

HEAVEN

MESSAGE: CHARLIE MENG

MUSIC: SHAWN HOELSCH

DATE: JANUARY 16, 2022

HEAVEN: The Presence of God

Review

When Jesus returns, we will...

1. ... be given bodies incapable of decay or destruction.
2. ... be unified with all believers.
3. ... never again be threatened by sin, evil, or deception.
4. ... forever be in the presence of God.

God created humans to experience unrestricted access to his presence.

1. Our ability to reflect God's image is connected to our relationship to him.

***Gen. 1:26** Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." **27** So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*

2. Sin broke that relationship and, in turn, fractured our access to his presence and our ability to reflect him.

***Gen. 3:22** Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—" **23** therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. **24** He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.*

Throughout history, God has promised to restore his people back to his presence.

1. God's promises point forward to a day of restored relationship.

Lev. 26:11 I will make my dwelling among you, and my soul shall not abhor you. 12 And I will walk among you and will be your God, and you shall be my people.

Ezek. 37:26 I will make a covenant of peace with them. It shall be an everlasting covenant with them. And I will set them in their land and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in their midst forevermore. 27 My dwelling place shall be with them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

2. We will experience the full completion of that promise when Jesus returns.

Rev. 21:2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

God graciously allows us to "taste" these realities now.

1. Through Christ's obedience, we have access to the Father's presence now.

Heb. 4:16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

2. As we cultivate a heavenly mindset, we experience greater realizations of his presence now.

Col. 3:1 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

SONGS

"YOUR GRACE IS ENOUGH" – Matt Maher

"GOD SO LOVED" – Andrew Bergthold, Ed Cash, Franni Cash, Martin Cash, Scott Cash

"GOODNESS OF GOD" – Ed Cash and Jenn Johnson

"CORNERSTONE" – Reuben Morgan

BUDGET

GIVING WEEK 1 (Jan. 1-2): \$ 14,517.42

GIVING WEEK 2 (Jan. 3-9): \$ 51,136.10

YTD GIVING: \$ 65,653.52

YTD GENERAL NEED: \$ 72,186.24