

## PICTURES OF HEAVEN

### - Five Biblical Descriptions

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### 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**

## 5. The Whole Company of Saints and Angels

### A. THE BIBLICAL TEXTS:

**(Psalm 30:4)** Sing praises to the Lord, **O you his saints**, and give thanks to his holy name. **(Psalm 132:7-9)** "Let us go to his dwelling place; let us worship at his footstool!" (8) Arise, O Lord, and go to your resting place, you and the ark of your might. (9) Let your priests be clothed with righteousness, and let **your saints** shout for joy. **(Psalm 132:13-17)** For the Lord has chosen Zion; he has desired it for his dwelling place: (14) "This is my resting place forever; here I will dwell, for I have desired it. (15) I will abundantly bless her provisions; I will satisfy her poor with bread. (16) Her priests I will clothe with salvation, **and her saints** will shout for joy. (17) There I will make a horn to sprout for David; I have prepared a lamp for my anointed. **(Psalm 145:10-13)** All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and **all your saints** shall bless you! They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power, to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom. **Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom**, and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

**(Matthew 24:30-31)** Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. (31) And he will **send out his angels** with a loud trumpet call, and they will **gather his elect** from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

**(Matthew 25:31-34)** "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and **all the angels** with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. (32) Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. (33) And he will place **the sheep on his right**, but the goats on the left. (34) Then the King will say to **those on his right**, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world... (46) ... **the righteous** into eternal life."

**(Luke 12:8)** "And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before **the angels of God** **(Luke 20:34-36)** And Jesus said to them, "The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage, (35) but **those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead** neither marry nor are given in marriage, (36) for they cannot die anymore, because **they are equal to angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.**

**(Ephesians 1:17-23)** that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, (18) having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are **the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints**, (19) and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might (20) that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand **in the heavenly places**, (21) far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, **not only in this age but also in the one to come.** (22) And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, (23) which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

**(Ephesians 2:19-22)** So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but **you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God**, (20) built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, (21) in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into **a holy temple in the Lord.** (22) In him you also are being built together into **a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.**

**(Colossians 1:11-14)** May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, (12) giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in **the inheritance of the saints in light.** (13) He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to **the kingdom of his beloved Son**, (14) in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

**(1 Thessalonians 3:11-13)** Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, (12) and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, (13) so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at **the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.**

**(2 Thessalonians 1:7-10)** ... when **the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels** (8) in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. (9) They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, (10) when he comes **on that day to be glorified in his saints**, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed.

**(Hebrews 12:22-24)** But you have come to **Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem**, and to **innumerable angels in festal gathering**, (23) and to **the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven**, and to God, the judge of all, and to **the spirits of the righteous made perfect**, (24) and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

**(1 Peter 3:21-22)** Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, (22) **who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him**.

**(Revelation 5:9-14)** And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood **you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation**, (10) and you have made them **a kingdom and priests to our God**, and they shall reign on the earth." (11) Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice **of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands**, (12) saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" (13) And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" (14) And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped.

**(Revelation 7:9-17)** **After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands**, (10) and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" (11) And **all the angels** were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, (12) saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." (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."

**(Revelation 11:17-19)** "We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, who is and who was, for you have taken your great power and begun to reign. (18) The nations raged, but your wrath came, and the time for the dead to be judged, and for rewarding **your servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear your name, both small and great**, and for destroying the destroyers of the earth." (19) Then **God's temple in heaven** was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple. There were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail.

**(Revelation 19:1-6)** After this I heard what seemed to be **the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven**, crying out, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, (2) for his judgments are true and just; for he has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality, and has avenged on her the blood of his servants." (3) Once more they cried out, "Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up forever and ever." (4) And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who was seated on the throne, saying, "Amen. Hallelujah!" (5) And from the throne came a voice saying, "Praise our God, **all you his servants**, you who fear him, small and great." (6) Then I heard what seemed to be **the voice of a great multitude**, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns."

## **B. THE DIVINE SERVICE**

**Proper Preface:** "It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord... Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying..."

**HYMNS: LSB** 442, 465, 506, 507, 515, 516, 517, 525, 534, 549, 644, 661, 662, 670, 672, 673, 676, 677, 680, 812, 832, 907, 941

**C. THE MEANING FOR YOU:** What does heaven as a choir of people and angels and archangels mean to you?

**D. New Bible Class begins 2-21-16** "The Book of Haggai – Theology of the Cross vs. Theology of Glory"