

THE ANGEL

ON SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT

The Angel's assignment is to give us a more positive view of physical death and a more engaging, biblical vision of the future in God's eternal heaven.



ROGER HIMES
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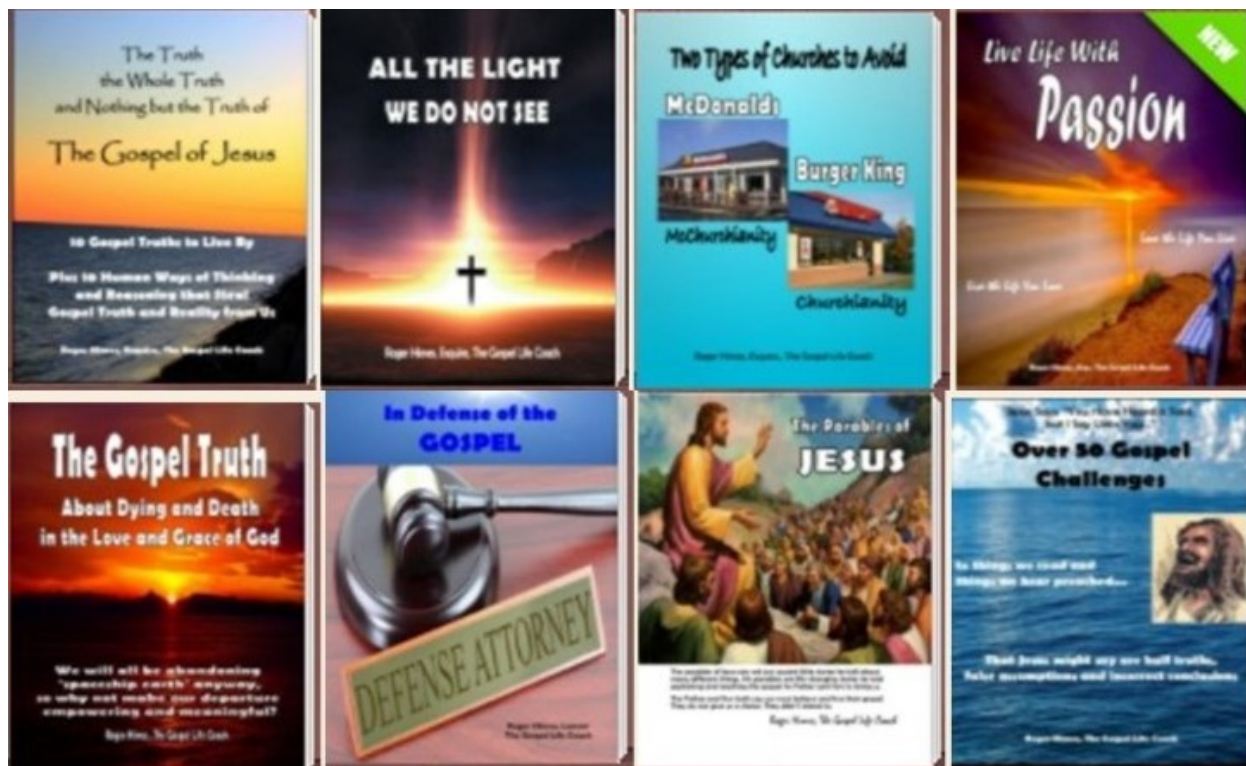
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Roger Himes

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The Angel

Sitting in Heaven

Pondering Some Thoughts

An angel in heaven, Dalton, was waiting for his next assignment on earth. Dalton wasn't his real given name, but was a name he'd liked and adopted awhile back. His given name was too hard for people to pronounce or remember, so he didn't use it.

Dalton had been to earth many times in the past, even before Jesus went to earth as God's messenger of his gospel.

The days of Jesus were especially exciting to him.

He loved being there when the Son of God did his miracles and healings, and taught so many wonderful, almost unbelievable things. The Bible even says that people were astounded and amazed at what he said.

He longed for such a time again, but knew it was a one-time thing, not to be repeated. He thought about God becoming flesh to communicate with human being by becoming one of them and speaking their language. The

thought of God allowing people to know him and engage him physically was really mind-blowing.

He laughed about the saying he had heard on earth at other times he was there. Jesus was referred to as ‘God with the skin on.’

Dalton had even lost count of how many times he’d been on earth, but it was a bunch. And he knew that the book of Hebrews spoke of angels being ‘ministering spirits’ to humans.

When he went to earth, he knew that his job was to minister to people and also to minister for people, in ways they couldn’t specifically know about.

And he also knew the verse in Corinthians that said believers would judge angels in heaven. So, people would assess the work of angels like him, and either condone or criticize what they had experienced that angels had done for them or had not done for them.

He thought about the people he had helped over the centuries. And most of them didn’t even know they were being helped at all. Angles like him, and other angels, even kept them from calamities and accidents and even storms and events of nature.

Most people didn't even know that angels were involved in their lives at all. Even when they were seen by humans they could look just like humans, so people didn't know they were really dealing with an angel.

But there were a lot of angels active on earth, as he had been active so many times he couldn't remember. Many things were a blur, and he even had trouble remembering the decade, or even the century something he had been involved in had happened.

He always remembered the events but not the timing of them.

Thinking back about an event, he wondered if it had occurred in the 11th century or the 14th century. The thing that helped him remember most things was the history that surrounded it. Dalton knew he had a good memory for history.

He knew he was what was called 'a guardian angel.' He knew there was a common human thinking that every person was assigned his own guardian angel – although he knew this wasn't true.

This thinking wasn't based on anything scriptural that was said in the Bible. It was just based on human desire.

He knew that so many things people thought were only human desire or opinion, and not based on anything stated by God in his Word.

In dealing with human beings over the centuries, he knew so many of them didn't really know or believe God's truth. Their beliefs were more on supposition and human reason, even though Jesus asked more than once: "Why do you reason in your hearts?"

And he knew that when people reasoned in their own minds, and didn't depend on God's truth, they came up with lots of beliefs that weren't any more than human concoctions and opinions.

And these generated into half-truths, wrong beliefs, false assumptions and incorrect conclusions. He recalled hearing it said, "Opinions are a dime a dozen, and most of them aren't worth that much."

God's word was his stated reality, and described how things were from his perspective. And if it comes down to any type of world-view, is there really any other perspective than God's?

Dalton knew there were no others perspectives or world-views worth considering, and especially not worth

adopting. Only God's world-view was reality.

And he knew that angels didn't have feelings and emotions like so many humans have. Their emotions can even control them and lead them astray. Angels are more reality-based. They know God personally, and simply live and respond to the truth of God that they know is reality in every sense of the term.

This is what Christian believers are meant to do too: respond to the truth of the word of God, and trust the God who declares it.

But he also knew that emotions and feelings can get in the way of God's reality.



At the same time, he knew that he and other angels have a level of love for the human beings they ministered to and worked for.

Living in a state of love was something of utmost importance to God, outside of trusting him and believing

what he says. So a love for the human race was just something built into what was thought of as their spiritual psyche.

So he knew angels were not to be feared – especially not by believers, but even not by unbelievers. Angels are designed to serve and protect when it is possible.

He knew this was the slogan of many modern police forces on earth. But he also knew angels really lived it continually. ‘To serve and protect,’ wasn’t just a slogan to them. And they always served and protected in love.

But he also knew that human beings had free will and the power of choice. They didn’t even have to think God was sovereign as the Bible declares. Humans had the notion, or so it seemed, that the Bible was about them, and didn’t realize it was largely about God.

And so many believers substitute their own free will and choice, and uproot God’s sovereignty in their own personal lives.

This means they often didn’t even listen to God, and surely wouldn’t listen to anything angels said. So Dalton knew that angels weren’t really any type of authority in the lives of most people.

And because most believers never even thought about speaking to angels, asking them for help and directing them, he knew angels like him weren't even an issue or consideration in the minds of most people.

Dalton Is Waiting for a Meeting with another Angel

Dalton thought of all this while he was waiting for a meeting he'd been called to have with another angel, Gabriel. Angels did have different rankings, and weren't all on the same level. Gabriel was definitely over him and was a type of supervisor for things he did.

He knew that angels were sent to minister generally, as they saw fit in various situations, and not specifically like to a certain person or group of people. They weren't all sent to be on earth at the time of Jesus.

Angels had a lot of latitude in what they did, and often times they were just sent to earth to keep watch over events, and participate in those events when they could help with if they thought it good to do so.

But he also knew that, at other times, angels were given a specific assignment by a governing angel like Gabriel. And there were other supervising angels other than him.

Thinking back over his frequent visits to earth, he

could recall at least 20 assignments he had been given to accomplish something specific. They were usually at key points in earth's history.

So to be given a specific assignment to do a certain thing – although it wasn't a regular thing – it did happen at various times and for various reasons. And he thought this was probably one of those times in his upcoming meeting with Gabriel.

To him, it was always more exciting and fulfilling to be given a more specific assignment, and not just hang out on earth in a general sense, to see where there might be a need. Although he didn't mind just being on the lookout to see where he might be of help and be a 'ministering angel' as scripture says.

He knew that in Revelation 22, an angel says that he is a 'fellow servant' with people on earth.

Dalton knew the Bible very well. He'd been reading it for centuries, even though he realized the scripture was written to human beings and not to spiritual beings like angels.

But he also knew that Paul said believers would judge angels. They would their performance and what they do.

So he secretly wished that more believers would just know that angels were nearby, and could hear them. He wished people would ask for their help more.

But he knew that most believers never thought about this and were silent in this regard. Very few folks ever asked for things from angels.

He recalled that during some times on earth there wasn't a lot for him to do, and that he at times even felt bored. This was true even though most of the time he would scout around and see where he might be needed.

Dalton knew that God viewed prayer in a different way than most humans did. God saw it as the means to relate, communicate, and fellowship with his created people – a time for them to get to know him better.

God viewed prayer as a time for people to reveal themselves, to become more vulnerable to him, and to tell him what was on their minds.

Dalton knew this was true, even though God knew every thought they had.

But people usually only used prayer to ask things from God. Prayer was most often only a tool for them to

use to tell God their needs, and what they wanted, and to get him to do what they said.



But Dalton wondered what this meeting with Gabriel was going to be about. All he could think about was their talk a few weeks ago – or was it a few months ago? – he wasn't sure when they spoke last.

Time is not a big issue in God's eternal heaven.

Gabriel had been very interested in something that Dalton had said. Gabriel had asked questions and had carried the conversation on for some time.

This was about the issue of 'heaven' – where they were now – where they lived.

Dalton remembered he'd told Gabriel that, from things he'd observed and gleaned from conversations with humans, they seemed to know very little about heaven itself. They think they know about hell, but at the very same time, heaven is just like 'pie in the sky,' and

not really a vibrantly physical place that was part of their vision or imagination.

They seem to believe more of the cartoon aspects of heaven: sitting in nightshirts and nightgowns on clouds, playing harps (or perhaps more modern guitars).

It's not very realistic at all. It's the same thing with hell. They had a cartoon picture of Satan in a red suit and with horns. He sometimes had a fork to stab people with and maybe light them on fire.

He also knew angels could be confusing when considering various biblical descriptions of them. Some angels are described as being big, tall and all powerful. Some are pictured in the Old Testament as having huge wings. Some angels were depicted as being very scary.

Yet, others like himself just looked like any normal human being. It was hard to tell them from being human.

This is what Hebrew 13 says when it talks about some people 'entertaining angels but not knowing it.'

People often don't know they are talking to an angel because the angel just seems like someone in their workplace, or school, or neighborhood.

So, not all angels are like parts of the Old Testament describe them. They are quite normal looking, like any human being walking the earth.

Dalton knew that most people on earth were not tuned in to God, and were unresponsive to him. Their hearts were not on God, or his love for them. They were instead to the world, and the pleasures, property and prosperity the world provided for them.

From many past times on the earth, he knew that most people were focused on themselves, and on other people, not on God.

Apostle John speaks of the love humans have for their 3-dimensional earth, and physical things of the world. They seldom have a conception of God's love for them. And they seldom realize they could be a part of God's 4-dimensional present and future family.

He thought about how The Parable of the Sower of Jesus speaks of four types of hearts:

- (1) hard hearts,
- (2) stony hearts,
- (3) busy hearts,
- (4) good hearts.

If there were four equal categories, it would indicate that perhaps only one-fourth of people are truly tuned into God and his ways.



He thought of how the gospel of Jesus is the big battlefield between God and Satan. The gospel is God's truth, the declaration of his reality. It reveals his thoughts and ways to people.

But if people aren't tuned into gospel truth, but are focused on worldly things, in Second Corinthians Paul says Satan blinds their minds to God's truth so they cannot see it, understand it or live in it. If people don't have a love for God's truth, it very often just goes right over their heads.

Dalton thought about some of the various aspects of God's dynamic, powerful gospel.

God's love is unconditional and not based on human performance, but this is hard to grasp. It's hard to grasp

because human love is conditional, and it is based on the performance of others, or on how attractive someone is.

God gives people total assurance of salvation if they believe him and trust him. But it is uncertain to them if they look at their performance, and on what they do good and bad.

Especially if they mix in the law of the Old Testament, it's hard for them to truly believe in their salvation. The law is called 'the ministry of guilt and condemnation.' Guilt will always make someone doubt their salvation.

The gospel reveals the secrets of God to peoples' hearts so that they can understand his thoughts and know his ways and will. Paul says it even gives them the mind of Christ. This of course causes them to relate to God more often and in better ways. But if they don't know the gospel, God's ways escape them.

They don't realize all the blessings, promises and grace and favor of God are given to them, and that they are gifted with the abundant life of Jesus. In Luke 12, Jesus says his Father gives them his entire Kingdom. And the Holy Spirit even shows them any of God's gifts they might miss if they are just open to him.

If they live the gospel, God sees them as being like his Son Jesus, and even as sharing equally in his inheritance. Plus Jesus gives them total authority and power over demonic forces that so many people fear.

So many people spend their lives trying to battle Satan instead of just standing their ground and realizing, as First John says, that Satan cannot touch them if they live in God's truth.

No human being is a match for Satan. Not only is he stronger, but he's also wiser because he's been around for many, many centuries. But, they live the gospel truth, Christians not only have the upper hand, they can totally 'trump' Satan. Satan has no defense against the gospel of God's stated reality.

The gospel gives them diplomatic immunity from sin because Jesus became sin for them and gave them his righteousness as a free gift of God. Hebrews says twice that God even chooses not to remember their sin at all if they are in Jesus.

Yet so many people live their lives worried about sin, and repenting of it. A lot of church preaching makes them more sin-conscious. It's hard to live life produc-

tively if your mind is often on sin. Being sin-conscious is most often a matter of being under the law. In First Corinthians 15, Paul says that law is the strength of sin. So, the more law people live under, the more foothold sin has in them.



Dalton often wished he could be a preacher because many preachers miss one or more of these aspects, and other positive, powerful aspects in what they teach.

He thought about the verse in Second Timothy that says, *“People are ever learning, but never able to come into a knowledge of the truth.”*

A Conversation that Occurred in Heaven

Suddenly, Dalton's thoughts and musings were interrupted when the angel Gabriel walked up to him.

