

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

Introduction

The reality of heaven brings a life rooted in Scripture, growing in faith and with a prayerful expectation of things to come.

If faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God then it is the Word of God that brings clarity of faith, hope, and joy that we talked about but it also brings life.

Paul said in Titus 2:11-14 "11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, 13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works."

Heaven is tied to two things:

1. The second Coming of Christ which can be a whole lot of seminars in itself
2. The death of the saint.

When we look into how we can live in the light of the Glimpse of Heaven we see that there are some things we need to realize and some of those things are **hindrances**, **expectations**, and **watchful desires**. A glimpse of home requires a sense of **expectation**.

I. The Expectation of Heaven causes change in the everyday aspects of life

a. Expectation: A Biblical Way of Life

- Abraham: The expectation of the Promised Land
- Moses: the expectation of Deliverance
- David: the expectation of a Nation
- Solomon: the Expectation of God's presence
- John the Baptist: the expectation of a Savior

18 The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, 19 calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" 20 And when the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'" 21 In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. 22 And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. 23 And blessed is the one who is not offended by me." Luke 7:18-23

b. Jesus' communication pointed to expectation

- Though Jesus communicated the signs it was the End that he was promoting
- Luke 10:17-20

17 The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!" 18 And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all

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the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. 20 Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

- c. Expectation realizes that: Your life means more to God than it does to you
- d. Spiritual expectations fills out our life in Christ
 - You will receive Power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.
 - The Holy Spirit is a glimpse of Heaven
 - There are a number of ways the Holy Spirit brings a glimpse of Heaven to us
 - The Holy Spirit's presence, Filling, Seal, Assurance
 - The repentance of a sinner
 - Conviction of sin
 - Progressively changed life
 - Answered prayer
 - Prophecy, Healings, Discernment, Serving, Giving
 - Worship
 - Fruit: Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control

II. Hindrances to a heaven mindset hide the reality of Heaven in this life

- What are the things that keep us from enjoying what God is doing?
 - Circumstances
 - The World/Sin
 - 1 John 2: 15-17

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world--the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions--is not from the Father but is from the world. 17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

- Desires of flesh, eyes and pride in possessions
- World/temporary
- We can't wait but it won't last
- Temporary "relief" distraction
- Fear
 - Fear of the unknown, failure, success
 - Phobias abound
 - Fear is crippling
 - Distracts us from looking forward to heaven
- Fear of Death
 - Some don't want go to heaven because you will probably have to die to get there
 - Where does this fear come from?
 - Fear unpacked
 - Fear is an absence of Faith

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22 One day Jesus said to his disciples, "Let's go over to the other side of the lake." So they got into a boat and set out. 23 As they sailed, he fell asleep. A squall came down on the lake, so that the boat was being swamped, and they were in great danger. 24 The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!" He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm. 25 "Where is your faith?" he asked his disciples. In fear and amazement they asked one another, "Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him." Luke 8:22-25

- They feared for their lives
- Jesus addressed their lack of faith
- What brings faith
- Hearing the word
- Hearing truth

Rev 14:13 13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!"

III. Clarity of Vision

a. Clarity of vision helps us to look in the right direction

- It is easy to get distracted
- It is easy for our vision to get blurred
 - Gets our eyes off the goal, the prize
- Waiting vs. Wanting
 - Waiting takes time, Wanting takes control
 - Waiting takes patience, Wanting takes what it doesn't own

John 14:1-4 "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God: believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also."

- Requires patience and waiting

b. Gaining Clarity of vision also keeps us moving in the right direction

- The disciples had a lot to try to understand and experience and they got to see all the miracles

Acts 1:6-11 "6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." 9 And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, 11 and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

- What Jesus and the angels are saying is to watch for the heavenly things
 - You will receive Power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you
 - You will be witnesses
 - You will be public speakers

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- You will travel
- We aren't just telling people about Christ but we are now preparing for His return
- He's coming back. Why? To Bring us Home
- We have been given a great gift
- We have been given a great opportunity
- A knowledge that we have an eternity with our Lord
- A life knowing that each day brings a glimpse of heaven
- That each day that goes by we know that Jesus has gone to prepare a place for us
- That each day brings us one day closer to going Home

IV. Conclusion: The Experience of Heaven Today

Questions:

- What are some expectations of Heaven you have seen in your life?
- What are some hindrances that have kept you from enjoying walk with the Lord?
- How would you like the Lord to change your perspective when it comes to your glimpse of Heaven?