

# Hallelujah Anyway, Part 14

Pastor Steve Berger August 9, 2015

## Personal Note

*Personal Note* — this week is the 6th anniversary of Josiah going to Heaven, a life-changing event on every level for our immediate family, as well as our entire church family.

**If it wasn't for God's grace working through God's truth about God's Heaven, we wouldn't be who we are today.**

**The hope, healing and happiness we've experienced in the midst of unspeakable pain are all established in the reality of heaven.**

- **Hallelujah Anyway** —
  - **Hallelujah Anyway...** is rooted in the fact that Heaven awaits us, and that this temporary world doesn't have the final word over us, Heaven does!
- **Heaven is our Home, Hunger, and Healing**
  - exciting, encouraging truth to help you become more heavenly-minded, so you can live a more fruitful, peaceful, hopeful life here on earth.
- **Philippians 3:20-21**
  - For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

## Heaven our home — our citizenship, our home is heaven!

- **John 14:2-3**
  - In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

*Jesus Himself is preparing a place for every one of His followers. "A place" **a home**. Imagine the Creator of the Universe as your home builder! Remember, there's coming a time, we know not when, when Jesus Himself will come for you, so you can be where He is. 2 Corinthians 5:4,8, swallowed by life, present with the Lord, in our homeland!*

- **Luke 10:20 — names written, recorded there**
  - Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven. (Where are they written in heaven?)
- **Philippians 4:3**
  - And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life. (Our names are written in the Book of Life, in heaven.)
- **Revelation 21:27**
  - But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

**Only those written in the Lamb's book of life  
are able to enter Heaven — is yours?  
Repent, believe, receive, confess, obey.**

- **Revelation 20:15**
  - And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

*That must motivate the church to share the gospel, awaken world to only hope is in Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.*

- **Revelation 20:15 — others are home now**
  - Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us... but you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect...
- **we're surrounded by cloud of witnesses, reclined, couched about us**
- **the general assembly — universal companions**
- **Mount of Transfiguration — Moses, Elijah surrounding Jesus — alive, active, aware**

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**Our inheritance is reserved in heaven**

- **1 Peter 1:3-4**
  - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you...
  - inheritance incorruptible — no decay or withering or death of any kind
  - inheritance undefiled — no residue of the fall of mankind, curse of sin, wickedness, etc. does not exist
  - inheritance unfading — never fades, diminishes, gets old, boring or routine
  - all this is reserved for us at home, in heaven!
  - what should our earthly response be? — a hunger for heaven

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**Heaven is our hunger**

*Verse 20 — we eagerly await Jesus' return to take us there due to awesomeness of it all*

- **Romans 8:22-23**
  - For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.

**Creation itself groans** and labors for Jesus coming and redemption; we too groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for that heavenly adoption and redemption.

- **2 Peter 3:12**

- ... looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells

**We're to be looking for/hastening**, watching with eager expectation, the day of Jesus return because a new heaven and a new earth where righteousness dwells will be ours to enjoy forever!

- **Luke 17:26-30**

- And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.
- sadly, not everyone hungers for Jesus return

**For many, every day** is business as usual, doubting, scoffing, mocking, rejecting — and then destruction comes upon them and it's too late.

**Pay attention to the sign of Jesus' return —  
religious deception, wars, rumors of wars, earthquakes,  
famines, pestilences, persecution, martyrdom, betrayal...**

- **Luke 21:25-28**

- And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.

**There has been an increase in intensity and frequency of the signs  
Jesus talked about that would usher in His return —  
wake up, pay attention, get your oil, light your lamp,  
your redemption draws near!  
Hunger for, eagerly await the return of our King and Savior!**

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## **Heaven is our healing**

- **Philippians 3:21**

- Jesus is going to transform our lowly body into the image, type of His resurrected body — that's our ultimate healing!
- lowly body, vile body, depressed body, decaying body — healed forever
- we get the same type of resurrected body that Jesus has

- **I Corinthians 15:41-44, 49**

- There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body... And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.

***Our bodies go from** lowly, vile and depressed to resurrected... they go from corruption/decay to incorruption/immortality, dishonor/disgrace to heavenly/glorious, weakness/frailty to supernaturally powerful, natural/carnal to eternal/spiritual — they go from bodies like ours, to bodies like His!*

- **Luke 24:31**

- ... and He vanished from their sight. (invisible, unmanifested)

- **Luke 24:36**

- Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, **“Peace to you.”** (through locked doors and windows)

- **Luke 24:41-43**

- But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, **“Have you any food here?”** So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. And He took it and ate in their presence.

**Supernatural abilities yet, recognizable in appearance and normal in appetite**

- **Acts 1:9-11**

- Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”

***For every follower of Jesus** — Heaven is our home, our names are written there, others are there now, our inheritance is there, we need to eagerly await and hunger for Jesus return when He takes us there, our bodies get eternally healed there. Let's do what Paul said:*

- **Colossians 3:1-2**

- Seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

**Let's become heavenly minded — so we can become some earthly good!**

***Question** — Is your name in the Lamb's Book of Life? Have you repented, believed, received?*

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## **Discussion Questions**

The Sermon Discussion Questions are being provided by Jimmy Harris, Life Group Pastor.  
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Click on "House of Prayer" on [www.gracechapel.net](http://www.gracechapel.net) to fill out a prayer request.  
Please come join our House of Prayer, Tuesday, August 11th at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.