They smiled and hugged, and greeted each other warmly. Dalton knew he'd now find out what this meeting was about.

He did have a suspicion that Gabriel wanted to talk about what he'd said earlier, and their discussion might be about 'heaven,' and why there was so little preaching about heaven.

Because there was so little preaching, teaching and writing about heaven, so many people did not have very concrete thoughts or beliefs about heaven.

In other words they didn't have a true vision of heaven, and the Old Testament says, "Without a vision, people perish."

He knew earth was only a temporary assignment for people, and that they could choose to live in heaven with God, or in hell with the devil if they didn't choose God.

But it was their decision.

But one purpose of his on earth was to steer people toward God and away from the devil. He knew that the devil and hell was ‘their default destination,’ unless they decided to choose God instead.

At least God gave them free will and a choice. If they didn’t use their choice properly, that was up to them.

And Dalton was right. This is what Gabriel wanted to talk about, and they talked about it a long time.

Gabriel was more interested in what could be done about this, and not so much about the facts of it.

Gabriel had a good knowledge of what earth people were all about. He’d been on earth himself at times, and knew that there was a big difference between what pastors were preaching and what they should be teaching.

But he did want another angel’s perspective on the subject, and Dalton thought he was going to be part of Gabriel’s perspective.

Gabriel asked Dalton what could be done about the problem of most people not being tuned into thoughts about heaven, and the ultimate reality of it.

Dalton told him there just had to be more preaching about heaven. If there was, then more people would be more knowledgeable about it, and they would live in more anticipation of it.

He said not many Christians really researched the scripture themselves, and were more ready to just believe what they heard preached in their church. Many people thought that just a trip to church once a week was enough to keep them going.

He said that more of a ‘vision of heaven’ should be planted in people. And he added a truism that, “Children only live what they learn.” They just live and believe what they hear preached. And in this case they didn’t hear much preached about heaven.

Dalton mentioned what Gabriel already knew: the Bible had a lot to say about heaven. But wasn’t laid out in a 1, 2, 3 type fashion. It was scattered throughout the scripture.

But the clues were there in the Bible if they were put together like a puzzle. But the gospel is often called a ‘mystery,’ especially by Paul. He knew Paul had been put ‘in trust with the gospel, as he says. He was appointed to proclaim and defend it after Jesus ascended.

Gabriel asked if preachers weren't inclined to preach about heaven, then how could they be inspired, and be prompted and inclined to preach about it? He paused, looking at Dalton, waiting for an answer.

Dalton had to admit he didn't have an answer.



Gabriel then came up with what he thought would be a good solution to the problem. He said he thought Dalton should make another trip to earth and do some presentations about heaven that would inspire people to have a greater vision of heaven than they have had.

Dalton asked how he might accomplish this task. Gabriel merely commended him, saying he was a smart angel, and he'd come up with a solution after he was on earth.

Dalton suspected he had a dumbfounded look. So Gabriel tried to inspire Dalton at this point. He said that so many people on earth only had a perspective of life from their birth to their grave.

Yes they had vague thoughts of heaven, as the country song says, ‘Everybody wants to go to heaven.’

But without a true vision of heaven, they had no earthly idea what to expect, or in many cases how to get there, except for doing more good things and fewer bad things.

The fact is even most Christians didn’t know the truth and power of God’s gospel truth – let alone the masses that weren’t Christians.

Gabriel told Dalton that God’s agenda was more about getting a vision of eternity into people, so they had more of a desire for heaven. Then their vision would motivate them into not dreading physical death so much and get them to live in the vision of heaven planted in them.

He reminded Dalton of the Apostle Paul’s words: “*Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.*” You can’t have affection something if you really don’t have a vision or a concept of it.

Gabriel told Dalton to just think of himself as. . .

‘THE ANGEL – On Special Assignment.’

Dalton said he didn't know how to accomplish a task like this – it was just beyond him.

Again, Gabriel said he would figure it out, with God's help, but it wouldn't come until his feet were planted on the earth again, and he was again living among humans and conversing with them.

He also quoted another verse to Dalton, out of the book of Revelation. John said, *“I saw another ANGEL fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them who dwell on the earth.”*

Dalton voiced an objection saying he wasn't allowed to fly when he was on earth – at least if anyone could see him do so.

Gabriel told him he sounded like Moses. This Old Testament leader of the Jews didn't want to the job God was calling him to do of getting the Jews released from captivity in Egypt. Moses was always voicing objections to God. He was told he was now doing the same thing.

Then Gabriel quoted some words of Paul in the book of Romans: *“For whoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”*

“How then shall they call upon him in whom they have not believes? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?”

“And how shall they preach unless they are sent? How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, and bring good news of good things.”

Gabriel told Dalton that this was his mission as. . .

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Gabriel said he was the preacher people needed to hear, and his gospel was to preach the gospel of the Kingdom of God that Jesus said in Mark everyone must believe and live.

He pointed out that Jesus said in Matthew 24: “This gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all of the world for a witness unto all nations, and then shall the end come.” He reminded Dalton that he would only be doing what Jesus said to do – and that even angels were involved in this most important mission.

Gabriel reminded him what II Thessalonians 1 says: when Jesus returns with his following of angels, he will judge Christians for not believing, obeying and living his

gospel truth.

He told him to go preach ‘the gospel of heaven’ to everyone he could find and who would listen to him. He said this was his special calling and assignment, and it just might be one of the most important missions that an angel was called to perform on earth.

Dalton thought, “It’s the hardest mission I’ve been assigned to do in my many trips to earth. Plus, talk about not having a vision. I don’t have any idea how to do it.”

The Angel on Special Assignment to Earth

By the time he took his next breath, Dalton found himself on the earth. God's transportation system does not really involve time or space.

He immediately found himself dressed in modern earthly clothes so as not to call attention to himself. He rather liked the jeans, tennis shoes and sport shoes he had on. He was glad he didn't have on a dress shirt, tie and coat. He felt very natural.

He again thought about the verse that said people he met wouldn't even know he was an angel – they would not be aware they were encountering someone from heaven and not from earth. He thought about the wonderful ways God had of doing things.

Dalton's next couple of weeks on earth couldn't be described as anything significant. He wandered around, getting a feel for earth again. Things here changed so rapidly. Each time he came he found new and different

things on this human occupied planet.

This time, everyone was walking around talking on cell phones that hadn't been invented the last time he was here. And that was just one of the changes.

He knew he had to get a cell phone to fit in with people, even though he humorously thought he wouldn't be able to use it to call home.

Dalton Did Hit Upon a Plan Just as Gabriel Had Said He Would

Gabriel had told him that he'd work out a plan as to what to do once he got to earth and became familiar with it again. He was good to his word.

Dalton was listening to a talk show on the radio, and the host even mentioned he'd been getting a lot of questions from people about heaven.

The talk show host didn't have the foggiest notion how to answer them, and didn't want to invite a pastor to be on the program. He knew many pastors would jump at the chance to be on his program and get some wider exposure.

And they would preach some theory they had, in an attempt to try to get publicity to grow their church or ministry. He didn't know who he might ask.

He said he had a call from a person who had had a death-experience, and had been transported to heaven.

He'd seen heaven personally, and said he'd be glad to come on the show and tell people what he'd seen.

Dalton thought to himself: "Oh Lord, don't let him be on the show. Who knows what things he'd share that he dreamed up out of his imaginations?"

He knew that most of the testimonies of people he knew of who had claimed to have been taken to heaven had not even mentioned God in what they had seen, and surely not of his Son Jesus.

All they talked about was seeing a grandfather, or an uncle who had been dead for years – or perhaps their dog when they had been a kid.

They did talk about some real things, like how pretty, and even mystical things were, and how there was so much light and glory in heaven.

But there was no scriptural foundation to things they claimed to have experienced.

One person he'd heard about even claimed that everyone who ever lived on earth was in heaven. There was no distinction between people. Nothing depended on their choices of how they lived life.

‘Everybody goes to heaven when they die,’ was his slogan. To this guy, heaven was nothing more than a duplicate earth – only in a different place.

This meant Hitler was the same as Billy Graham.

He thought, “What would heaven be without God?” Heaven wasn’t just about a nice place, but it was about the person of God. Without God in the picture there was no genuine picture. It was just a man-made fantasy.

So Dalton decided to contact the host of the show and say he was. . .

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He thought that might get some attention from the upstart, and coming out of the shoot. He knew that no one else would make such a claim.

He would tell the talk show host that he wanted to talk about heaven, which was actually his home, and he wanted people to know more about it, and wanted to help people know what to expect in heaven.

He wanted to plant vision in people so that heaven was more than just some sort of vague blur that was in outer space somewhere. He wanted to plant a desire for heaven in people.

Dalton almost humorously said that every person on earth would vacate the planet at some point.

This was referred to as physical death. They should have at least a vague understanding of where they were going, if they chose to go there.

He thought: “Surely, no one would plan a vacation without at least having some idea of where they were going. Would they?”

Announcing that he was an angel, he figured that would at least make people stop and think, perhaps even raise a few eyebrows – and even cause a few laughs.

The Angel on Special Assignment on a Radio Talk Show

Dalton knew he didn't look much like an angel, so he should do something, in a very reserved way, to get attention.

He wanted to at least make the talk show host know he was more than just some guy off the street claiming to be an angel.

So instead of stopping at the front desk, and being escorted through the talk show room door, he just suddenly appeared in the room.

The host, who was named Max, looked at Dalton in a startled, confused sort of way. He was almost at a loss for words.

Max just asked, "How did you get in here? How did you get through that locked door? And how did you get past the front desk without being checked out?"

"I told you on the phone I was an angel."

Max said, “Well, you sure don’t look like what I’d expect an angel to look like.” Then he added, “But I suddenly don’t doubt you are one – or at least something of the sort.

Max continued to look at Dalton in a dumbfounded sort of way, like he couldn’t believe what he was experiencing. He said, “What are you, some type of homeless angel?”

Dalton laughed. He was delighted that Max was receiving him for who he said he was, even if he was confused. He said, “No, I’m not homeless. My home is in heaven. I’m just visiting here on earth for awhile.”

Dalton and Max exchanged a small talk, getting to know each other some, and Dalton told him where to find the verse in Hebrews saying people could entertain angels without even knowing it.

Max didn’t have a Bible, but he jotted the verse down to look it up.

Then Dalton asked, “Well, are you going to interview me on your show about heaven, and about eternal life?”

Max said, “I sure am. Can we begin tomorrow?”

Dalton smiled: “Good, I’ll be looking forward to talking with you about one of my favorite topics.”

They set a time for the next day, and Max said he’d show Dalton out.

Dalton said, “Oh, that won’t be necessary. Starting tomorrow I’ll use the conventional way in coming here, and I’ll stop at the front desk. I assume this is what you would prefer, right?”

Max said it was the conventional way of doing it.

Looking at Max and smiling Dalton said, “But right now I’ll just show myself out.”

With those words, Dalton vanished.



Dalton wished he could wait around to see the look on Max’s face when he just simply disappeared. He was sure it would be a very confounded look.

But he knew he had to at least have the talk show host believing who he was – even if no one else on spaceship earth ever did.

The First Talk Show: Bible Truth about the Existence of Heaven

A parenthetical statement by the author!

Much of the rest of this book will be
a dialogue of Dalton speaking.

Sometimes quotation marks will be used,
but they will seldom be used because things
will usually be in the context of Dalton's remarks.

Shortly before the talk show was to begin, Dalton came in and stopped at the front desk as he said he would do. He introduced himself to the woman at the desk.

The woman said, "Oh yea, I know Max is expecting you. He told me how you just appeared, and then disappeared yesterday.

"I think it's a pleasure meeting you, Dalton, even if I must admit I don't really know what to think about all of this."

As she spoke, he shook her hand and smiled politely and the two of them exchanged small talk for a couple of minutes.

In the studio, Max and he talked about the show, and Dalton said he wanted to begin with some general comments about death and heaven, just to set the stage, before he got into more specific things about heaven.

Max said it was fine with him. He thought: “This guy seems to be a real angel, so I won’t say a lot.”

Max told his listeners that he had a very different type of person he was going to let speak his mind due to who he claimed to be. He told them he believed who his guest Dalton says he is . . .

“An Angel on Special Assignment”

He said, “He came to earth to give us a bigger vision of what it’s like to be in heaven – but only according to God’s word in the Bible. He doesn’t want to include his observations of things he has seen or knows personally.

But he wants us to have a very clear vision of what the Bible says about heaven.”

Max says, “I’ve been waiting for this session like you can’t imagine. I’m excited about hearing what you have to say about heaven.

“And folks, don’t forget that you’re not just listening

to another preacher on this subject of heaven. I spoke with several pastors who would like to be on the show.

“Instead you are listening to Dalton, an angel of heaven. He says he’s on special assignment here. I checked him out best I could and I’m quite convinced he is a real angel.

“Today he will be describing heaven as a reachable destination and not just as ‘pie in the sky.’ I know today’s show will be very enlightening – both to you as well as to me.”



Dalton began saying today would be about the reality of heaven.

So many people don’t think of heaven as being real, as in the scope of being tangible. It’s more like a dream they hope is true, and if it is true, they hope they get to go there at their death. But they aren’t aware of all the things the Bible says about heaven, and how real it actually is.

Their worldview is only in the 3-D aspects of what they see on earth, and it doesn't include much if anything about heaven. Heaven is just a type of possible 'add on' to life, at least in the minds of many people.

People hope it is real, but they aren't really secure in what they think or believe about heaven.

Much of the Bible is about trying to get people to change their worldview from the 3-D to include 4-D spiritual aspects. Paul speaks of this in Romans 12 when he talks about the minds of people being renewed and transformed by what God says.

Thus, Paul says in Colossians 3 that our affections, and our worldview should include things above, which means heaven and Paradise.

Life is not just about things of earth.

Earth is so real, but it is only a temporary time, and so people should view it as temporary. This is why life is so often said to be a journey, not a destination.

I'll quote Proverbs again, "*Without a vision, people perish.*" People need a vision of something in their minds and hearts to make it more real to them.

I want to help give you a better vision.

To the thief on the cross, Jesus spoke of heaven as being 'Paradise,' and that he would be in that place the same day when he died.

Paradise is a place of exceptional beauty, peace, perfection, and happiness. God is naturally included in this picture, and being God. Because God is perfect it must be a place of perfection because heaven is his home.

Hebrews 2 says the fear of death keeps people in bondage. But it says Jesus came to deliver folks from a fear of death. In II Timothy 1 Paul says Jesus came

- (1) to abolish death, meaning the fear of death and not living after death,
- (2) to give believers his abundant life on earth, and
- (3) to reveal eternal life in heaven when earth life is over.

This pretty well covers everything there is that people want in a general sense.



What many people fail to truly see is that Paul was given a special tour and conference with God in heaven that he talks about in Second Corinthians 12. His visit in heaven is actually recorded in the Bible.

The Apostle John of course had a similar time in heaven. They both saw that heaven was real. And of course John's visit to heaven is a very lengthy report in the book of Revelation.

Paul says he saw and heard many, many wonderful things in heaven that God wouldn't even allow him to repeat a lot of them in his writings. And Paul wrote about one-half of the New Testament. Paul even says he was taken to 'the third heaven' in his report in Second Corinthians.

