

Heaven is for You!

Do you know that heaven is for you!

That's right: Heaven was made for you. You were made for heaven.

Everything in us knows that death, sickness, injustice, war and chaos are not the way things were meant to be!

Jesus spoke of heaven as a prepared home. He said, "In my Father's house are many mansions... I go to prepare a place for you."

The Bible presents heaven as an actual realm, more permanent and real than this temporary world. Jesus described heaven as a place where you are invited into "the joy of your lord" (Mt. 25:21). It is a place alive with worship and celebration, music and awe before God. (Ps. 11:4; Isa. 66:1; Mt. 6:9).

The clearest physical description of heaven appears in Revelation 21. The Apostle John describes heaven as God's dwelling place, a city with no need for the sun because the glory of God illuminates it (Rev. 21:23). It has streets of gold, gates made of a single pearl, and foundations of all kinds of precious stones. In the center runs a crystal-clear river of life that one may bathe in. Magnificent trees grow that continually bear delicious, fresh fruit.

Even better, scripture says that in that place is God's throne, God's very presence. There, God himself will wipe away every tear. There will be no more death, no more sickness, no more sorrow, no more crying, no more pain, no more injustice, no more fear or sin! (Revelation 21:4). It is a place where the God of light and love dwells among His people in a delightful

environment of beauty so astounding in every way that it is beyond human imagination.

Did you know that in heaven there is also conscious fellowship? We will recognize others, and they will recognize us. At Jesus's transfiguration, the disciples recognized Moses and Elijah (Mt. 17). Many who have had after-death experiences talk of visiting with family members who had died. I am looking forward to being with my family forever. I want to catch up with my relatives and friends who passed from this world long ago. My cousin with whom I was best friends died when she was only fourteen. I was eleven or twelve. She loved Jesus so much. I can't wait to see her! I know she is in heaven. I want to visit the grandparents I never really got to know. I want to fellowship with Enoch, Noah, Deborah, King David and the many believers I have admired. Most of all, I want to see Jesus!

And I want to see you!

Is there someone in heaven you would like to see? A child? A parent? A spouse?

Wow! What a wonderful place!

Wow! What a wonderful life forever!

Some people believe humans are like cats or crows. You die. That's it. Your existence is over. You are no more. You're dead, and that's the end.

Not true! Not true! Not true!

When God breathed his life into man, he became a living soul. The soul comprises the mind, will, and emotions of a human. This part of us lives on after the body dies. You see this illustrated in so many who have been

resuscitated after being dead for a time. During their hours of death, people see and experience things impossible for them to know unless there is an existence after death. One woman talked about rising over the hospital as she left her body. She said there was a red shoe on the roof. Sure enough, it was there. There was no way she could have physically known this, as her body was lying on the operating table the whole time. Others who were pronounced dead have recounted the exact words and actions of attending physicians, medical workers, or family members, sometimes after they had been dead for hours.

My mother was diagnosed as brain dead one hour after being given a medication on her allergy list. Within a few days, she was barely clinging to life. My little sister, Susan, and I stayed at the hospital with her as she was passing from this world. We sang worship songs and surrounded her with peace, love, and tender care.

Our brother was far away in a distant country, but our older sister lived fairly close. We told our unresponsive mother to hang on because Janet was on her way to the hospital. A few hours later, our sister Janet called and said she just wouldn't be able to make it after all. We told our mother that Janet wasn't coming. We said, "Mother, you may go on to be with the Lord now. Janet isn't coming." Our mother immediately let out a breath and died. Like some of the Jewish patriarchs in scripture, she "gave up the ghost." This was an act of mind and will. Her body was barely alive, and her brain had supposedly been dead for days. Yet she knew exactly what we said and responded immediately.

My sister removed her breathing tube, and we washed her face and hands and combed her hair. The presence of God filled the hospital room. It was the most wonderful feeling I have ever experienced. The peace was so overwhelming that I didn't want to leave. I just wanted to bathe in it forever. You see, Mother loved the Lord. Oh, she had had her difficulties. There were times when she was very close to God and times when she

was farther away. She had her ups and downs. But she was his, and heaven came to receive her soul.

