

August 2017

From the Pastor



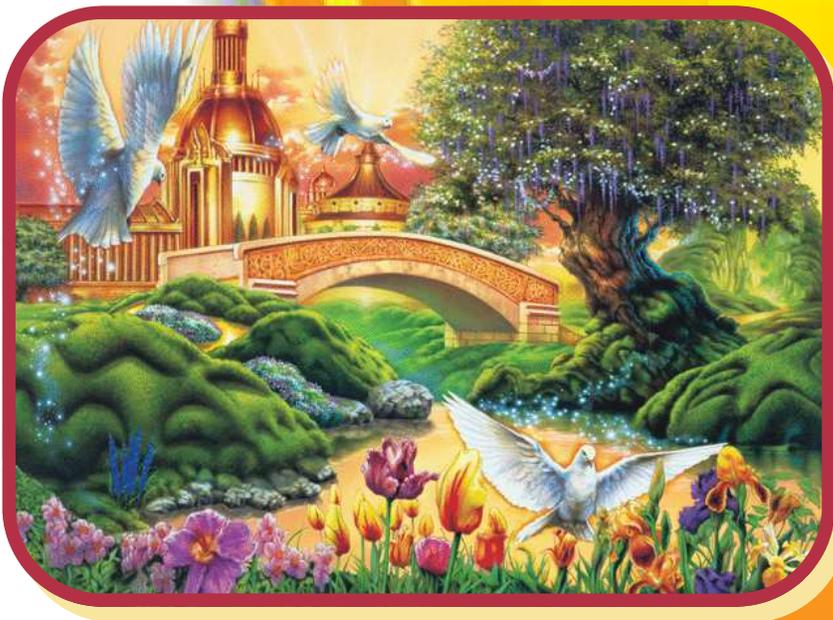
## The Beautiful Long Days of Summer

I love summer evenings! The sun seems to take forever to go down. There is a such a beauty and peace in a summer night.

It reminds of how beautiful it will be when Christ returns, and we will experience heaven here on earth. Look at what it says in the book of the Revelation. First, here is what is written about the new heaven and new earth.

*<sup>1</sup> Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> 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." (Revelation 21:1-4 ESV)*

Imagine that....No more tears, no more sorrows. Have you ever been outside with friends on a summer night, and one of their children is a little over tired? The child starts to whimper and crawls into a parent's lap. The parent wipes away the tears of sadness. The child then curls up and falls asleep with mom or dad.



The new heaven and new earth will be a time when we can come to our Father, and He will gently wipe away the tears of sadness from our eyes. We will then rest in His arms.

Those warm summer nights will not see darkness. Look at what else it says about that new heaven and new earth.

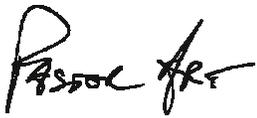
*<sup>1</sup> Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup> through the middle of the street of the city; also, on*

*either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.<sup>3</sup> No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him.<sup>4</sup> They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.<sup>5</sup> And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever. (Revelation 22:1-5 ESV)*

There will be a beautiful river flowing through the city of God, and there will be fruit on a tree of life. There will no longer be darkness. God's glory will light up everything. We will no longer stumble along in life. We will have God's guidance on a beautiful summer day that will never end.

I look forward to the new heaven and the new earth, and I'm sure it will be even greater than the beautiful summer evening that I love.

In Him and for His glory,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pastor Jeff". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "P" and "J".