I won't comment on the last statement, about the third heaven, even though I'm an angel and heaven is my home.

I just want to stress to you again that my purpose here is to declare what the Bible says about heaven so

you can check it out yourself if you choose to. My goal is not to tell you my personal observations or thoughts.

What I have to say here is just meant to be very Bible-focused. It is just meant to tell you what the Bible says. I'm just serving as a reporter to what God says to you in his word.

But my point is that both Paul and John saw heaven. They could not see what doesn't exist.

Due to what he saw, Paul even says in Philippians 1 that his desire was to die and go to heaven to be with Jesus. But then he goes on to say it was best for him to stay here because folks needed him.

Part of the problem today is that there is so much preaching, teaching and writing about end times – about the Antichrist coming in the future – and very little about Jesus the Christ in the future.

And there is a new theory invented by end-time expositors every few years. And millions of Christians buy everything they say – hook, line and sinker.

Every time they write a new book, or put out a new teaching, people stand in line to buy whatever it is they say. This is true even though every single theory has been

shown to be wrong.

Folks are fascinated with the future. But studies about the future usually stop with speculation about the end times on earth. They don't progress into the realities of heaven.

End-times are about earth. Heaven is about eternity.

Remember that in First Corinthians 2 Paul says eye has not seen, nor ear heard, what God plans in the future for those who love him. This speaks of a time after life on earth.

Heaven is where all hope is realized and fulfilled.

Hell is where all hope vanishes and ceases to exist.

Satan would say that all roads lead to heaven. Jesus says only the narrow road leads to heaven – meaning 'The Gospel Road' believers walk with him.

And Philippians 3 says that the true citizenship of all believers is in heaven, even while they are on earth.

In Ephesians 3, Paul talks about all believers, even now being joined as one family with those in heaven.

Ephesians 2:6 says that God even sees believers

right now as being seated with Christ in heaven. This may not be how people on earth see things, but it is how God sees things from his perspective. When people are in Christ, God sees them very, very differently.

The perspective of God is so very different from the perspective of human beings. But in so many ways the Bible gives a preview of heaven now.

At least twice in Revelation John talks about seeing a whole multitude of people in heaven. One report says there were so many that they couldn't be counted.

So heaven is not just for a select few. Scripture says God doesn't want anyone excluded from heaven unless they simply are not interested in God and his offer. Again, people have the choice of whether they want to spend eternity in heaven or not.

In John 6, Jesus says he will turn no one away who comes to him. If anyone comes to him, then come to know him better and better.

Then Jesus will not say, 'I never knew you,' as Matthew 7 says. John 10 says Jesus knows those who follow him, and they know him.

In Revelation 22, John describes a river of life in heaven as well as other physical things. You don't have physical rivers if there is not a physical place for them to flow through.

In Revelation 21 he talks about gates with pearls in them. If there are gates, then there have to be buildings or other structures for those gates to be in.

Revelation 4 says a door is opened in heaven. This was for John to go through, but it's also for others who follow after him. Heaven is like walking through a door from one room into another. It's just that this door is between earth and heaven.

Revelation 7:9 says people in heaven will be from all over the earth. They just won't come from one nation or from special places on earth. The entire earth is included in this and people come from everywhere.

In John 14 Jesus says he goes to prepare a place for believers. But this doesn't mean that, as a carpenter, he is up in heaven working by building houses for people. Some folks like to think in terms of mansions if they are proud of whom they are on earth.

It means that his death and resurrection prepares a

place for people in eternity if they know him and if he knows them. He calls believers his ‘friends.’

Again, in the Old Testament it says, “God cannot lie.”

In II Timothy 4 Paul talks about God delivering him from evil on earth, and bringing him safely into his Kingdom of Heaven.

I Thessalonians 4 talks about other believers being raised with him, and ‘everyone will be forever with the Lord.’ This naturally means in the eternal heaven that we are talking about.

I hope you are beginning to see how vocal and descriptive the scripture is about heaven. Again, I’m not here to give you my observations and opinions. I limit things I say to what the Bible says.

It has been my observation that not many pastors preach about heaven from the Bible. It’s not an easy subject to discern. Proverbs 25 says God conceals things in Scripture so that people who are interested will dig them out. But he doesn’t conceal them so they can’t be found. He wants them to be found.

I’ve had lots of centuries to read and study the Bible, so I’m just trying to fill in some gaps that many preachers

tend to miss.

Then Paul says to comfort each other with these words. This is what a vision of the reality of heaven is meant to do for humans: give them comfort. Jesus says in John, “My peace I give to you.”

Early in John 3 it says Jesus came down from heaven. Then following this, in John 3:16 is the famous verse that many people quote. It says everyone who believes in Jesus will have everlasting life.

It goes on to say Jesus came into the world to save people – save them to be with him. Of course Jesus is now in heaven, so this is where he saves people to.

In Acts 1 it says Jesus returned to heaven. But he was returning from where he came. Again, this shows heaven is a place of reality. It is not just a fictional place of imagination. At the time Jesus returned to heaven there were lots of people who witnessed him doing so.



First Peter 1 talks about an inheritance that believers have in heaven waiting for them. And in Luke, Jesus says his Father gives you his entire Kingdom.

Do you realize that God's Kingdom extends to the furthest corners of space?

What does that say about what believers potentially have access to? Don't picture heaven as just being a city or a small place. God's Kingdom is so extensive it can't be measured – or even conceived of by human minds.

Humans are limited to earth, which is actually a very small planet in comparison to other planets and stars. It feels like it is getting smaller with over 7 billion folks now living on it.

Heaven is more extensive than your mind imagines.

In the judgment parable of Matthew 25, it speaks of all people living forever – just some in some type of punishment, and some to a glorious eternity.

The Bible talks about fire and brimstone and pain

and suffering. I won't say anything about this being literal or figurative. I should just ask this: would a loving God sentence people to eternal pain and punishment because they didn't include him in their lives? God is not hateful or vengeful.

It would be suffering to live forever in a state where there is no God, and all you have are your own resources. This would be living in the flesh.

Hell will be like living forever in a type of human flesh without godly presence, influence or perspective.

The fact is that God is all-knowing, which is part of the concept of predestination. God knows which people will allow their hearts to be drawn to him.

And he knows who will not be drawn to him.

God doesn't have to wait and see what people are going to do. He knows all things in advance. Scripture even says that God knew what people would be drawn to him 'before the foundation of the world.'

Eternity is not really governed by time.

Those people drawn to him will spend eternity with him. Those who are not drawn to him will spend eternity

alone and without him.

You wouldn't want to spend eternity with someone you don't want anything to do with while you are on earth, now would you?

In John 6, Jesus says that the 'work' that gets people into heaven is the work of believing on him. In John 3, this is in two parts:

- (1) believing on God's Messenger, Jesus, and
- (2) believing in the Message that he brings, which is his gospel truth, as he says in Mark 1.

If you think about it, you can't accept a Messenger without also accepting his Message. The Messenger and his Message are one and the same.

Thus again, in II Thessalonians 1, Paul says Jesus will return to judge those not living the Message he told people to live.

Yet, so many say they know Jesus, and he is their Savior, but they don't know or believe his gospel message. There is a real falling short there. Scripture says Jesus the Messenger, and his Gospel Message go together like a hand in a glove. Jesus himself says, "*Why do you call me 'Lord,' and not do what I say?*"

In Deuteronomy 18:15-19 God tells Moses that he will send his Prophet (his Messenger who is Jesus), and he will require believers to believe and live his Message.

In Romans 2, Paul talks about a future time in heaven when God will judge hearts – the secret beliefs of those who say they are ‘believers.’ They will be judged by how well they believe his gospel Message, and how well they respond to it, and live it in life.

God does not require very much of people. In the New Testament gospel, all he really requires of people is their trust and belief. Once someone’s trust is in God, he can influence them the way he wants to.

God does not judge sin, at least if people are true believers. Instead, he judges their beliefs, and he bases their beliefs on the gospel truth.

God knows correct belief leads to good actions. But he also knows that good actions and good behavior do not produce correct belief. Belief and trust must come before actions for life to flow right.

Thus the gospel is called the power of God. And the power of God is in his gospel. The gospel causes people to live better lives.

The gospel empowers people to live life better by accident than they ever could on purpose on their own.

Thus Paul tells believers to awake every morning and think of the gift they have of God's righteousness, and their reconciliation with him. He doesn't want people waking up and thinking about sin or bad things in their lives.

The more God's righteousness is a reality in people, the more they live and behave righteously, and do good things and live better lives.

People cannot go to heaven without being righteous. But the issue is what righteousness truly is. It is not about doing the best you can and hoping it's good enough. That is righteous in human flesh. It is self-righteousness.

The righteousness God requires is faith in the righteousness of Jesus and that it is his free gift to people who accept him and join with him.

What this means is that it takes God's righteousness to live in heaven. In Romans 5 Paul says that God's righteousness must be received as a free gift. It cannot be earned.

II Corinthians 5:1 talks about believers having an eternal house in heaven.

Revelation 3:21 talks about believers being with God in heaven.

Just stop for a minute and think about all the verses I've shared with you that talk about heaven being a literal, physical place. It's not imaginary. It's not just pie in the sky, and it's not some illusive place that can't be touched.

So many things can't be viewed literally, like human minds try to envision them. Many things are figurative, and must be seen with spiritual revelation.

There are verses that speak this way. But they are about things that can't be described as literal and can only be seen through the eyes of faith.

Some things, like heaven, are very literal.

In the latter verses of Luke 16, there is a description of someone being in hell, but looking into heaven and talking to Abraham and Lazarus who were far away. They are literal people in different locations, and they were in two literal places. One literal place was hell and the other literal place was heaven.

A lot of things said in scripture are quite literal too. But because all things said aren't literal, people often get confused.

Luke 10 talks about the names of believers being written in heaven. This is very literal.

Revelation 2:17 says God gives people in heaven new names as well as their given names on earth. Wow! This really is literal, don't you think?



Dalton pauses for a moment to let things he's been saying sink into peoples' hearts a little deeper. He knows he's throwing a lot of information at them. But he also knows these programs are being transcribed and the written form will be made available to listeners.

Then after taking a deep breath he continues.

Luke 15 talks about rejoicing that goes on in heaven over every sinner who repents on earth. This is also largely what Revelation talks about with people near the throne of God, but observing what goes on in the earth.

Have you ever thought about the fact that heaven might not be far off in outer space as many people think it is? Instead, it might be very close to the earth. Jesus says, “My Kingdom is in the midst of you.” It’s just that heaven is in a different dimension.

Remember there can be many aspects of heaven. Some can be close and some can be very far away. But with bodies that will be supernatural – which we will be discussing – things like distance aren’t as much of a barrier as they are on earth.

Philippians 2 talks about every knee bowing to Jesus – those in heaven and those on the earth, and even those under the earth, which means in hell.

Again, these are shown to all be very literal places.

In the Bible, heaven is not just an imagined place that is foggy and hard to see or become accustomed to. The Bible gives many, many visions of a literal place, as we have been talking about.

In Hebrews 12, God sees believers as being at Mount Zion, which means the city of God, even while they are on the earth. Thus again, he sees them as being with him in heaven, even while they are on earth.

This is similar to the verse I shared earlier. Ephesians 2:6 shows that God sees believers as being with Jesus in heaven, even while they are on earth.

I keep quoting more and more scripture as showing that heaven is a literal, physical place.

How heaven is described is often figurative because the human mind can't even contemplate the reality of it. But it is a very literal place, whether you think of it as up close and personal to earth, or off in distant outer space somewhere.

John 13 speaks of Jesus' death and resurrection, and his ascension is implied. He says, "Where I go, you cannot follow me now, but you will follow me later."

This is speaking of believers going to be with him in heaven, which is after their physical death. This is the same thought Jesus voices in John 17 when he says believers will come to him where he is and will behold his glory. This describes a very physical place – not to mention him being a physical person.

Colossians 3 talks about Christ being in heaven, and the lives of believers being hidden with him. As we've seen, believers are hidden with him now, figuratively and

spiritually. But this will become physical after death when they are literally in heaven with him.

John 3 says it is belief in Jesus that gives people eternal life. Revelation 5 expands upon this and says it is belief and trust in Christ's blood that redeems people to God from all over the earth. Again, this is speaking of two literal places: earth and heaven.

There won't be a temple in heaven according to Revelation 21. Thus, there won't be formal building-type places of worship in heaven like there are so many of them – and so many denominations on earth.

Hebrews 11 talks about folks in the Old Testament, even with the Promised Land that God said he would give them. Yet they were still looking for a country and a city that was more than they'd seen. They knew God had so much more planned for them in eternity.

They were looking for a heavenly country and city that God was preparing for them, and not just physical ones on earth.

In the New Testament this has greater meaning than it did for ancient Jews who had little comprehension of a physical heaven.

The New Testament paints a picture of heaven that people in the Old Testament never had.

II Peter 3 also talks about folks looking for a new heaven and a new earth that is being prepared for them.

Revelation 21 also speaks to this: John saw a new heaven and a new earth – the first heaven and earth had passed away.

We will talk more about this in a future session.

As I said, some people have such a misconception of heaven: floating around on clouds, with nightshirts on and playing harps. Others think that heaven will be about attending church, singing, and doing other religious things even more than occurs on earth. I trust that the Bible dispels some of this to some degree.

Some folks think of heaven as being boring.

Well, in the future sessions of this program I plan to dispel and erase these common misconceptions, and show what heaven will really and truly be like.

To reiterate, keep in mind that all I'm doing in this session is showing how much the Bible talks about a physical heaven and how real it will be. In future

sessions we'll talk about a lot of different things.

Heaven is the most exciting, stimulating, motivating place that can ever be imagined. The Bible doesn't even give a complete picture of it because many would say it's just too good to be true.

This is what many also say about the gospel of Jesus.

In Romans 10, Paul is talking only about earth, and he says the gospel is 'good news of good things.' Many people say these things are so good they just can't believe them. The most common expression is often, 'Even God can't be this good, can he?'

But just like most Christians don't even begin to understand the good news of God's gospel, they likewise don't understand the good news about heaven.

They just haven't taken the time to put the pieces of the puzzle of the mystery of the gospel together right. And they haven't put the pieces of the puzzle of the good news about heaven together right either. And sadly, not many preachers do a very good job of this either.

If you truly think about it, heaven and what the Bible says both about the gospel that Jesus brought, and the eternal life he calls people to in heaven are so good they

can only be true.

This is because only the heart of a loving God could invent the gospel, and the reality of eternal life.

The mind of man can hardly believe it, and could never even begin to conceive it.



After this program, Max told Dalton how many more people in the western hemisphere were listening to his program because of him. Numbers had increased by the hundreds of thousands and there was no indication they were going to slow down for the remaining programs.

Max said that potentially, based on prior programs that were no near as informative, the number of listeners would probably multiply into the hundreds of thousands – maybe into the millions.

And during today's show, they were taking stock how hundreds of thousands of more people were tuning in just in the last hour. He said it was amazing. News was

somehow spreading very fast.