A wonderful paradise is available to all, but sadly not all will go there. Let me ask you: on a scale of 1 to 10, how sure are you that Heaven will be your final destination? If you died today, this hour, do you know where your soul would go?

You can know, and you can know for sure.

Earlier I described a little of heaven for you. But think of the contrast to heaven. What might it be like for your emotions, will, and mind to continue on eternally separated from God? The soul would be in a place utterly devoid of light and utterly devoid of love. There would be no hope of changing things. Your destiny would be set forever.

Jesus clearly taught continued existence after death and irreversible consequences (Luke 16:19-31).

You may have experienced grief or depression, but outside of God's presence, torment and irreversible despair would encompass every minute throughout eternity. This would be a thousand times worse than any grief or depression you have ever experienced on Earth. And there would be NO ESCAPE. You see, after death, there is no opportunity to change one's destiny.

So I ask you, how sure are you that you will spend eternity in Heaven?

Jesus said, "I would not that any perish- no not one." He said, "I came that you may have life and that more abundantly." Knowing God makes this life lived in the body much better. Knowing Him brings peace, joy, and a life lived in the wisdom of biblical principles. It also changes our eternal destiny. We know where we are headed, and that gives us courage and comfort as we face life's many difficulties.

I understand many people struggle to believe. Perhaps religion or religious people wounded you. Not all people who attend a church know God. And no one is fully perfect but God. Is it wise to let one unpleasant experience or one flawed person stand between you and knowing God's love?

Or perhaps suffering and grief have made God seem distant to you. Many struggle, wondering why bad things happen if there really is a good God who loves us. God created a wonderful world and gave humanity real freedom- freedom to love and follow God or not. He put them in paradise with only one restriction. In the Garden of Eden, humans listened to Satan and questioned God's goodness. He convinced them they were missing something by following God. Satan said if we took his advice we could "be like God" and "know good and evil."

That action plunged the world into chaos and evil. And boy, did we get an intimate knowledge of evil! (Genesis 3:5 NKJV; See also Romans 8:18-23 NKJV). Death entered our world as we came out from under God's authority and under Satan's rule. Now, we are born into a darkened world; our hearts and minds have become darkened.

Humans are in a broken relationship with Love, Light, and Holiness. We are sinners in need of God's gracious help. The real question isn't why a good God allows suffering, but why, after humanity's rebellion, a holy God still loves us enough to rescue us!

Some people say, "Why do I need to be saved?" or "I am a good person, surely I will go to Heaven." Romans 3:23 states that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Scripture states, "the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; Who can know it?" (Jeremiah 17:9 NKJV). Are we really good? A toddler's natural instincts cause it to cry "Me! Mine!" and refuse to share. They shout "No" and stomp their

feet when asked to do something that crosses their will. And no one has to teach them to do this. You see, they are born with a fallen nature.

We all struggle to be transparent, merciful, fair, kind, and good. We get angry and lash out. We say things that are cruel and mean. We are stubborn and refuse to forgive. We are sometimes selfish and refuse to see another's point of view. Sometimes, we do good deeds, but the motivation is not compassion and love, but that others would notice and admire us. We don't love our neighbors as ourselves. You see, all have fallen short. We will never be good enough by our works.

Now, scripture says, "each person is destined to die once, and after that comes the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27 NLT). The books of Heaven will be opened. The names of those who have accepted God's gracious offer of restored fellowship have been recorded in Heaven's books. Those whose names are not written will be forever cast outside the light of God's loving presence (Revelation 20:15). Will your name be found in The Book of Life?

God has graciously offered us a way out and a way back into fellowship with Him. Hebrews states, "Christ was offered once and for all time as a sacrifice to take away the sins of many people," (Hebrews 9:27b NLT). God's love can be summed up with the familiar verses John 3:16-17. "God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, (as the only sinless, acceptable sacrifice) that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 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." Jesus did not temporarily remove our sins. He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west (Psalms 103:10-12 NLT).

Do you see it? How wonderful! Jesus has taken upon himself all our failures, our faults, our shortcomings, our sins, guilt, and condemnation and their penalties. The brutality and death the sinless god-man Jesus

suffered in our place release us from the penalty of sin and rebellion. He gives life for death and light for darkness.

