

PICTURES OF HEAVEN - Five Biblical Descriptions

Trinity Lutheran Church Norman, OK. Pastor David Nehrenz

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4. The Peaceable Kingdom

A. THE BIBLICAL TEXTS:

(Genesis 2:18-24) Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." (19) So out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. (20) The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. (21) So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. (22) And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. (23) Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." (24) Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

(Genesis 8:8-12) Then he sent forth a dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground. (9) But the dove found no place to set her foot, and she returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her and brought her into the ark with him. (10) He waited another seven days, and again he sent forth the dove out of the ark. (11) And the dove came back to him in the evening, and behold, in her mouth was a freshly plucked olive leaf. So Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. (12) Then he waited another seven days and sent forth the dove, and she did not return to him anymore.

(Genesis 9:1-17) And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. (2) The fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth and upon every bird of the heavens, upon everything that creeps on the ground and all the fish of the sea. Into your hand they are delivered. (3) Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. And as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything. (4) But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. (5) And for your lifeblood I will require a reckoning: from every beast I will require it and from man. From his fellow man I will require a reckoning for the life of man. (6) "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image. (7) And you, be fruitful and multiply, teem on the earth and multiply in it." (8) Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, (9) "Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, (10) and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. (11) I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." (12) And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: (13) I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. (14) When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, (15) I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. (16) When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." (17) God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

(Isaiah 11:1-10) There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. (2) And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. (3) And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, (4) but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. (5) Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. (6) The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. (7) The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. (8) The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. (9) They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. (10) In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples--of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

THE BIBLICAL DESCRIPTIONS

1. The New Jerusalem
2. The Wedding Banquet
3. The New Garden of Eden - Paradise
- 4. The Peaceable Kingdom**
5. The Whole Company of Saints and Angels

(Isaiah 65:17-25) "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind. (18) **But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness. (19) I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people; no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress.** (20) No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not fill out his days, for the young man shall die a hundred years old, and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed. (21) They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. (22) They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. (23) They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity, for they shall be the offspring of the blessed of the Lord, and their descendants with them. (24) Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear. **(25) The wolf and the lamb shall graze together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain," says the Lord.**

(John 1:26-36) John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, (27) even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." (28) These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing. (29) The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, **"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!** (30) This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.' (31) I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel." (32) And John bore witness: **"I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. (33) I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'** (34) And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God." (35) The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, (36) and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, **"Behold, the Lamb of God!"**

(Revelation 7:9,13-17) "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"... (13) Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" (14) I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, **"These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.** (15) "Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. **(16) They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. (17) For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."**

B. THE DIVINE SERVICE

Collect for peace "O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, **that peace which the world cannot give**, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, **may live in peace and quietness**; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever."

Post-Communion Collect "O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake **You have given us pardon and peace** in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to **rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit** that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever."

Nunc Dimittis "Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant **depart in peace** according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.

The Benediction The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and **give you peace.**

C. THE MEANING FOR YOU: What does heaven as the peaceable kingdom mean to you?