Of course, Dalton knew he had many other angels interested, and watching what he was doing, and they would be working behind the scenes to draw folks in.

Max also said phone calls were more than they could even begin to handle. They had to put on a recording to say they could not possibly answer all the phone calls they were getting.

Plus, this was just in the western hemisphere. In a week or so, the program would be shared overseas in other countries, and the response there was anticipated to be even greater than the response here.

The west can have a distant mindset toward God, but minds of humans in other parts of the world are often much more intuitive, mystical, and spiritual. Their minds are also more relational and responsive in their thinking.

Western minds often do not follow in the same path. They are more individualistic and dogmatic.

Dalton was seemingly amazed, although in reality not really so, about the impact he was having. After all he was an angel, and he did live in the power of God.

Gabriel had said he'd develop a vision and plan for what he was to do on earth, and this was definitely what was occurring. The idea for being on this talk show just fell into his lap and he responded to it.

His original thinking was that he might get a few requests to speak in a few churches – maybe some of them even being large churches with hundreds or even thousands of people.

But in the way this was going, he'd been given the opportunity to reach millions of people.

When you walk with God it's like everything that happens is often more than you can measure, think or imagine. Everything is greater in God. Living in God is always more amazing than you can experience in any other status of life.

This was all running through Dalton's mind.



Dalton then reminded people that this session was

about proving the existence of heaven, and he said he'd provided enough scripture so that any doubting mind would at least have to sit up and take notice, considering things that perhaps had not been contemplated before.

But in the next broadcast, I will get more specific about things that up to now have only been very general in nature.

The Second Talk Show: What Will Things Be Like in the New Heaven and New Earth?

Today, let's start off by talking about what a physical body will be like in heaven. Of course we are not given a picture of one in the Bible, but we are given some clues about it.

In talking about our bodies in heaven, I John 3 says that believers are God's kids now on earth, but what we will be like in heaven isn't anything we can anticipate now.

But it does tell us something very profound. It says, *"When Jesus appears, believers shall be like him."*

When he is seen again as he is, believers will be as he is. Can you imagine being like Jesus? In Hebrews 7 it says he became like humans. He even called himself 'the Son of Man.'

Well, in heaven, believers become like he is.

I John 4 says, *“As Jesus is, so are we in this world.”*

Of course this doesn't mean physically, but spiritually. God sees believers, who are by God's definition 'in Christ,' as being like Jesus even now. If a person is in Christ, God sees them as being like Jesus.

Well, the same is true physically when folks get to heaven. No one will look like Jesus, but they will be like his physical essence, in the form of their body.

Philippians 3 says the same thing. It says, *“(God) will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body.”* Then it adds how God can do this. It says he does this by the power in him that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

Genesis says mankind is made in the image of God. Paul says the same thing in Romans 8 when he says believers are conformed to be in the image of Jesus. Again, this doesn't mean physically, but spiritually.

In I Corinthians 15 it says that believers bear the image of an earthly body, and they shall also bear the image of a heavenly body.

In Colossians 3 it says believers have put on the new man which is renewed in the knowledge after the image of

him who created him. Who created man? God did! So this is talking about man being in the image of God.

Paul describes this even more in II Corinthians 5:17: *“If any man be in Christ he is a new creation. Behold, old things have passed away, all things have become new.”*

What is a new creation? God created man in Genesis but now turns the believer into a new creation.

Here Paul is talking about a believer being like a new species of being. He says man is no longer just human. He is a mixture of God and human. God and man are joined together.

This is what atonement means in the Bible. Man is ‘one’ with God: ‘At-One-ment’ with God. He might be called a ‘GodMan.’

This is what these verses speak to: God makes man into a new living being when he becomes a believer, at least in the spiritual sense. The old has passed away and a believer becomes new. And when a person gets to heaven, this becomes even more real in the literal sense.

The same thing happens in heaven, even physically. To repeat Paul’s words, *“Jesus transforms man’s lowly body to be like his glorious body.”*

Sometimes the Bible refers to man's human body as being a 'tent.' That's pretty appropriate. After a lot of use a tent is thrown out and put in the trash.

II Corinthians 5 refers to this tent as being a person's earthly home. Elsewhere Paul calls believers as being God's building – even his temple.

Then it goes on to say in heaven, folks have another building (a body) made by God that is eternal in the heavens.

Believers are given eternal bodies.

This doesn't mean believers just become like a mist, and float around in the air in non-physical form.

No! Scripture doesn't say exactly what these bodies are like, but it does indicate they are physical. Then it goes on to say it's better to be away from the body folks have on earth and to be at home with God.

In talking about the resurrection of the dead, which refers to the resurrected human body that is on earth, First Corinthians 15 says the body on earth was made to be perishable.

In other words it eventually disintegrates and goes

back to dirt from which it was made.

It's like the 'tent' mentioned that is thrown away.

But then it says that it is then raised imperishable. It is made to be disgraced, because it is a body of sin as Paul says. But it is raised in glory. It was made to be weak but it is raised in power. It was made as a natural body but then becomes a spiritual body.

Even though it says 'spiritual,' it is still a body.

It goes on to say believers are raised imperishable, but they are changed – changed into the image of Jesus. Again, it's not like you look like Jesus, or like you are Jesus. But you are in his image and likeness, which is the way God made mankind to be when he created him in the Garden of Eden.

Paul then says that flesh and blood, which is what mankind is on earth, cannot inherit the Kingdom of God, anymore than the perishable can become imperishable. That's why God must 'change' man, as the gospel says.

Ephesians 5:30 says believers are part of the body, flesh and bones of Jesus. That is even while they are on earth if they are 'in Christ.' If it is so on earth, how much more will it be true in heaven?

Jesus definitely had a physical body as he walked around in Jerusalem for 40 days after his resurrection. We are told 500 saw him at one time. He wasn't just floating around talking to folks. People had to know he was real, and physical, and touchable.

During this time he said to the disciple who is called doubting Thomas: "Put your finger here, and see my hands, and put your hand into the wound in my side. Do not disbelieve but believe."

There is no doubt Jesus had a physical body, and it was this same physical body people saw raised up into heaven at what Acts 1 calls his ascension.

Paul says, "In fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep."

Fallen asleep is a Bible term for being physically dead. So this is saying believers who are dead are also raised from the dead just like Jesus was.

Revelation 21 says, *"Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more."*

“Neither will there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away. Behold I am making all things new.

“Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

How can God wipe away tears from eyes if there is no physical body?

There is suffering in this life, as the Bible says. Jesus says people will have problems when they are on earth. But in heaven there will be no problems or suffering or sickness or sorrow or tragedy.

Paul continues his remarks in I Corinthians 15 saying, *“Just as we have been born in the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.”*

On earth, man is one thing, but in heaven he is entirely new, different and changed. God says, *“I am making all things new.”*

In II Corinthians 5, it says people groan in their ‘tent,’ which is their earthly body, as we saw. And they long to put on their heavenly body. In their earthly tent they are burdened, but in heaven they will be further

clothed so that what is the mortal body (their body on earth) may be swallowed up by life.

It says, “Swallowed up by life.” Now that is a phrase that should really be meditated on. People view life on earth as being ‘life.’ But God has a different perspective on what is really ‘life.’ Heaven is life: it swallows folks up.

Jesus says he is life itself. Then he says he who prepared us for this coming, future, heavenly reality is God himself, and he has given us his Holy Spirit as a guarantee.

After the resurrection Jesus said to some people: “*See my hands and my feet,*” which means see the marks of his human body that was crucified on the cross.

Then he goes on to say, “*It is I myself. Touch me and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.*”

One Bible quotes Jesus saying, “*I am not a ghost.*”

You saw earlier that believers will have a glorious new body like Jesus has. Jesus is emphasizing here that this body in heaven will have some aspects of the body he had here. It will have a type of flesh and bones, but a

spiritual type not an earthly type. But it will be physical.



Jesus gives a picture of what the eternal, glorious body of believers will be like in ‘the transfiguration.’

This is told in Matthew, Mark and Luke. Jesus took Peter, James and John up on a mountain where they saw his body ‘transfigured’ into what was glorious and heavenly.

This gave the disciples greater understanding of who Jesus really and truly was, even in his physical body on earth: he was ‘God with the sin on.’

The disciples had only known him in his physical body, but now they were given a glimpse of his divine, spiritual body.

They needed this because Jesus had told them several times he was going to be crucified and would die on the cross. They didn’t know what to think about this so they didn’t think much about it. Most of them didn’t

believe it. It didn't conform to their 'worldview' of what they expected Jesus had come to do.

But it would give the disciples understanding, later on when Paul and others started talking about their new heavenly bodies, of what those bodies might be like.

Moses and Elijah were also present at this time. Do not forget these were two dead men. They had been dead for centuries. But now the disciples saw them as alive, and even knew who they were – even though no one had ever seen them and no one had seen a picture of them. They just knew them supernaturally.

Believers will just know at least most other believers in heaven, even if they have never met them.

It is a little off subject, but it is good to note that Moses and Elijah represented the law and the prophets of the Old Testament. But God spoke from heaven telling the disciples to listen to Jesus, not to Moses and Elijah.

Luke 24 says Jesus fulfilled the law and the prophets.

Jesus is 'the new and living way' that Hebrews 10 speaks about, and we must listen to everything he tells us. Everything in the Old ways gives way to Jesus in the New. The one emphasis of Jesus about belief is for folks to

believe and live his gospel.

Hebrews 1 says, “*God, who at various times and in different ways spoke in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken unto us by his Son.*” Jesus is ‘the way the truth and the life. He is resurrection life.

Revelation 1 also gives a description of Jesus in his glorified body, and John fell down like he was dead. It was just all too consuming.

But this gives believers an idea that the body of Jesus that John saw in Revelation was nothing like it was on earth. It was totally all consuming and transfiguring.



There are so many people who read the Bible but don't realize what they are reading if they don't see the reality that Jesus is God. Yes, he is said to be God's 'Son,' but Jesus says he and his Father are ONE.

We are told in John 1 that Jesus was with God in the beginning.

So, in a heavenly perspective it is God who died on the cross for mankind. So many people only see a physical person die on the cross – the person of Jesus in his earthly body. But Jesus is so much more.

In John 3, Jesus asked Nicodemus: *“If I have told you earthly things, and you do not believe me, how will you believe me if I tell you about heavenly things?”*

This applies so much to people who call themselves ‘believers’ today. Jesus asks, *“Why do you call me Lord and not do what I say?”* Jesus tells us about the earth and our reality here, but so many don’t grasp it all and so don’t believe it all.

Thus heavenly things are just too distant for them.

Jesus also says to be ‘believers.’ He says it is a Christian’s job to believe. Many don’t even live the gospel he said to live. Thus Paul says they will be judged for not doing so.

The gospel tells people so much about heaven.

Job 19 makes an interesting statement: *“After my skin is destroyed, this I know: that in my flesh I shall see God.”* The skin of course means Job’s physical body.

But he speaks prophetically of seeing God in his flesh – of course a different kind of flesh.

So, the physical body must have a type of ‘flesh, albeit not the same as the flesh people have on earth.

But this gives further proof that a believer’s spiritual, glorious body will be a type of ‘physical flesh substance’ even in heaven.

In Samuel, a child of King David died and David was sorrowful over his death naturally. But David made the declaration that he would go to see him – of course meaning in heaven.

God called David, ‘a man after my own heart.’ David had a greater grasp of truth way back under the law than many of us do today. You see it reflected in his Psalms. David knew God’s heart and ways. He had a vision of heaven that many don’t have today.

Every sincere person should pray to have a heart like David’s. Anyone would like to hear these words of God: “You are a person after my own heart.”

People in heaven will be clothed differently, and will have a different, more glorious, more powerful body, but

it will still be them. Job said, “In my flesh, I will see God.”

In John 20, Mary was in the garden after Christ’s resurrection, and she called Jesus, ‘Sir.’ This indicated she didn’t know him. But she did see he was a man. He was human. He wasn’t just a ghost or a spirit.

Also, Jesus interacted with the disciples on the beach after the resurrection, and even cooked for them and ate with them. I don’t know if Jesus was hungry or not but he knew they needed to see him eat. They needed to see it was really him, and he was really human.

Jesus also materialized and just appeared in a room without using the door. This shows the type of body that will be that of believers after physical death.

In an earlier account in the gospels, when Jesus was being chased by a mob that wanted to kill him, he just disappeared.

Spiritual, glorified, Jesus-like bodies in heaven will have capabilities you can’t even begin imagine now.



Now let's talk about the earth itself.

We've been talking about redeemed human beings and the glorious bodies they will receive. But what is true about the earth itself? It is commonly believed that God is just going to destroy everything and start over, making a totally new heaven and new earth.

Is this biblically true or just human thinking?

Isaiah 65 says, *“Behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former shall not be remembered or come to mind.”*

II Peter says for believers to look for a new heaven and a new earth. These can be interpreted different ways, and no one knows for sure what the fact is, except for God.

II Peter 3:10 adds insight: *“The day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat, both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.”*

Does this mean the earth will be totally destroyed?

During the great world-wide flood of Noah, the earth wasn't destroyed. All life and everything on it were destroyed, but not the earth itself. The ark preserved life just as heaven will preserve life.

Peter says, "*The elements will melt. . . and the works that are in it will be burned up.*" Like what happened in the flood, this may mean that things of the earth and the works of man will be destroyed, but not the earth itself.

Once again, God created the earth and said he made everything 'good' and 'very good.'

Just because Satan has had some success in the earth with sin doesn't mean it should be abandoned.

Why would God abandon what he made that even he declares is good and very good?

Yes, God did curse the earth, and also mankind in ways, but much of mankind and the earth are beautiful in many ways, even with the curse.

The beauty of the earth gives people many reasons to rejoice and to worship. In a new re-created earth, there will be many more reasons to rejoice and to worship.

It is a defeatist type theology that says God's original plan failed and so he must abandon it. If you know God, you know he's never failed at anything.

Acts 3 speaks of 'the time of restitution of all things.'

Don't miss this! Restitution means the restoration of something to its proper owner and former state. God is the proper owner of earth and it may be his plan to have restored to him.

Psalm 24 says all of the earth belongs to God.

This seems to be saying the earth must be redeemed for the purposes for which God created it. This is not the case with the earth today. The earth doesn't reveal God's personal glory.

It reveals his glorious works but not God himself. But at some point God's glory will be revealed.

There is Old Testament prophecy that talks about the earth shining with God's glory. While there are many great, beautiful things in the earth, it can't be said the earth shines with the glory of God.

The earth of course reveals God's glory, but it does not shine with his personal glory.

Romans 8 and Ephesians 4 talk about redemption of man – which means the salvation of the human being and placing him into God.

Then, Romans speaks of nature itself groaning and expecting some sort of redemption along with human beings.

Matthew 19 talks about the renewal of ALL things. All means ‘all.’ Nature and the earth itself are part of the ‘all,’ along with mankind who become believers and seek after God.

Again, God knows the hearts of all people. He knows which hearts will want him, will turn to him, and will include him – and he knows which ones won’t.

Prophets seem to say this is talking about a future time of redemption of the earth for God.

Isaiah 60:21 speaks of all God’s people as righteous and inheriting the earth forever. The land is the work of God and it will shine forth with his glory. This can’t mean the earth in its present condition. It must be future.