Now, for a while longer, God's Spirit woos man to Jesus. He invites us into His presence where there is fullness of joy- FOREVER. But it will not always be so. One day, perhaps soon, the door will shut, whether in death or the end of time as we know it (Revelation 3:20). Every time we are moved by this good news and turn away, our hearts become hardened. The heart can become so hard that we no longer hear God calling us to Himself.

God's plan is so very generous and loving. It's all so very gracious! And He offers it to anyone, to everyone. In the Parable of the Lost Sheep, Jesus declares, "It is not my heavenly Father's will that even one of these little ones should perish" (Matthew 18:14, 12-14 NLT; See also 2 Peter 3:9). "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save those who are lost" (Luke 19:10).

Old Testament scriptures, written hundreds of years before Jesus's birth, contain over three hundred prophecies Jesus fulfilled in His life, death, and resurrection. The mathematical odds of anyone fulfilling this many prophecies are staggering, even impossible. The chance of one person fulfilling just 48 of these prophecies is 1 in 10 to the 157th power! Jesus is the prophesied Messiah, our Savior, and the Son of God. And Messiah Jesus came at just the time the rabbis and prophets predicted he would.

Jesus proved himself to be God through his miracles and his anointed words and his sinless life. He was brutally abused and then crucified on a wooden cross. He said, "It is finished" and died. But He did not stay in the grave. His resurrection showed his victory over death and proved his ability to give eternal life.

Look in the history of Josephus and the Book of Martyrs, the account of Jesus's death and resurrection was boldly and clearly declared by all of His twelve apostles. Every one of the twelve except John was martyred, and not one recanted. People don't willingly die terrible deaths for a lie. Over five hundred people saw the resurrected Christ.

Scripture reveals: "If you openly declare Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved" (Romans 10:9-10 NLT). So, you must believe the good news concerning Jesus. By openly making Jesus Lord of your life, you invite Him to heal your brokenness, and He invites you into everlasting fellowship with Him. (See the gospels: John, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and Revelation to discover more about Jesus).

Heaven was made for you. You were made for heaven.

Do you perceive His great love?

Will you accept this beautiful and precious gift of eternal life?

If you want to receive God's beautiful, free offer of eternal life, you only have to ask with a sincere heart. Here is a prayer you may say with me or you may voice one of your own:

Dear God, I know I am a sinner, and in so many ways, I have fallen short of who I should be in heart, in words, and in actions. Please forgive me. I cannot save myself. I believe Jesus is the Son of God- the sinless god-man, who suffered for me, dying on the cross to take my sins on Himself. I believe Jesus was raised to life again, showing He had triumphed over death and sin, over Hell and the grave. I believe Jesus made a way for me to return to fellowship with God and become a child of God.

I desire to follow you. I receive Jesus as my Savior and make Him my Lord. Thank you for sending Jesus to redeem me. Thank you for graciously restoring me to fellowship with you. Thank you for eternal life. Thank you for loving me.

Now, if you have said that prayer with sincerity, you may make an open declaration to the world by following Jesus in water baptism and testifying of the beautiful gift of salvation you have received. In the prophetic act and symbolism of water baptism, you are buried with Him in death and risen with Him in eternal life. This life in Christ is the greatest adventure you will ever embark upon!

You will find the words of life in the Bible. You might read the Gospel of John, then Matthew, Mark, Luke, and the Psalms. Ask God to help you find a group of followers of Jesus with whom you may fellowship, grow, and show others the way to salvation.

Let me know if you have made this important decision or if you have questions. You may contact me at www.godstimelytruth.com.

There you will also find a transcript of this message with Bible references.

A free resource that will help you in your new life may be found at newbeliever.globalawakening.com

There are also many resources on the CBN network app that teach how to study the Bible and grow in relationship with God. Daystar (Christian Television Network) offers a free Gospel of John with short videos that explain key sections of the book.

You know, I wouldn't trade my life in Christ Jesus for anything. I hope that you will know the joy of stepping into this beautiful adventure of life with Jesus!

May blessing and joy surround you.
And may I rejoice together with you in heaven one day!

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