

A Glimpse of Home: A Biblical Look at Heaven - Part I

Heaven Defined

Dwelling place of God and Angels

Section on Streams in the Desert P420 Nov. 8th.

Home Defined

The place we always look forward to going to

Heaven Is Our Home by Kathryn Scott

*No more sin and no more shame
We are going where the streets are made of gold
No more tears for they'll be wiped away
We are going where the streets are made of gold
And if we just could see
One glimpse of what will be
We'd run to win this race
Living our lives by faith
Because Heaven is our home where we'll reign forever
Shining like the sun with our King forever
Every sorrow gone we'll rejoice forever
Heaven is our home Heaven is our home*

I. A glimpse of Heaven helps us in our preparation for our trip Home.

- a) What makes a Christian?
- b) Person with Christ-like characteristics
- c) Being a Christian has benefits

- John 3:16-17

16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

- Part of the family of God
- A citizen of heaven (Phil 3:20-21)

"But our Citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself."

"If you are a Christian, you are not a citizen of this world trying to get to heaven; you are a citizen of heaven making your way through this world."

- Vance Havner

- Seated with Him in heavenly places (Eph 2:1-10)

1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience-- 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ--by grace you have been saved-- 6 and raised us up with him and seated us

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with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

- My friends you have the best place you can have
 - Seated with Jesus in Heavenly places
 - It is a fact, position, a state of being, ownership, reserved
 - The Glimpse of heaven has an effect in this present life
- d. How to Get to Heaven
- Faith in the work of Christ (The Gospel)
 - Hearing, Believing, Embracing
 - 1John 5:13

“I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life.”

- Jesus Coming again to receive His people
 - 1 Cor. 15:51-52

“Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 The trumpet will sound and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be raised imperishable and we shall be changed.”

- Death
 - Covered in the second session

e. Scripture sets a solid foundation of our faith

- 1 Cor 15: 1-8

1 Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand 2 and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you--unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. 8 Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

II. Distorted views of heaven eclipse the joy that is before us

- a. Question: What is your view of heaven?
- b. Worldly views of heaven
 - Media
 - Damage to our faith
 - Misguides and misdirects the people of the world
 - Confuses the Church
 - Causes people to even dread the idea of Heaven
 - Tactic of Satan

“Make no mistake---one of Satan’s favorite tactics is feeding us an unworthy, dull, and distorted view of heaven. He knows we’ll lack motivation to tell

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others about Jesus when our view of heaven isn't that much better than our concept of hell." (Randy Alcorn, *In Light of Eternity*)

- The Enemy likes to slander 3 things
 - The Person of God
 - The People of God
 - The Place of God
- We have to see the truth of God and His Word as the protection from the lies of the enemy
- It can bring fear rather than a longing and a joy

III. The Glimpse of Heaven brings faith hope and joy

a. Faith: The Best is yet to come

"The best part of heaven is that we'll be with our bridegroom, Jesus. Second best? We'll be with our family and friends who know God. That's why, when Christian loved ones die, God tells us not to grieve like those who have no hope, but to comfort and encourage each other by anticipating the ultimate family reunion (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). That's why heaven should mean more to us every time a friend moves there." (Randy Alcorn, *In light of Eternity*)

b. Paul's thoughts on Heaven

a. Paul ties everything together when looking at heaven

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight 9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. Eph 1: 3-10

c. Hope: John's Experience:

- Rev. 21: 1-22:5 – Read
- New Jerusalem, Holy City, Dwelling Place of God
 - Heaven is the Dwelling place of God
 - Heavenly moments in this life
 - Eternal Heavenly moments when with God
- What will not be there - Scripture lists a number of things that will not be there
 - He will be ours and we will be His
 - Wipe away tears
 - No more death
 - Mourning, crying and pain will no longer be there
 - No more fear, lying, faithlessness, Murderers, sexual immorality, sorcery, idolatry
 - Nothing unclean or false

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- What will be there? More beautiful than anything we have seen
 - We will experience this great Salvation: Or, What God has done for us
 - He saved us and now we experience it
 - We will experience Rewards: Or, the result of what we have done for God
 - Treasures
 - Crowns
 - Crowns of: Life, Incorruptible, Glory, Righteousness, Rejoicing
 - For: Faithfulness, victory in life, faithfulness in leadership, evangelism and discipleship.
 - All things new
 - The presence of God
 - A party/Celebration (pure celebration)
 - A banquet (you don't have to worry about what fork to use)
 - Worship (seeing what we worship)
 - Peace (no worries about tomorrows events)
 - River of life (no more death, life flows eternally)
 - Tree of life (Was in Eden to be enjoyed) rooted life. No flaming sword to keep people away
 - Fruit
 - Leaves for the healing of nations
 - We will Reign with Him forever and ever
- d. Joy: The most important part of Heaven
 - “We may speak about a place where there are no tears, no death, no fear, no night; but those are just the benefits of heaven. The beauty of heaven is seeing God.” - Max Lucado, *Experiencing the Heart of Jesus Workbook: Knowing His Heart, Feeling His Love*

IV. Conclusion

- What area(s) of your life would you like to see a glimpse of heaven?
- What area(s) of your life keep you from looking for glimpses for heaven?
- Who can I partner to help me to live in light of the reality of Heaven?