Colossians 1 talks about all things being reconciled to Jesus, the things of earth and the things of heaven.

All things are not reconciled to Jesus today but they will be in the future – even things of earth.

This is a good hint that God has something better planned for earth – that earth itself may have a brand new glorious state and condition.



Everything is included in what God has planned.

Romans 8 talks about the animals waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God. It actually calls them ‘creatures.’

The Message Bible gives this more clarity: *“There is no comparison between the present hard times and the coming good times. The created world itself can hardly wait for what’s coming next.*

“Everything in creation is being more or less held back. God reins it in until both creation (the earth) and all creatures are ready and can be released at the same moment into the glorious times ahead. Meanwhile, the

joyful anticipation deepens.”

Isn't this talking about a future time on earth?

Romans then goes on to say the creatures also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption, which means people in their physical body on earth. They will then be changed into the glorious liberty of the children of God. The whole creation groans and travails in pain together until now.

What this is saying is that everything – man, the earth, the animals, and everything else on earth – is waiting for God to do something and to bring the earth back into what it was meant to be in creation.

This is the full meaning of the Hebrew word 'shalom' which is most often translated 'peace.'

But more fully it means bringing things back into line, and redeeming things and reconciling things, as we have been talking about. Then things will be how God originally intended them to be in the Garden of Eden.

In Romans 8, Paul's analogy with regard to all of this is childbirth – a woman giving birth to a child. It is not about destruction but about enhancement, and adding to what already exists: a new human person.

I hope you are beginning to see that, in so many ways, the Bible talks about increasing things on the earth and enhancing them and restoring them and reconciling them and renewing them to a better state than ever before. It talks so much about RE-creation that is so much better than original creation.

Yet so many people read it as being about total destruction, and God just starting all over.

It is much the same as what God says about people and what the gospel does in them in I Corinthians 4:15:

*“In Christ Jesus, I have begotten you
in the gospel.”*

Paul’s analogy here is that it is the gospel giving birth to people.

But this can be a picture of what happens to people at the time of physical death!!! They are birthed into God who is their real Father. This is also an aspect of the gospel truth.



Now let's start tying all of this together.

If you think deeply about it, the first two chapters in the Bible and the last two chapters in the Bible talk about two different things.

Genesis 1 and 2 speak about creation.

Revelation 21 and 22 speak about RE-creation.

This is a strikingly different view of how things are visually imagined. Creation can become RE-creation.

Reading Old Testament prophets, and Hebrew 11, you see the expectation was for God to do something big on earth, not just something in heaven. Heaven is very monumental in itself, and it is the home of God.

But people in Hebrews 11 were also looking for God to manifest himself on earth in ways he never had done before. This has not occurred yet.

And so much is said about the throne of David being revived in Isaiah 9, Romans 1 and elsewhere. This speaks of an earthly revival. It doesn't speak of a revival in heaven but on earth.

In heaven things won't need reviving.

Now allow me to be firm about something! No one can know for sure what God has planned. Only God can know for sure.

Even I don't know for sure everything that God has planned. But he has revealed a lot in his Bible.

Romans 8 speaks redemption, not destruction.

Other verses speak of renewal, not destruction.

Reconciliation with God is spoken of, not judgment.

The end of Revelation 21 speaks of the nations of people that are saved, and about the kings of the earth bringing their glory and honor to God. This can't be talking about heaven but about the earth in a redeemed, renewed, reconciled place.

All of this can at least be seen to probably mean that the earth will be reconciled, redeemed and renewed.

And the earth as it is known now may even be the center of this regenerating work of God.

Earth may even be the capital of the heavens. Who knows what God has in mind for sure? I don't!

This would be such a slap in the face to Satan who has done all in his power to retain his title of ‘prince of this world.’

Again, I don’t give you my opinion of things because my opinion is not important. What is important is what scripture says and what people think and believe about it.

At least I’ve given you what scripture may be saying that you have perhaps not thought about before.

As Revelation says, God is making all things new.

This may all be saying that the renewed, restored, reconciled earth will be RE-created by God in ways that will make the Garden of Eden pale in comparison. It will have glory and beauty and newness that no one can even begin to imagine now or describe.

I will quote I Corinthians 1 again: *“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things that God has prepared for them who love him.”*

To use analogy, the new earth may be like a person trading in his old car for a glorious interplanetary spaceship, instead of merely getting a newer, better car for earth.

And to return to the thought about the new glorious

bodies God is going to give believers, they too may be like getting a glorious spaceship instead of just a body that is better than an old body.

The entire heavens are like God's garden where he makes all things new.

Ephesians 3:20 says, *“Now unto him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to his power that works in us.”* If this applies to things of earth, how much more might it apply to things in the new earth and the new heavens?

The new heavens and the new earth will be so much greater than the present heavens and earth that there will not be any common term of comparison. They will be a lot more real, and there will be a lot more life in them than anything that is experienced now.

I Timothy 6 talks of ‘unapproachable light.’ This may be a way to describe the coming new heavens and new earth. They’ll be so different and so much better than what exists now that they’ll seem unapproachable.



Let me just close by saying this: if God doesn't use this earth as scripture seems to say, and if he decides to abandon it and create a whole new heaven and earth, what difference does it make?

It is still God's creation and all he does is perfect.

So you win no matter what.

The Third Talk Show: What Will Life Be Like in the New Heavens and New Earth?

Before this show began, Dalton and Max again spoke of the impact the show was having on people – now even people in other parts of the world. The impact it was having with Dalton on the show was more than anything Max had ever witnessed before.

The Angel – On Special Assignment was having quite an impact on people.

Dalton knew that everything depended on God, and not on him. So he took no credit for this. In the scripture, this is known as humility. Angels were by nature humble because they had personal dealings with a supreme God.

Dalton started talking about heaven and earth, picking up at where he left off last time. He made the point again that heaven will of course be different from earth, but not necessarily less physical than earth.

He began speaking as he had done before, and also RE-telling a certain high points. He laughingly said in

Philippians 3:1, Paul says that repetition of things is beneficial and even ‘safe’ for people.

The current physical earth could very well be in God’s plans for his eternal heaven. God does not alter his will based on what humans do – or even Satan does.

The ‘fire’ mentioned in Second Peter might not be a fire of total destruction, but only a fire of cleansing the earth of anything that is not of God.

Remember too that the flood of Noah didn’t destroy the earth, but only the things of the earth God wanted destroyed.

Genesis one speaks of God’s creation and Revelation 21 and 22 speak of God’s RE-creation. I just would not say that God is going to disintegrate everything he has done and start totally new.

Regardless, heaven will generate a response from everyone of stimulating worship. Heaven will be so much more than anyone can begin to think now it will cause spontaneous worship.

Gratefulness will be the word of the day. Earth has so many things to be grateful for. Heaven will have so much more to be grateful for.

The Old Testament talks so much about the land God led the Jews into. It's called 'The Promised Land.'

Well, heaven is God's 'Promised Land' also. All things he's done on earth are 'very good,' as Genesis says. Things in heaven will be so much better than even things on earth. And the present earth could be included in 'the new heavens and the new earth.'

The earth and the land are like synonyms.

And Paul says in First Corinthians 6:3 that believers will even judge us angels.

The historian Luke says in chapter 22: you will even sit on thrones and judge the 12 tribes of Israel that were in the Old Testament, and in darkness to New Testament truths.

But this doesn't mean you judge them because you are so much better than they are. You 'judge them' by bringing them into the knowledge that you have had revealed to you in the gospel.

We angels have a lot of freedom and we are always in agreement with God and his desires. So it will be with people who have entered into heaven. We will always be

on an equal level: helping each other – not comparing or competing with each other. Things will be so different in heaven, and won't be influenced by fleshly attitudes and motivations as they are on earth.



One belief is about believers 'ruling with Jesus.' This is spoken about in Revelation.

There will be a type of ruling, but not in the way most people think. Most people think ruling is having authority and even control over other people.

But this is not the way God thinks of ruling.

Jesus talks about the greatest being the least of all, and the least person being a ruler over all.

Paul talks about speaking grace to people. This is not ruling as it is often thought of, now is it? And Jesus talks about his peace being given to people and also about people being 'peacemakers.'

Paul refers to the gospel in two major ways:
(1) the gospel of peace, and
(2) the gospel of the grace of God.
And he begins most of his letters by saying ‘grace and peace to you.’

Grace and peace are not commonly experienced in the world today. Often they are non-existent, and not usually imparted to each other. It might be said that most things in the world are an expression of ‘UN-peace’ and ‘UN-grace.’

But in God’s eternal heaven, grace and peace will be the way of life for people, and ‘ruling with Jesus’ will be the impartation and ministry of grace and peace. This will be the result of God’s Agape love that will be a natural flow between people. But this is not what is usually most often experienced on earth.

Jesus himself came as a servant, not as a ruler, even though the Jews mistakenly thought he was going to kick Roman butt and set Israel into being a ruler.

God’s business is in serving people in relationships. His focus is not ruling.

And even though you will judge us angels, as I just said, that doesn't mean you rule us. God rules us, and you will be in his family, so you will be totally thinking and like-minded with what God thinks and wills.

Ruling is a type of family business, but the focus is on nurturing, teaching and helping people to become more in God's Kingdom. It's not a matter of 'lording it over them.' Instead, it's about 'lifting them to higher ground.'

You see, you think of everyone entering heaven on the same level, and everyone being totally equal. This is true to a degree – no one is superior and no one inferior. Everyone is indeed equal in heaven.

But not all have attained the same level of oneness with God that others have. Some have to be nurtured and led at various levels depending on their maturity and knowledge in the things of God.

You would have to admit the thief on the cross that would die on the cross and be in Paradise that same day didn't have the same level of knowledge in God as Paul did. The thief would need some nurturing, or as it is called, 'ruling.'

‘To him who has will more be given’ is something that can even be taken into heaven.

God does not judge people for their sin, if they are ‘in Jesus,’ because Jesus took their sins from them and put them on himself at the cross. But God still sees a difference in people and their revelation of him, and truth concerning his reality.

Moses had more revelation than people he led. In Psalm 103, it says God revealed his ‘acts’ to Israel, but only Moses was shown the ‘ways’ of God.

And Paul had more revelation than people he led. Paul says he alone was put ‘in trust with the gospel.’ He was appointed to proclaim and defend the gospel. The gospel was God’s new ‘dispensation’ given to him.

Remember that earth, and people of earth, are in a cursed state. They don’t think like God, and even with the gospel, they have a hard time comprehending things of God.

Jesus says God is Spirit and those who worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. A problem exists when human flesh is mixed in with spirit and truth.

Service to others is the reward that God most often gives to others, not a promotion in rank. And serving is akin to ruling, at least from God's perspective.

And everything is in God's truth and grace. In John it says, "*The law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.*"

It's like 'The Parable of the Talents.' Does it make any difference how many talents one person has over someone else? The issue is that God gives everyone talents. It's not the number he gives.

The response people make to God should be in how they use the talents they have been given.

Paul says he learned to be content in all things.

Everyone who is a believer has the reward of being with God and living in relationship with others as he wants them to relate. This does not mean the way they so often do on earth in their human ways. But it will be how they relate in God's heaven.

The point is that every relationship in heaven will be greater than it was on earth, and more 'godly' because God will be the center.

No one you are close to on earth will be closer than you will be with folks in heaven.

The gospel even says there will not be any ‘marriage’ in heaven, at least as human laws think of marriage. There will be a type of ‘marriage’ of people to each other, but it will be universal and not as individualistic as it is now on earth. On earth people choose one particular someone they want to marry.



You will find God’s eternal heaven to be an unbelievable place that is outside the scope of human reason – or even human imagination.

It will be a place of overpowering beauty beyond anything you’ve seen or can speculate about. God is a very creative God. Just look at the diversity of leaves, mountains, types of water, trees and other things on earth.

This will be multiplied many times over in heaven.

There will be a continual attitude of gratitude that will be spontaneous in nature. It will come from inside, and there won't be any grumbling or dissatisfaction.

Recall that Revelation says God will wipe away all tears. Paul says: 'In everything give thanks.' This is how things will be in people in heaven.

There won't be strife, contention, comparisons or even disagreement between people. In First Corinthians Paul says 'be like minded and say the same thing.' It's not this way on earth, but it will be this way in heaven.

All relationships in heaven will be solid, dependable and non-competitive.

Paul says, 'the Kingdom of God is righteousness, peace and joy.' In heaven everything will be right in God, and every person will know they are right with God. This will produce a sense of peace and joy that has never been experienced on earth.

Things like fellowship with God and communion in Jesus won't just be things that are performed at certain times. Instead, they will constantly exist in the spirit.

These just won't be something people do, but they will become who people are in relationship with God and

each other. God's presence will be a constant reality.

All things that have been experienced on earth in a human form will be compounded and will become much more vibrant, vital, and real in every way.

Everything will pass from merely being a 3-D type experience, as they are on earth, to more of a 4-D type experience. It will be like going from seeing a movie in black-and-white into vibrant unbelievable color and unimaginable dimensions.



You will see all types of animals in heaven.

Do you remember the Ark – where God saved all animals two by two? Animals add such a dimension to the lives of most people, and animals will be prominent in heaven too.

Even Jesus had animals in his manger.

But no animals will be in a fearful, dangerous form. Remember Isaiah says the lion will lie down with the lamb. They'll be like friends instead of the lion wanting to eat the lamb.

God made animals in the Garden of Eden, and even appointed Adam to name them.

In Genesis 9 it says that God even made a covenant with all living creatures. This included animals.

In Romans 8 it says all things are linked together. It says, “The earnest expectation of the creature waits for the manifestation of the sons of God.” God seems to have set the redemption of animals along with human believers.

Romans 8 says, “*The creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.*” Doesn’t this say that even animals will be in a more glorious form, and have a more glorious body – like human believers have in heaven?

Psalms 148 talks about animals praising God, just like everything praises God in its own way. This doesn’t mean that animals have a type of worship service. This is what humans think of. But it does mean animals have a sense that there is something – or will be something more than what they are experiencing.

Humans should know this even more.

Of course animals don’t have a spirit like humans do. But they do have a type of soul, albeit limited and not like

the human soul. But they tend to relate to each other by means of their souls, and even worship in their own animalistic way.

Revelation 5 talks about creatures, meaning animals too, knowing what was going on in heaven at the time of the Apostle John's visit and visions.

Then it also mentions the creatures that are in the sea, which of course refers to fish of all types and sizes.

There is a mention in Revelation 21 about 'there being no more sea.' But this may not mean a literal sea, as so many think it means. Think about it: God created the sea along with everything else and said it was 'good.'

Many have said the 'sea' in revelation refers to political matters, not literal water. I won't comment on this, because as I've said before, it is not what I know or what I think that is important.

I'm just trying to point out that many people assume the Bible means one thing, but it might really mean something else.



Revelation 21 mentions a mountain. Also Revelation 22 talks about a river of life, and a Tree of Life existing in the Garden of Eden.

This is indicative of all types of wonderful things in heaven that are also real on earth. I will ask it again: why would God cancel out and destroy things that he said are, ‘good and very good’?

