Eleutheros Newsletter

February 2019

News of Interest

God willing, a third course for the Taongi National University's School of Religion in Liberia will be completed this month. To date 16 of the 30 lectures have been videoed on the Life of Christ. Other courses which have been completed include Soteriology (salvation) and I and II Corinthians.

To learn more about these courses or to make a purchase of the videos, feel free to check out the website: www.eleutherosbooks.com

Please pray for funding so that a Spanish translation of The Ramifications of Our Salvation can be printed in Argentina! To learn more or to make a donation, check out the "Eleutheros Books Global Fund" on the website.

A booklet on the resurrection of our Savior has been written for promotion of an upcoming film about Jesus' death and resurrection. Details will be forthcoming in future newsletters.

Jesus' Preparation of a Place for Us

In My Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself, that where I am, there ye may be also (John 14:2-3).

Believers in Jesus Christ know that their salvation is eternal and thank Him for that fact. They quite often ask questions about heaven, and rightly so!

It is quite clear from the Scriptures that there but two spheres of existence in eternity, those being hell and heaven. *Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation* (John 5:28-29).

Jesus made it clear that He was leaving this earth to prepare a place (heaven) for those who believe in Him (John 14:2-3, quoted above.

In several Biblical passages (Isaiah 65:17; 66:22; Hebrews 1:10-12; II Peter 3:1-14; Revelation 20:11; 21:1-4) it is declared that there will be a new earth as well as a new heaven.

The earthly people, presumably Jews who believe in their Messiah Jesus Christ, will live forever in the new glorified earth (<u>Isaiah 66:22</u>; <u>Jeremiah 31:36-37</u>), and the Davidic kingdom will increase throughout eternity (<u>Isaiah 9:6-7</u>; <u>Daniel 7:14</u>; <u>Luke 1:31-33</u>; <u>Revelation 11:15</u>).

Our human understanding, accompanied as it is to the corruption that dominates this world, can hardly comprehend the idea of a new heaven *wherein dwelleth righteousness* (<u>II Peter 3:13</u>). God's holiness will not tolerate sin in the final state! We will be glorified, meaning that we will, by God's grace, do only things that give glory to God (<u>Romans 8:28-29</u>).

In addition to these two sphere of abode—the new heaven and the new earth—there is a city which three times is said to come down from God out of heaven (Revelation 3:12; 21:2, 10).

The description of that city, the new Jerusalem (the bride, the Lamb's wife mentioned in Revelation 21:9), is given to us in Revelation 21:10-22).

We are given a record of the inhabitants of this magnificent city: But ye are come unto mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels. To the general assembly and the church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, And to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant (Hebrews 11:22-24a).

The word "mansions" in <u>John 14:2</u> is from the Greek noun *mone* and is best translated "dwelling place" or "room." Notice that it says *In My Father's house are many* dwelling places. These places will be beautiful beyond our ability to describe, but apparently, they will all be connected to one "house." We will live in the same house He does!

The Apostle John received a message from God about the atmosphere of the heavenly city, the new Jerusalem: And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And He that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And He said unto me, Write: for these words are faithful and true (Revelation 21:4-50. This heavenly city will surely be a place of great joy for all who believe in our Savior!

John also wrote in Revelation about the physical appearance of the new Jerusalem: it has the glory of God with pure light (22:11; see also <u>I John 1:5</u>). Twelve gates (22:12-13), twelve foundations (22:14), and is about 1,500 miles high, wide, and deep (*twelve thousand furlongs*—22:15-16).

The wall of the city is an hundred and forty four cubits high (216 feet—Revelation 22:7).

In this eternal city are jasper, pure gold, *like unto clear glass*, sapphire, chalcedony, emerald, sardonyx, sardius, chrysolite, beryl, topaz, chrysoprasus, jacinth, and amethyst (<u>Revelation 22:18-20</u>). Try to imagine the beauty that will be there!

In addition, there are twelve gates made of pearl (21:21), but no temple or sun (21:22-23, for the glory of God did lighten it, and he Lamb if the light thereof). He is indeed the light of the world (John 8:12)!

As glorious as this heavenly city and new earth are (and will be forever), imagine what the new universe will look like!

Every planet, moon, galaxy will be ours to enjoy and explore, knowing that all will be an expression of God's great power and love!

At one point in Revelation John was forbidden to write about some of the details of the tribulation period (10:4); so would it not be plausible to believe that there are glories in the final state that are not recorded in Scripture?!

Our Savior always seems to have wonderful surprises for us! Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for those that love Him (I Corinthians 2:9).

This writer knew a wonderful Christian man who occasionally wore T shirts. On one of those shirts was a message that pertains to the subject matter of this newsletter.

At the top were these words: Christian work. The pay isn't all that much.

Below were these words: But the retirement program is out of this world!

Our Lord has prepared all these things for us!

We will see so many loved ones there!

But most of all. We will see Jesus!

Face to Face Carrie E. Beck

Face to face with Christ my Savior, Face to face, what will it be, When with rapture I behold Him, Jesus Christ Who died for me?!

What rejoicing in Hi presence
When are banished grief and pain;
When the crooked ways are straightened,
And the dark things shall be plain!

Face to face! O blissful moment!
Face to face—to see and know;
Face to face with my Redeemer,
Jesus Christ Who loves me so!

Face to face I shall behold Him, Far beyond the starry sky! Face to face in all Hi glory, I shall see Him by and by!