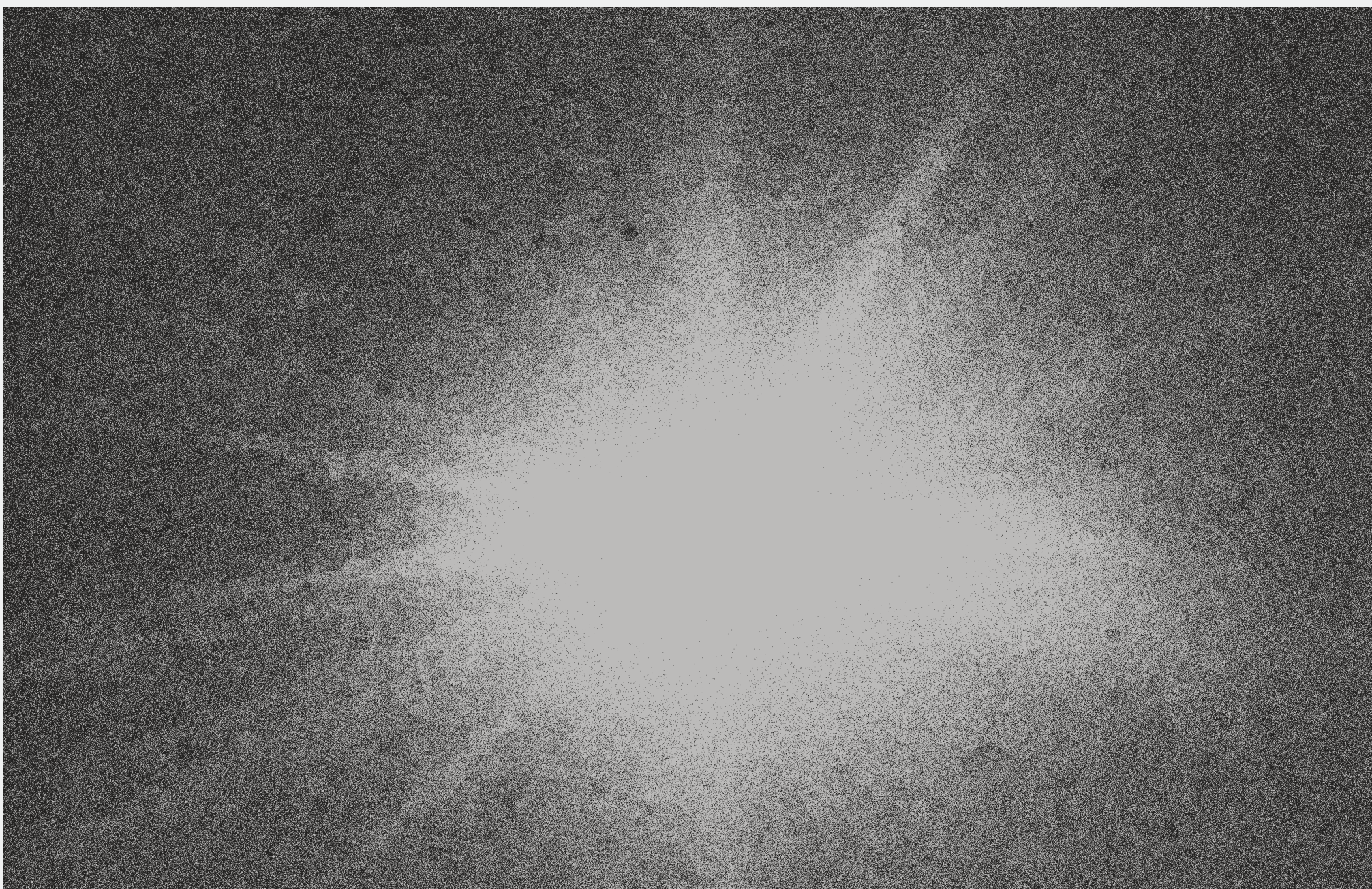

THE GREAT NEWS

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A F T E R L I F E I N S I G H T S

Unlike my religious brothers and sisters who seem to see the afterlife consisting of one heaven and one hell – both eternal states for the blessed or cursed departed, I see the afterlife, in this age of fulfillment, according to what Revelation 20-22 describes and that is as one giant heavenly realm which hosts a heavenly Kingdom. In it there are those who are admitted and there are those who are not. In the case of the latter, we really can't be too sure of what they experience. That said, I do not believe that they are experiencing the wrath of God, because that was previously poured out on the Nation that put His Son to death nearly 2000 years ago. NDE proponents often suggest the heavenly landing ground as pretty inviting... Maybe that is so, but my interests lie more with what to expect inside that kingdom than without.

From what I can tell, it appears that those who enter the Kingdom are those who embrace faith. Because I believe Jesus was God with us, I tend to see all faith pointed toward God as sufficient for entrance regardless of one's knowledge of the facts of Yeshua. Hebrews 11:6 talks about it being impossible to please God but by faith; I tend to see real genuinely placed faith on God in any form, rightly or misguided, as sufficient for entrance... whatever that might mean. Despite this, there seems to remain a biblical fact concerning heavenly rewards. It seems to say that God as rewards all people of faith with an associated resurrected body - given according to their works of love. With this, we can infer that entrance is granted by faith but rewards are given by God via the type of resurrected body God will grant all of us.

The existence of these heavenly bodies at varied degrees of character suggests that there will be observable differences between people of faith within the Kingdom. Further, we see it written that these rewards via resurrection will be the many mansions Jesus described when He taught. Interestingly, Paul notes that he hopes to attain a resurrection that could be described as "outside" the standard fare God would give. The Greek translation for what he is describing is called the "exanastasis" resurrection, and this can best be translated to: "a resurrection that is outside the others". Perhaps this means it is head and shoulders above the rest... From all of this, we could possibly surmise some or all of the following:

1. God so loved the world that He sent us His Son to save us all from sin, Satan, death and hell.

2. That all people who receive and pursue God by faith will enter into the New Jerusalem above.
3. That all souls who walked by faith will be rewarded with resurrected bodies (presumably of glory) and
4. That there is a difference in the resurrected glory all believers will receive – based on the lives they choose to live as people of faith.

I could be missing things here – I could be flat out wrong. But at the moment and from my understanding of the scripture, this seems to be a fairly reasonable view based on scripture, and in it I rejoice at the Goodness, even the Greatness, the fairness, and the abiding love of our Maker who made all of this possible by and through the victorious life, death, resurrection and ascension of His Only Begotten Son.

Love you all.
S h a w n