

Heaven Glory Revealed—Heaven Ain't Boring

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Heaven Through a Distorted Lens

- The conventional wisdom of many, even Christians, is that heaven is a place where nothing happens, where the same song is endlessly repeated and unexciting.
- “Nearly every Christian I have spoken with has some idea that eternity is an unending church service. . . . We have settled on an image of the never-ending sing-along in the sky, one great hymn after another, forever and ever, amen. And our heart sinks. Forever and ever? That’s it? That’s the good news? And then we sigh and feel guilty that we are not more ‘spiritual.’ We lose heart, and we turn once more to the present to find what life we can.”¹ John Eldredge
 - Heaven is much more than an eternal church service
- “Heaven is the ‘ah’ of deep satisfaction and the ‘aha’ of delighted surprise meeting and kissing.”² Mark Buchanan
- Some think heaven might be boring only because they live a boring spiritual life here
 - They have little or no experience with:
 - The intimacy of spiritual worship, and the supernatural embrace of God
 - The thrill and mystery of supernatural power to accomplish ministry
 - The discipline of discipleship, and the delight of its rewards
 - The sacrifice of serving others, and seeing lives changed
 - The fear and trembling of risky obedience
 - The faith in the night seasons
 - The joy unspeakable of a real God coming through at the last minute
 - They can live safe, secure and dead lives.
- God never intended our experience and life on earth to be boring, and it certainly won't be in heaven.
 - I refuse to let people's lack of experience with the Almighty, Creative, Mind-Blowing God cast a shadow of boredom over my understanding of the incomparable glory of heaven!
 - Anyone would have a difficult time convincing Jacob with his ladder or Elisha with his vision of a heavenly army that heaven is boring.
- “It is difficult to see beyond the horizon of our experience.”³ Randy Alcorn
 - If we truly want to see heaven while we’re living on earth, we have to remove the distorted lens of what we feel, think, and know.

¹ John Eldredge, *The Journey of Desire*, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, Inc, 2000), 111

² Mark Buchanan, *Things Unseen: Living with Eternity in Your Heart* (Sisters, OR: Multnomah, 2002), E-book edition.

³ Randy, Alcorn, *Heaven*, (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers,)407

Heaven Through a Godly Lens

- There are seven things we will do in heaven

I, 2 and 3. Creativity, Music and Worship

- Singing a new song
 - Revelation 5:9
 - We will be singing, and it will be a new song.
 - New song implies creativity.
 - Creativity with sinless, resurrected bodies. We won't be using only a portion of our brain as we do on earth, we will be able to use 100% of what God has given to us.
 - "Many of the rarest minds in the earth-life, upon entering the higher life, gain such elevated and extended views of the subjects that have been with them lifelong studies that, pursuing them with zest, they write out for the benefit of those less gifted, the higher, stronger view they have themselves acquired, thus remaining leaders and teachers in this rarer life as they were while yet in the world."⁴ Rebecca Ruter Springer
 - "I feel within me the future life. For half a century I have been translating my thoughts into prose and verse. History, drama, philosophy, romance, tradition, satire, ode and song. All of these things I have tried. But I feel I haven't given utterance to the thousandth part of what lies within me."⁵ Victor Hugo
 - Singing with people with whom we've never before sung
 - Revelation 5:11
 - Old Songs
 - Revelation 15:3
 - Exodus 15:1

4. Laughing

- Luke 6:21
 - We may weep now, but we will laugh later, in heaven.
- Psalm 2:4
 - "If you are not allowed to laugh in heaven, I don't want to go."⁶ Martin Luther
 - "Joy is the serious business of heaven."⁷ C.S. Lewis
- Psalm 16:11

5. Enjoying God's Animal Kingdom

⁴ Rebecca Ruter Springer, *My Dream of Heaven*, (Tulsa, OK: Harrison House, 2002) 23,24

⁵ Randy Alcorn, *Heaven*, 397.

⁶ Zondervan, *Is Heaven Real? Meditations on Scriptures about the Afterlife*, (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), eBook edition

⁷ Walter Hooper, Editor, *The Business of Heaven: Daily Readings from C.S. Lewis* (New York: Harcourt, 1984), E-book edition

- Isaiah 11:6-9
 - Animals in heaven with none of the danger
- Animals in Eden
 - Remember heaven is more than Eden
 - Genesis 1:30
 - Genesis 3:12
- Numbers 22:27-30
- Revelation 4:7-10
- Revelation 19: 11, 14

6. Work and Service

- Revelation 7:15
- Revelation 22:3
 - In both "present" and "new" heaven we will serve God. We will "keep on serving" and who knows what responsibilities we'll have to carry out?
 - Whatever they are, our work in heaven will only and always be enjoyable, with no hassles or opposition that comes with serving God on earth. Our heavenly service will give us a huge sense of privilege and fulfillment.

7. Reigning with Christ

- Revelation 5:10
 - We are not just Kings and Priests—we shall reign with Him.
 - Responsibility and authority will be given to oversee God's will.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think people equate Heaven with an eternal church service? Why do you think their lens is so distorted?
2. Describe a boring spiritual life? How does a boring spiritual life lead to a minimized view that Heaven is boring? What needs to happen in your spiritual life to ensure it's not boring and leading you to think Heaven is boring?
3. Give an example from creation that proves God is not boring?
4. Describe the creativity that will abound in Heaven through redeemed, sinless worshippers of God.
5. What does it mean to you to know there is laughter in Heaven? How does this fact help you see Heaven differently?
6. Read Isaiah 11:6-9. How do these verses show the results of Christ's attitude and rule in heaven?
7. Why does peace naturally flourish when people know Jesus intimately (Isaiah 11:9)?
8. Describe what it will be like to work for God without sin and opposition. How knowing that help you to develop a heavenly mindset for what you are called to do while on earth?
9. What does it mean to reign with Christ? Why does our overcoming in this life lead to reigning with Christ in heaven?