If you think about it in light of what I’ve already said, it would be more likely to expect deeper and bluer lakes, more vibrant streams and rivers of water, more types of flowers and more colorful ones, and more types of leaves than those that exist on earth.

Wouldn’t this be more likely than less likely?

Again, Revelation talks about ‘a new earth.’ This doesn’t mean an earth that is totally different and not recognizable from the old earth. It doesn’t speak of something that is so ‘sci-fi’ that it is out of the range of anyone’s thinking or expectations.

God created you humans and tries to plant his

thinking and mind in you. He doesn't expect you to expect something so entirely different and 'sci-fi' that it is impossible to envision.



And what about the temperatures that so many people talk about, especially scientists?

Earth has a controlled temperature, doesn't it? Some don't like the cold and snow. Some don't like the heat and hurricanes. But this is all what a cursed earth delivers.

We talked about supernatural super bodies like Jesus showed people after he was dead and buried. He disappeared at times and walked through walls and doors at other times. He flew off into clouds in heaven.

Don't you think that these bodies might also have super-human capabilities to burning heat – or to freezing cold? They just might be impervious to them.

If God is the Master of the heavens and the earth,

don't you just think that no where you could go, or anything you might do or be involved in, in any place of God's creation, might be off-limits?

Could it be that the entire universe might be your Garden of Eden?

Remember again: *“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things that God has prepared for those who love him.”*

I am not trying to say what things might or might not be. I am just trying to raise your expectations of what might be, with a little clearer understanding of what the Bible says.

With God, the sky has no limit.

Let me ask this question: Do you think anything you can imagine might be greater than what God has planned for those who love him?

The moon is over 200,000 miles from the earth. That is quite a distance, especially in that the earth is only a little over 25,000 miles in circumference.

It took man about three days to reach the moon.

Just the small galaxy the earth is in contains about billions stars, and it is about 100,000 light years across. Only one light year is over a trillion miles.

No one can truly comprehend these figures. But this galaxy is one of the smallest in God's creation.

Folks can hardly understand the difference between even a million and a billion – let alone light years and trillions of miles.

Here is an example of \$1 Million vs. \$1 Billion.

If I were to give you \$1 a second, every second of the day, never stopping to eat, sleep, or go to the bathroom, it would take me about 11 DAYS to give you \$1 Million.

But at the same rate, giving you \$1 a second, every second of the day, never stopping to eat, sleep, it would take me about 34 YEARS to give you \$1 Billion.

This alone is almost too much for most minds to comprehend. It's harder and even maybe impossible to comprehend anything on a grander scale.

The size of the whole universe is incomprehensible to most people. This is even true of many scientists who argue and disagree over the size of it.

But many scientists agree that the universe is still growing and expanding. It is becoming larger and larger. How can this just occur at random, just unexplainably, and with nothing generating it?

Sometimes the faith it takes not to believe in God and in his creation is a lot more faith than it takes to believe in God.

I just share these few facts in an attempt to show how large God's creation is, even thought once again, it is incomprehensible to almost everyone.

But what can be asked is this: Is all of this creation of God for nothing? Is it just a waste? Is it totally unusable? Is it just 'dead space' that exists for nothing?

Maybe it's not. God doesn't do anything without purpose. Could it be that he has a plan for all of this vast, incomprehensible creation?



What about time? Is there time in heaven?

Everything on earth is measured by time and calculated by clocks. And many people are addicted to time. You get up at a certain time, and go to work from 8 to 5, 9 to 5, or whatever. You get home about the same time most nights. You go to bed at the same time.

Folks are tuned in to time: 60 seconds, 60 minutes, 12 hours, and 24 hours. There are deadlines and goals to meet that control people with regard to time.

In the larger view of things, time draws a distinction between the past, the present and the future.

Time is also noticed in the length of days. The very longest day of the year is in mid-June, and the shortest day in mid-December. So it can be light until 9:30 or 10:00 p.m. in some places in June, but be dark by 4:30 or 5:00 p.m. if it's in December.

In Revelation 6, which is a statement about God's heaven, it says 'time is no longer.' Some say this means that God has reached his limit and that time is up for people on earth, and judgment is here.

Others refer to this as a statement about time in heaven: “In eternity, time has no meaning and doesn’t exist because everything is eternal.”

Do you think there are clocks in heaven?

Jesus says there is rejoicing in heaven when a sinner repents. While this doesn’t mention a specific time, it does indicate that people in heaven have an awareness of ‘when something takes place,’ which is a type of timing and time.

And in Revelation 6, people ask God, ‘How long, Oh Lord until...’ This is another thought about the awareness of time, even if it doesn’t mean the time on a clock. But these people wouldn’t ask God ‘How long...’ if they had no comprehension of time.

Revelation 7 talks about people being before God’s throne ‘day and night.’ This is another indication that there is an awareness of at least blocks of time for folks in heaven. Day and night don’t mean the same time.

Revelation 8 makes reference to ‘a half an hour.’ This is a very definite, short piece of time that people in heaven are aware of.

Revelation 22 speaks of ‘The Tree of Life’ producing

fruit every month. I'm not even saying that months are the same in heaven as they are on earth, but this does indicate a period of time called a 'month.'

So, while time doesn't have the same control and significance in heaven as it does on earth, there is still some evidence that a type of time does exist.



Will there be differences in heaven, like for instance different types of people and languages?

More than one verse in Revelation talks about people coming from every part of the world – from every nation. This would indicate that people are different and they speak their own language.

But there could also be a central language in heaven that everyone knows.

Revelation 7:9 speaks of people with every 'tongue' imaginable being in heaven. This indicates there are different languages in heaven.

Revelation 7:10 speaks of people shouting with a loud voice which would indicate in unison. This would indicate the same language and words rather than just a garbled mess of everyone speaking different languages at the same time.

God is so creative, and at the Tower of Babel in Genesis, he confused their language and diffused them so that everyone spoke a different language so they could not speak to each other and become unified against God.

So God, being so creative, could also create a new language that everyone knows and can communicate with, and thus relate to each other better.

Daniel 7 speaks prophetically of all people, nations and languages serving God, which indicates a diversity of languages people will have available to them, even if they don't use them all at the same time.

It would not be outrage to think God unifies people with a common language, but also allows different languages for different groups of people from different nations.



Will there be work or other things to do in heaven?

Now let's talk about what people will do in heaven and what they might be engaged in and occupied with.

Jesus says, "*I am working, and my Father is working still.*" This indicates there is a type of work to be done.

If Abba Father God is working in some capacity, and so is his Son Jesus, it is likely everyone in heaven will have some type of 'occupation' to keep them occupied and productive.

Again, there is a common misconception about heaven voiced by cartoons and musings of philosophers. They picture heaven being a place where people sit around and do nothing all day long, or that they are in church most of the time.

This is not the way things are. There is activity in heaven. People won't just sit around on clouds. People will have tasks to do, and places to go, and things to keep them interested and involved in something productive.

Of course there will be worship and praise to God, and a sense of gratitude and thanks for everything. But why would this have to be in a ‘church service,’ which is what people know on earth. Too often, earthly churches are more of a business than they are God’s ministry.

Just the nature of heaven itself will lend toward this. Things will be so awesome and remarkable that you will probably not be able to keep a sense of praise, worship and gratitude to yourself. You’ll want to share it with everyone.



If you think about it, there won’t be need for certain types of vocations, professions or jobs in heaven. For instance, there won’t be any need for police because there will be no crime.

There won’t be need to doctors and nurses because there won’t be any sickness or cancer or death.

There won't be need for lawyers in that there won't be any litigation, quarrels and disputes. In that I am a lawyer I can say a big 'amen' to this!

There will of course not be any need for insurance salesmen or funeral directors. This should be obvious. First, there will be no death for funeral directors, and heaven is our insurance policy if we are believers. There won't be a need to insure things like unemployment, sickness or death.

But as said, there is a type of work to be done in heaven, but not like the work of so many people on earth. Also again, some of this work may be done in other places in God's universe with the supernatural bodies people will have that we've seen in scripture.

Revelation talks a lot about people serving God. He does have a plan and purpose for people, even if it isn't 'work' defined as it is on earth. But with no time as is so common on earth, people will not be punching a time clock from 9 to 5.

God is very creative and inventive. Look at the world and universe around you. He set the original humans in the Garden of Eden and told them to manage and work it, and to interface with the animals.

Having begun this world with things for people to do, God will not put an end to all of this and just have folks sitting around on clouds.

Everything on earth, since the Garden of Eden, has been under a curse. Just imagine a world, universe, people, and animals not under a curse.

As I said earlier, ‘The sky has no limits.’

God creates talented people, speakers, educators, writers, painters, musicians, singers – and every other type of person on earth.

Why would he cease doing so in heaven?

The Bible speaks a lot about living in peace, joy and abundance here on earth. Why would God change this in heaven?

If anything these things will be increased and personified and even more personalized. Things done in heaven will be pleasurable, not boring or routine. Things will be exhilarating.

And let me emphasize again that all things people do will be done in a state of awe, gratitude, thankfulness and worship.

People will probably be doing 10,000 things, and in 10,000 ways they have never even dreamed of.

The bottom line is that heaven will be a place of exciting, vigorous activity no matter what form things take. And everything will be done in an experienced hope of things being greater in heaven.



Hell will be totally different from heaven.

On the other end of the spectrum, hell will be a place of at least emotional torment due to realization of bad choices people made of excluding God in their lives on earth.

Hell will be a place of no hope, no peace, and no joy.

Hell will be the opposite of heaven. It will be a place of monotony, routine, and of course separation from any contact with God.



Relationships will be at a high peak in heaven.

I alluded to this earlier, heaven will be a place where relationships reach a peak. They won't be crippled by emotional baggage. There won't be things like guilt, fear, resentment, unforgiveness or bitterness.

There won't be alienation and divorce in heaven in that there won't be marriage as it is known on earth.

There won't be comparisons. Everyone will know their identity in God as was seen in the seven needs. Things like low self esteem and uncertainty and anxiety won't even exist in heaven.

On earth, the gospel is 'the great equalizer.' People are all equal at the foot of the cross of Jesus. The gospel sees no distinction between people with regard to things like sex, race, age, position, education, wealth, or other things.

Such will be the case in heaven.

Of course there will be people who are more visible and widely known than others. I alluded to this too. Folks

like Abraham, Moses, Joseph, Joshua, Esther, Ruth, David, and Paul and the other apostles will be more ‘center stage’ in peoples’ minds and eyes.

But this doesn’t mean they out-rank everyone else. In heaven, everyone will be on the same playing field and all playing the same game of living, helping, exhorting and serving each other.

Everyone will be of the same worth, because it is only God who gives everyone their worth

In heaven, people have astounding worth.

Certain people have certain callings and talents and abilities that are different from other people. But this does not speak to their superiority over others – or as we talked about earlier, about anyone ruling over others in the way things are on earth.

Paul asks, “What do you have that you have not received from God?”

Being equal doesn’t mean everyone is the same.

If there is nothing people have that they have not received, how can there be comparisons, criticisms, or pride and gloating and boasting?

And everyone will have their own stories to tell.

Old Testament people will tell their stories of living under God's law – their hardships and their good times. Of course people will want to hear them and get to know them, and know about their lives better. Some will wonder how they could have ever worshipped other gods or idols made with peoples' hands.

New Testament people will tell their stories of living under God's gospel – their hardships and good times.

They will of course admit and confess their level of belief and experience in the blessings and gifts of God – and even their unbelief and lack of living in them.

But there will not be any intimidation in heaven where people are afraid or ashamed to share certain things about their lives. Shame and guilt and fear are things of earth. They don't exist in heaven.

Everyone on earth has known that they are sinners, and all people die with some sin in them – some more and some less. Sin is a big culprit on earth, even though Jesus took sin away for the believer, and became sin for them. But most Christians can't bring themselves to

really believe this.

But sin, wrongdoing, failure, and other such things won't be a factor in heaven.

And other people will want to hear each others' stories and testimonies, and will want to know each other better.



Will there be eating and drinking in heaven?

Jesus loved to eat and drink when he was on earth. He did a lot of eating and drinking. He even drank wine while he was on earth, and said he'd drink wine with his disciples when they were in heaven.

These are ways people connect with each other better and become closer related. It seems like Jesus was eating and drinking with people very often because it was a good way to communicate.

And he talks about banquets and wine in heaven. Of course this doesn't imply gluttony and drunkenness.

Feasts are mentioned over 200 times in the Bible.

He also talks about parties, gatherings and special events like weddings and ceremonies. People are called 'the bride of Christ.' Don't think there won't be special times with Jesus with his collective bride. It will be a relationship that can't even be imagined.

One writer I'm aware of talks about heaven being like a big party where there is more joy and rejoicing than can be imagined.

One passage I particularly like because I'm an angel is what Jesus says in Matthew 22:30 about the angels of God. Here he says, "*In the resurrection people will neither marry, nor be given in marriage, but will be like the angels of God in heaven.*"

There is a passage in Luke 8 where some people came to Jesus and said his mother and brothers were outside waiting to see him. Jesus responded to them by saying, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it."

From this we can glean the fact that Jesus views

relationships as being more about being one with God, and in the unity of belief than he sees them about being about blood in the flesh.

He doesn't seem to see a mother or a father or a sibling in the same way most people do, although he always honored them and deemed them important. He sees a different type of family. And he also calls everyone who is joined with him in life to be his 'friend.'

Friends and family have a much deeper meaning and connotation to Jesus than is generally the case on earth. Most people have a lot of people they are associated with but only have a few really close friends, and perhaps only one or two 'intimate friends' that they would share anything at all with. Hopefully, at least one is their spouse.

Family isn't always about someone's physical genes.

A point could be made that spirit is superior to flesh. You will probably never have known anyone on earth any better than you will know – and be known – by people in God's eternal heaven.

And relationships will not be negatively affected by things that people do – or things that people don't do that they should do.

Friendships won't be affected by things or things that have been done to people that should not have been done.

Earth life has so many factions that won't exist in heaven's life. Remember that things on earth are often driven by what the Bible calls 'flesh.' Things in heaven will not be driven in the same way.

People won't carry emotional baggage around with them, and won't have regrets or expectancies with others that are so prevalent on earth.

There won't be the tension in relationships that exist here. There won't be the joys countered by sorrows that are known here.

Everything and everyone will be a joy.

Here on earth believers know the Father's love for them, and Christ's love for them by faith.

But in heaven, knowing their love will be more experiential, vital and actual. It won't be by faith. There will be no need for faith in heaven. Faith is a gift of God, and is called a 'fruit of the spirit.' It will not be necessary in heaven.

Knowing God's love experientially in heaven will both increase and even multiply peoples' love for each other.



There will be closeness between people in heaven that can never be known and experienced on earth.

There may be some physical houses in heaven. And some people think some will get mansions and others will only get shacks. But how can this be if everyone is equal? One thing that won't exist will be fences and locked gates to keep people out – or 'no trespassing' signs.

There won't be any locked doors, and in many cases not even any knocking on doors. Everyone will be closely related so these things won't be necessary.

Everyone will be like family, and everyone will be in close relationship with each other. Everyone being part of God's family will just make this seem normal.

