "WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ME?"

- Pray for those who are listed in verse 15.
- Pray for the opportunity to share the "water of life" with someone this week.
- Use Scripture to make a road map to heaven. Memorize and share.
- Consider how the words "coming soon" should affect your witness, work, values, and time in God's Word.
- Find a red letter edition of the Bible and read all the words written in red in the book of Revelation.

MEDITATION - "WHAT DOES GOD SAY?"

John 10:1-3

John 14:1-4

Psalms 118:19-20

Psalms 24:7-10

Psalms 100:4

Matthew 7:13-14

Revelation 21:25-27

Revelation 7:13-15

SUPPLICATION - "WHAT CAN WE MEDITATE?"

Heaven—then, what is it? First, what is it not? It is not a heaven of the SENSES—"Eye hath not seen it." What glorious things the eye hath seen! Have we not seen the gaudy pageantry of pomp crowding the crowded streets? We have seen the procession of kings and princes; our eyes have been feasted with the display of glittering uniforms, of lavished gold and jewels, of chariots and of horses; and we have perhaps thought that the procession of the saints of God may be dimly shadowed forth thereby. But, oh it was but the thought of our poor infant mind, and far enough from the great reality. We may hear of the magnificence of the old Persian princes, of palaces covered with gold and silver, and floors inlaid with jewels; but we cannot thence gather a thought of heaven, for "eye hath not seen" it. We have thought, however, when we have come to the works of God, and our eye hath rested on them: surely, we can get some glimpse of what heaven is here. By night we have turned our eye up to the blue azure, and we have seen the stars—those golden-fleeced sheep of God, feeding on the blue meadow of the sky, and we have said, "See! those are the nails in the floor of heaven up yonder;" and if this earth has such a glorious covering, what must that of the kingdom of heaven be? And when our eye has wandered from star to star, we have thought, "Now I can tell what heaven is by the beauty of its floor." But it is all a mistake. All that we can see can never help us to understand heaven. At another time we have seen some glorious landscape; we have seen the white river winding among the verdant fields like a stream silver, covered on either side with emerald; we have seen the mountain towering to the sky, the mist rising on it, or the golden sunrise covering all the east with glory; or we have seen the west, again, reddened with the light of the sun as it departed; and we have said, "Surely, these grandeurs must be something like heaven; we have clapped our hands, and exclaimed—

"Sweet fields beyond the swelling flood,
Stand dressed in living green."

Charles Haddon Spurgeon (excerpt from sermon on Heaven, December 16, 1855)