Different people will not be ranked in order of closeness. Jesus says to live in love, even on earth. So there won't be people saying:

-- "I like him but I don't like her," ... or

-- "I like her but I don't like him."

Folks won't pick and choose their friends – versus people they want to avoid, as they do on earth. Heaven will be a place of love and grace, and love and grace will be the spiritual condition, unlike anything experienced on earth.

Everyone will be in God. So like the song says, we will say to each other: 'I see in you the glory of my King.'

There will not be any strangers in heaven.

God says in Genesis, "It is not good for people to be alone." All people will be part of the joy that exists in God.

Conversations will not be about war, news, science, sex, politics, schools, business, or anything of the type.

Conversations will be more about the good things God has done, and is doing in each others' lives.

In First Thessalonians 2, Paul talks about sharing the gospel with others and also his own soul and heart. This is the nature of how conversations will be in heaven.

Paul says in Philippians 1 for people to ‘fellowship in the gospel.’ The nature of the gospel, which is the good news of God, will be a model for fellowship in heaven.



Will people know everything in heaven?

There will be growth and learning when people get to heaven. Revelation talks about people around the throne of God, asking him questions – because they didn’t know everything.

Getting to heaven will not be an automatic time when everything is known all at once.

Everything in God is a process. Paul talks about the transformation of peoples’ minds. He also speaks of folks having ‘the mind of Christ.’ But this doesn’t mean human

minds are transformed all at once immediately.

It doesn't mean that everyone suddenly knows everything that Jesus knows. But it does mean that we think like Jesus due to the gospel transforming our minds and hearts as Paul says in Romans 12.

Heaven will be a constant assimilation of the ways and knowledge of God. And some people know things that have been revealed to them more than others do. So some folks will have to help others by teaching them.

Some people will have been in heaven a long time. Others will be new and may need 'a welcome wagon' of some sort. Experience plays a part in everything we do.

Maybe a newbie will even have someone like Moses or David to show them around. After all, everyone will be equal.

Jesus says, *"To him who has, will more be given."* But he also says, *"Seek first the Kingdom of heaven and God's righteousness, and all other things will be added unto you."* People learn at different degrees and at different speeds.

Not everyone has a thorough grasp of the gospel, and things and ways of God even while they are on earth.

Paul talks about those ‘who are ever learning but never able to come into a knowledge of the truth.’

Some have a slower learning curve that needs help.

In First Timothy 2 Paul says God wants everyone
(1) to be saved, and
(2) to come into a knowledge of his truth.

So many Christians think the gospel is only about salvation, but it is ‘so much more’ as Paul often says. Hebrews talks about ‘things that accompany salvation.’ Well, if the gospel was only about salvation, there would not be any need for things to ‘accompany it.’

The gospel is actual a vital part of every part of life. And that includes what Paul says in II Timothy 1 about eternal life being a gift to you after an earthly life of the abundant life of Jesus.

Not everyone grasps God’s truth at the same rate even though they are saved and going to heaven.

It may be true that some people need a refresher course on the gospel truth of God, and on other things.

Let me just say that God doesn’t give a theology exam to get into heaven. All it takes is belief in Jesus.

In Second Corinthians Paul says, *“If anyone thinks he knows anything, he doesn’t yet know what he ought to know.”* Paul may have included himself in saying this.

Paul was a very smart man, and better educated than 99% of other people. Yet even he knew he didn’t know everything there was to know. He knew that coming into full revelation of God in his gospel takes more than one short lifetime.

And there will be books in heaven for people to learn from. We’re told that God’s word is eternal, and that God’s words will never end. Revelation 20 talks about ‘books’ in heaven, which is in the plural.

‘The Book of Life’ is mentioned a few times.

Malachi 3 speaks of ‘the book of remembrance.’

In the Old Testament there are books and writings mentioned that existed that we have no knowledge of. Several passages speak of ‘The Revelation of Moses.’ We don’t have a book like that in our Bible.

Again, in II Corinthians 12, Paul had a conference with God in heaven, and he says he was told and shown things that he was not allowed to repeat to anyone.

Whatever folks think they know, there is really so much more. I have been learning, and probably always will be, that no matter how good I ever come to think the gospel is, it is really better than I can imagine.

God gifts certain people with revelation and writing skills and for them not to be allowed to use their gifts, given to them by God, would not be God's nature.

In summary, heaven will be a place of continuous learning, no matter what the means may be.



There won't be any name badges in heaven. People will be fully known and will fully know others.

We talked about the transfiguration earlier. Talking about it again here is appropriate. Moses and Elijah were with Jesus. Peter, James and John had never seen even a picture of them and yet they knew who they were.

It doesn't even say that Jesus introduced them.

This is the nature of the way things will be in heaven. Although people won't wear name badges, it will be like their names are part of the content of peoples' minds.

People will know each other, not being introduced by God the Father, or by Jesus, or by anyone else.

There are instances in the Bible where people don't know other people. Mary didn't recognize Jesus at the tomb, and even thought he was the gardener – although she had seen him many times.

The men on the Road to Emmaus didn't recognize Jesus and the passage even says their eyes were kept from knowing him.

But these are exceptions, not the rule. People will know others as they are known in heaven.

And people will have at least some memory of earth and things that happened here, as was mentioned briefly earlier. In Revelation 6, people are around the throne of God asking when they will be avenged by him. In order to want to be avenged, they must have recollection of what they want to be avenged for.

In the story of the rich man and Lazarus in Luke 16, Abraham had recollection of earth events. He spoke to the man in hell saying, *“Remember that you in your life received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things. But now he is comforted here and you are in anguish.”*

In the Old Testament, Isaiah 65:17 says: *“Behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.”* Some say this verse says we will have no memory of earthly life.

But the previous verse says, *“For the past troubles will be forgotten and hidden from my eyes”* (Isa 65:16).

At least most of the past problems and sorrows on earth will be forgotten, or so it seems, but not all memories are erased. Good memories, like pictures folks keep would be valuable. But memories involving sin and hurts and tragedies would not be of a beneficial nature to anyone.



Heaven will be a state of rest. This does not mean sleep, but a rest that is hard to experience on earth. Things are in such turmoil here, and not much earthly is restful.

Earth is a constant insult on body and soul.

Earth is often a place of ‘UN-rest,’ and ‘UN-peace,’ and ‘UN-grace.’ But heaven will be just the opposite, even as God’s will wants it to be on earth.

In Matthew 11 Jesus says, “*Come onto me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest – you will find rest for your souls.*” He speaks to those who are working in their flesh in ways that they should not be laboring.

Hebrews 3 says the Jews could not enter into God’s rest because of their unbelief. But when we come to Christ’s gospel, and if we have faith and belief in what it says and promises, then it profits us (Heb 4:2).

Then later in Hebrews 4 it says we should ‘labor’ to enter into God’s rest. Recall that Jesus was trying to help

people who were labor and working hard spiritually to enter into his rest.

This is not a contradiction because on earth, being in a state of rest is a difficult goal. Thus we need to ‘labor’ harder to do this than many other things.

Other things are often a lot easier than resting in Jesus’ finished work.

When we get to heaven, rest will be the status-quo. Again, this doesn’t mean to sleep or even take a nap.

‘Rest’ is talking about a state of mind and heart.

And work in heaven, that we already talked about, won’t be ‘back-breaking’ as it is on earth at times with hard labor and long hours. If you remember the stories, there were even ‘chain gangs’ in the American south after the Civil war. They were brutal and crippling and demeaning.

This is not the nature of heaven.

As has been said, there will be work in heaven, but Jesus says, “*My yoke is easy and my burden is light.*” If this was his message on earth, how much more will it be true in heaven?

Remember that everything was made harder when the curse was put in place in Genesis 3.

But Galatians 3 says Jesus became the curse, so when you live in Jesus all things become easier. John says that the words and will of Jesus are not grievous or burdensome like the Old Testament was.

Romans 8:28 talks of even bad things working together for good if you love God.

In heaven, people will feel the honor of God on their shoulders not the burden of work. In John 5:44 Jesus asks why people seek honor from other people and not only the honor that comes from God.

The point is even on earth there can be an honor from God that can be realized and experienced, albeit not for good works of the flesh for which most people want credit. God's honor goes to people honoring him with their trust, and living by believing his gospel truth.

This honor will be more readily displayed in heaven on those who have lived his gospel reality. Especially this is true because so many don't live his gospel.

The gospel produces a least more of a state of rest.

On earth, nothing produces a total state of rest.



The bottom line is that the person someone was on earth will be the person they are in heaven, but they will be without sin and the evil nature so present in each and every person because of sin and the fall of man.

If you have a brother, or a dad or an uncle or a grandmother on earth, you will know them in heaven.

Remember that after his resurrection, Jesus told his disciples, “It is I myself ... in flesh and bones.” This is the same status people will have in heaven.

Lazarus, and Moses and Elijah were actual people, and recognizable as themselves – in the latter case even by disciples who didn’t know them before.

People in heaven won’t just be like a blur – like a spiritual facsimile in the sky that is like a mirage. They will be real people with real ‘flesh and bones’ like Jesus had as reported after the resurrection.

Now it will not be the same ‘flesh and bones’ they had on earth, but it will be a type of flesh and bones. It will be real. It will be touchable.

In closing out this radio program, my purpose is just to encourage you about two things:

✦ First, that death is just a natural part of life. It’s like a door that you walk through and walk into another room. It is nothing to fear. Every single person who ever lived – even Jesus himself – experiences it.

We will talk about this more in the last program.

If you are going to vacate planet earth, just like everyone else does, why not do so in faith and hope that what the gospel says is truth and reliable?

The Bible is the only book in the world that has stood the test of time for centuries and still exists to encourage, edify and exalt folks to a higher calling and destination than anything else available.

✦ Second, that heaven is the door you walk through and spend eternity in, and it’s much like I’ve described. But it is only for believers, and those who say ‘Yes’ to God. It’s for those who say, ‘Lord, I want you in my life, both now on earth and for forever.’

God's eternal heaven is not for those who say 'No.'

Goodnight, folks, and because of what I've shared with you the last few times, I hope to see you all in God's eternal heaven.

It is my home. I want it to be your eternal home too.

Remember, if you are there, Paul says you will judge angels. So you can judge me on how well I've done on this program.

There will be one final program, and in this one I'll talk about how easy it really is to get to heaven, and to experience all that I've been describing.

God has not made it hard. He wants everyone on earth there, although this is not the reality of things. But he does want YOU there, and it's not a huge, Olympics type of challenge to get there.

The Last Talk Show: Life's Earth Journey Equips People to Experience the Reality of Heaven

As he had been doing, the last day of the program, at the appointed time, Dalton stopped at the front desk, introduced himself politely again and asked to see Max.

The lady there of course now knew him well. They smiled and exchanged small talk and she thanked him for stopping to see her and not just materializing in the room with Max as he had done the first time he was at the studio.

Dalton laughed and said he wouldn't do that anymore because he enjoyed talking with her too. She smiled, indicating she liked the compliment.

Then she said, "I can't tell you how much you've helped me in things you've said. Thanks!" Dalton smiled and shook her hand again and said, "I speak blessings to you in all you do."

In the studio, Max and he talked about the show, and Dalton said he wanted to share general comments about

death and heaven, as he had mentioned in the last broadcast. Dalton spoke about how many people carried so much stress about death, but it was just a natural thing and consequence to life on earth.

It was something everyone must experience, so why fear it or downplay it. Everyone was going to evacuate planet earth at some point anyway. It was just the way God created things to be.

Then he said we should minimize the fear of death and not let it control us. It is a natural part of life, and that's why God gives us hope in eternity to ponder the truth of eternity, and minimizing the fear of death.

Without death, life would be 'unfinished business.'

Dalton reinforces the fact that Jesus says his ways are easy, and his burden is light. He does not make things hard. His purpose is to attract people and give them what they can't get anywhere else – not put a burden on them that makes life difficult.

Then, as in other sessions, Dalton begins a message.



Too many people dread death, so it's all they think about, and at the same time heaven is a blur, and not something that is physical, concrete and attainable.

People try to bury thoughts of death deep in them, but then those thoughts never die so they rise from the dead to haunt them.

They don't quite know how to deal with feelings about death because they only relate to it in their flesh and not in the Spirit that God offers.

The hope that is given a believer in Jesus is not just a vague yearning, which is the way hope is often described. Hope is instead a reality promised by God, and we're told, "God is not a man that he can lie." Hope is meant to be something that can be banked on 100%.

This is how heaven is meant to be viewed for the believer in Jesus: it is a 'hope' that is 100% guaranteed. It is not the type of 'hope' that people normally think of that is not absolute — but off in space somewhere.

So how do people really change about what they

think about death, or heaven, or anything else?

They change by trusting God and believing him.



I want to give you insight into God's gospel, and why it is such a blessing in so many ways if you will live it.

In The Parable of the Sower, Jesus speaks of God the Sower, and he is planting his gospel truth into us. The choice folks have is to believe it and receive it, or reject it and discard it. And of course, Jesus says in Mark 1 to only believe his gospel and to forsake all other things that enter into you from anywhere else. If it must be believed, then it is what God the Sower plants into you.

The gospel is what gives you revelation of things of God like nothing else can. You can't learn about them from books, or reason them out with logic. They must be revealed by God, and his gospel is what does it.

It is the gospel that, coming out of the shoot, reveals

God's unconditional love for human beings. This is so hard for people to truly believe because humans think conditionally, not unconditionally.

It is only the gospel that reveals God's love for you — including the fact that God the Father loves you as much as he does Jesus himself as John 17:23 says. The fact is this: If you are IN Jesus, then God loves you as much as Jesus because you and he have become ONE in the spiritual sense.

This is why Jesus says to forsake all other beliefs and to only believe his gospel. You see, when you mix the gospel with anything else you come up with something that is not God's reality in Jesus. Mixing anything else with the gospel is like mixing the blood of animals with the blood of Jesus.

The gospel is the only thing that totally declares God's love for every single human being on earth, and it the most difficult thing for humans to grasp. This is because they mix other things they hear with the gospel and it diminishes God's love in their minds.

The gospel points at God and what he has done. All other religions, theologies, opinions and teachings point the finger more at you than at God. This makes the gospel just a theory to you, and not the reality of God.

Paul compares things between ‘10,000 instructors,’ vs. a very few ‘fathers of the gospel’ in First Corinthians. People have a choice who they listen to and what they choose to believe.

And there are many more preachers who don’t preach the gospel than those who do. It is true that “Children live what they learn.” What you listen to and hear is what you are going to believe. There is no way around it.

If folks know the love of God for them, because they are only focused on the gospel, then their salvation is an absolute thing. But if they don’t just listen to the gospel, then other things are mixed in and they become confused.

They become confused because they wonder how much depends on God and how much depends on them. But in the gospel, everything falls in place so much easier and faster.

Knowing God’s love for you revealed by the gospel, and your absolute salvation because of God’s love, opens the door to all the other revelations of the gospel — of which there are so many. If they don’t know God’s love for them that the gospel so clearly reveals, then they also doubt the salvation he so freely offers. And then they have doubts about so many other things too.

Jesus himself says to only believe and live his gospel. This is the key to every blessing and promise God gives.



Many people live in what might be called ‘the small story of their lives. This is the story that extends from their birth to death. This is the story most people live in, including most Christians.

They may include heaven in this, but it is kind of a blur, and it can’t be for certain if they don’t know God’s unconditional love that results in his absolute salvation for those in Jesus.

But God wants you to graduate into living in ‘his larger story’ that includes eternity in heaven.

To God it’s all one story. It is all-inclusive. To most folks it’s only their own personal smaller story. It’s like they are watching a parade, but can only see the float that is right in front of them. God is trying to raise them up to his perspective to be able to see the whole parade.

So many countless times in the Old Testament, it says something like, “So-and-so raised so many sons and daughters, lived so many years, and then he died.”

Physical death is such a part of life that it’s like a continuum from beginning to end. To fear death is really to avoid reality because it happens to everybody. Some humorist said, “Nobody gets out of life alive. We all have a date with the undertaker.”

This is why the book of James refers to life as a ‘vapor,’ or like a ‘mirage.’ It is so fleeting, although in times of trouble it can seem to be quite long.

In the most general sense, there are four parts of life everyone experiences:

- (1) birth,
- (2) times of happiness and joy,
- (3) times of sorrow, sickness and tragedy, and
- (4) death.

If you only focus on your personal smaller story of life, things get out of whack. You miss the big picture.

I love quoting First Corinthians 2, and I’ve quoted it before, and I quote it every chance I get. Paul says, “*Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the*

heart of man, the things that God has prepared for them who love him. – But God has revealed them unto us by his Spirit.”

The fact is that people are addicted to self, and to what they believe, even if their beliefs are not founded in truth. They are self-focused. The Bible calls it self-righteousness as opposed to God’s gift of being in right standing with him in his Son.

When people live in a state of self-sufficiency, the weight of the world is on their shoulders. Jesus talks of giving people ‘rest.’

But most take responsibility for what they shouldn’t take responsibility for. This includes trying to manage thoughts about death. Most totally fail at this.

The problem is that most people are addicted to self, to things of this world, and to other people. In Romans 1, Paul calls this ‘worshipping the creature, not the Creator.’

Self is a popular idol today. Psychology calls this narcissism. This is defined as, ‘the excessive interest in and admiration of oneself, of one’s physical appearance and one’s thoughts and beliefs.’

This is how God view people who trust and believe themselves and what they think, more than they do him.

I know the Bible says God knows every hair on everyone's head. Knowing God, I can believe that. But I sometimes think God only see two people in the world, even though there are about 7 billion. He sees:

- (1) Those who are in Christ, and
- (2) Those who are not in Christ.

The Bible talks about everyone being equal, and everyone being in unity and oneness in Jesus. So this is not really very out-of-line spiritually.

People are not addicted to God as they should be. Many deny that God even exists. God speaks to those who say he doesn't exist. He says, "*He is a fool who says there is no God.*" This is like Paul calling people 'fools' in Galatians if they don't believe and live his gospel.

It is very hard to have any type of a clear vision of heaven when there were so many theories, theologies and philosophies of man thrown around. Only God, and his word in his Bible can say what heaven truly is.

Most people just tend to wait to see what is going to happen to them when they are close to dying. It's hard to

plan for anyplace you plan to go just before you leave.

The gospel provides the answers to what everyone wants to know, but few know how to access it. Paul says in II Thessalonians 2 that you must receive ‘a love of the truth’ from God to access it.

This is why I just emphasized two things so much: (1) knowing God’s unconditional love for you, and then (2) knowing your total, absolute salvation because of it. This opens the door to every revelation God wants to you to have.

I wish everyone had a love of God’s truth but few do. Then it says in II Timothy 2, if you are not living God truth, you must ask him to give you repentance to be able to acknowledge it and believe it.

God initiates everything, including his love and his salvation. Folks just need to respond to him personally, and say ‘YES’ to him and it is theirs.

Jeremiah 29 says God knows the plans he has for people. But if people don’t step into those plans they are useless. God’s love is what produces faith for today and for the future.

But without living in God's love, faith is only a very relative, humanistic thing. It's focused on the 3-D.

] God made a covenant with the Jews all through the Old Testament, but they refused to live in it and chose other 3-D things of the world. The Old Testament closes in failure with the Jews coming out of captivity, without faith to rebuild all that they had lost.

Then God was silent for 400 years until Jesus. This is the status so many people are in today, not including God in their lives and living in his gospel reality.

God makes a New Covenant with people today. It is so much better than the Old Testament one that there is no real term of comparison. If people live in it, they are even made to be a new creation of person as Paul says in II Corinthians 5.

They are like a new species, and not only human.

When Christians don't see this, and only live in 'self,' then they hit all the pot holes and detours in life. They do not live in confidence. Then they hit the dead-end of death and they don't know what to do.



A phrase has been invented for this: ‘The world of the living dead.’ They are people who are alive physically. Their lungs are pumping air and the heart is flowing blood. But they are dead spiritually.

Even the renown psychologist Sigmund Freud says man is in three-parts and has an id, an ego, and a superego. He probably got this from the Bible that speaks of people having a body, soul and spirit. Perhaps he just changed the terminology.

If one-third of a person is dead, that is a score of 67 out of 100. If 70 is passing, that is failing, even if a person makes 100 on both other parts: the body and the soul. Of course, no one can possibly do make 100 on those.

In the Christian life, the spirit is meant to be center. But in most people the body is center, with their soul contributing to what they think about their body. This is living life ‘basackwards.’ You can’t make a homerun if you run the bases in reverse.

The New Testament calls this living in the flesh. There

is nothing at all wrong with flesh. Every person on earth has some – some more than others.

Flesh is only wrong when people try to make flesh the meaning for their existence.



Many human have a fantasy that cannot ever be fulfilled. They want to be like God. This was the original sin in the Garden of Eden. It was devised for the flesh. Satan, disguised as a snake in the Garden told Eve: “You shall be like God if you eat the fruit of the forbidden tree.”

Adam and Eve only had one rule to keep and they wouldn't even keep that one rule. That's why God took the rules of the Old Covenant away and substituted them with the grace of the New Covenant.

But some people fear grace more than they fear law.

The story of the Garden of Eden shows that walking

away from God is spiritual death. The New Testament says that this brings the destination called hell, which is separation from God for all eternity. If you avoid God on earth why would you want to live with him forever?

Most folks are content with living a bios life, which is the human life. Most won't consider the Zoe life of God. People don't have a choice living a bios life. They are born into it and die because of it. But it does take a choice to live the Zoe life of God that flows into eternity.

When a person makes a choice for God they enter into what the Bible calls a 'new dispensation.' It's like a new paradigm where earth and heaven become merged.

Living God's Zoe life, he gives a preview of heaven which we have been talking about on the prior three talk shows. But until you enter into God's life, you can't really visualize all that he is talking about. Once you do, things become much more clear.

In John 17:3, Jesus defines eternal life as knowing God the Father and his Son Jesus. See this fact: eternal life doesn't begin in the future. It begins right now when you say 'YES' to God.

Without the gospel truth of God, people don't know

there is anything higher to reach for.

Too many people are led into being prone to simply look into anything they think is spiritual. Even Christians listen to any preacher who seem credible and confident — or as Paul says, they ‘tickle their ears.’ What they find is usually not God. When they do, it leads to deception, to darkness, and even to demonic influence.

This is buying into ‘SELF,’ as we talked about. If you buy into the lie of self, it sets you on a course of climbing a ladder you can’t ever come close to reaching the top of. It gets you running a never-ending treadmill.

Climbing this ladder you can never see heaven. This is what people were trying to do at the Tower of Babel in Genesis. Philosopher Hegel said, “The truth is that man learns nothing from history.”

A good analogy is to choose to get out of Adam’s boat and into Jesus’ boat. In Jesus’ boat, there are some who live life great, some only so-so, and others live it poorly. But they are all in Jesus’ boat. And in Jesus’ boat, he has the ability to influence on a deeper level.

God is a God of grace. He wants everyone to choose him and to be on his team. Once someone’s on God’s

team, he knows he has a greater chance to show them better and greater things in life.

God is a great Coach to people on his team. We've all heard the expression, "God is good." But you don't really see how good of a coach he is until you're on his team.

Left to human capabilities only is one of the culprits of so many suicides today. People reach a dead-end and don't know what to do next so they quit life.

What is called mid-life crisis speaks to trying to answer the question, "Why am I here?" College kids take Psychology 101 to find the answer to this question. But Psychology 101 can't and does not answer this question. Only God can answer it, but you must relate to him, listen to him and respond to him to get an answer.

But people must come to the point of realizing that they need more than they think they have. The phrase says, 'There are only so many toys you can accumulate.'

There is a void inside of everyone that needs to be filled. The problem is people don't know what the void is or how to fill it.

There are some things only God can supply. If folks

exclude him from their lives, they die with so many unanswered questions. And they die in these questions.

When folks try to live life in their flesh, and in their own steam and power, and never come to know God's love for them, it's like slapping God in the face.

God gives so much. Paul says in Romans 8 that God withholds nothing from human beings who respond to him, and he shows it by the death of his Son on the cross. His Son? Yes! But if you believe Jesus and his Father are one, then it was God himself who died for man. That is the ultimate giving of God.

People tend to think about heaven being judgment.

But it's not really judgment in the strictest sense if you know God. I John 4:17 says have confidence and boldness in 'the day of judgment' if we know Jesus.

People think they'll be judged for sin. And everyone knows they have sin in them. I'm here to say everyone will die with sin in them. This is the reason Paul says in II Corinthians 5 that Jesus became sin for people.

But he only becomes sin for those who choose him.

Hebrews 9:26 says that Jesus came to do away with

sin for the believer by the sacrifice of himself. Hebrews 8 and 10 says God not only forgives sin, but he chooses not to even remember the sins of believers.

How can God judge what he chooses to forget?

The only sin that is too much for God to forgive and forget is the choice human beings make by saying, “No, God, I don’t want your free gift of eternal life. I prefer to live life in my flesh, and in self, alone without you.”



Now, if you will indulge me for a few minutes, I’d like to close this with some general thoughts about God and his existence — and on the other side of the coin what many people think about his non-existence.

The Bible begins by simply stating, “God created the heavens and the earth.” But many people won’t accept it.

There are arguments among the general public that God just doesn’t exist. God is just a figment of human

imagination and desire. But could this really be true? Let's just look at a few facts that might disprove this philosophical, humanistic thinking.

Many modern thinkers claim that everything we have on earth and in the heavens just happened by accident. They can't explain it, but say it 'just happened.'

Others do try to come up with what happened. They say it was the result of a big explosion that occurred millions of years ago. It's called 'the big bang.' They say that this big explosion just put all the millions of planets and stars into orbit and they just exist supernaturally — because they can't explain what happened.

This is often given the title, 'the notion of singularity.' It was this big singular explosion that caused the existence of all things from nothing. They don't even have any idea how this big explosion happened.

There is a common theory among mankind that has existed for such a long time that no one knows how many centuries back it came into being. This is called the theory of 'cause and effect.'

This says that the 'effect' of anything at all must come from something that caused it. Things just don't happen

for no reason at all. It doesn't just happen randomly. This theory has been voiced for longer than anyone knows, and it is just natural human thinking and reasoning.

Yet those who doubt God created the heavens and the earth simply discard this and say, 'it just happened.'

Most of them do admit that what happened in the heavens and the earth didn't just 'happen' by natural causes — but by supernatural causes. Then most of them revert back to 'the big bang explosion.' But still it goes back to some type of cause and effect.

But they still can't explain two things:

- (1) The existence of the universe including the earth,
- (2) The orderly operation and syncing of the universe.

Everything in existence that just 'happened,' is then compounded by how orderly everything is in the universe that has existed — so they claim — for millions of years. It just all happens by chance they say.

These anti-God thinkers don't believe in God, but they do believe things somehow happened miraculously and supernaturally. Even though they discount God, they do adopt the 'cause and effect' thinking that something big did happen that they just can't explain.

And neither do they have any idea of how the universe can still be expanding outwardly. Yet scientists agree that it still is. They just fall back on the big bang explosion that supposedly just happened millions of years ago.

There have been books written by scientists and other human thinkers that come to the same conclusion: “I just don’t have enough faith to be an atheist.”

The amount of faith it takes to believe what some people say about things just ‘happening’ is astronomical. It defies any type of logic or thinking or reasoning.

Just look at the beauty and uniqueness of the earth. There is so much variety that books can’t even describe all of the variety of things on the earth. I won’t even try to comment on all of this, but things are so diverse it is simply unimaginable.

There are so many types of animals in different parts of the world they can’t all be labeled properly at times.

And what about all the different types of birds with different types of wings and feet and beaks? And birds even lay eggs. There are more flowers and wildflowers than can be counted, and combine this with the different

types of trees. There are somewhere around 50 different types of evergreen trees alone.

And don't think of insects and flies and mosquitoes and other types of things most people don't like.

And what about the difference between fish in the ocean and fresh water fish that couldn't survive in the ocean? I'll stop here, but I could keep going on.

And just think about the human body for a moment. There are so many different types and colors and sizes that it's unexplainable. Just the cells in the body keep generating new ones every year. The heart beats and the lungs breathe all on their own.

Even fingerprints and DNA are all different. And there are so many different languages that they are hard to even count accurately.

The fact is that creation demands a creator of some sort. The competition is between a big bang and God. Every blueprint must have some sort of designer. And any construction must come from a vision and a plan.

There is a huge agreement, at least among developed and thinking nations that almost universally agree on ethics and morals that must exist for things to be proper.

There is of course some disagreement on this, but not very much among most nations. How did all of this effect just 'happen' without some type of cause?

Again, there are so many things that just cannot be explained in any way, without including God in the mix. *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”*

I'll say it again, even most of those who do not believe in God do agree that something supernatural had to have happened, and it couldn't just be a big explosion. The fact is that explosions don't create, but rather destroy. They especially don't create things in the orderly fashion that the universe is created in.

Even when thinkers question the existence of God, they come to the following conclusion: “I just don't have enough faith to be an atheist.”

It takes a lot more faith to believe in the 'nothingness' that some people believe in than it does to believe in a God who created the heavens and the earth.



Max has sat quietly listening to Dalton's statements with fascination. Max just looks at him, shaking his head like he is almost dumbfounded.

Max says, "Boy that was a real mouthful. I've been taking notes as fast as I can and I think I missed about half of it."

"I'm glad these sessions are recorded. I've never heard things put this way before."

Dalton says, "Max, as I said, Jesus says his way is easy and his burden is light."

"The gospel says the ways of Jesus are not a burden or grievous. He makes things as easy and as simple as he possibly can so that anyone who wants to can enter in and live in eternity with him."

"But God does require our belief in him to enter in. God doesn't require very much from human beings, but he does require belief."

"And he has to make that belief pretty simple and

easy. If he didn't, there would be some people who would not be able to grasp it and enter in.”

Max said, “Yea, I was one of those, but now I'm not. I never had such a heart of belief before, and I want to thank you for the gift you have given me.”



If this has had a positive impact on your heart,
please share it with others.

Just go to my bookshelf here and click on
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If you have comments or questions,
I will do my best to answer them, time permitting:
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