

PICTURES OF HEAVEN

“The modern philosopher had told me again and again that I was in the right place and I still felt depressed. When I heard I was in the wrong place my soul sang for joy. I knew now why I could feel homesick at home.” G.K. Chesterton

I did not see a temple in it, because the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, because the glory of God illuminates it, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never close by day because it will never be night there. They will bring the glory and honor of the nations into it. Nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those written in the Lamb’s book of life. (Revelation 21:22-27)

God’s presence is enjoyed.

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“Whatever else in the Bible catches your eye, do not let it distract you from Him.” J.I. Packer

The nations are gathered.

The nations will walk by its light... (Revelation 21:24)

When he took the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and golden bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song: You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slaughtered, and you purchased people for God by your blood from every tribe and language and people and nation. You made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they will reign on the earth. (Revelation 5:8-10)

The curse is reversed.

Its gates will never close by day because it will never be night there...Nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false... (Revelation 21:25, 27)

Our bodies are glorified.

There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is different from that of the earthly ones. There is a splendor of the sun, another of the moon, and another of the stars; in fact, one star differs from another star in splendor. So it is with the resurrection of the dead: Sown in corruption, raised in incorruption; sown in dishonor, raised in glory; sown in weakness, raised in power... (1 Corinthians 15:40-43)

*“Somewhere in my broken, paralyzed body is the seed of what I will become. The paralysis makes what I am to become all the more grand when you contrast atrophied, useless legs against splendorous resurrected legs. I’m convinced that if there are mirrors in heaven (and why not?), the image I’ll see will be unmistakably Joni, although a much better, brighter Joni.”
Joni Eareckson Tada*

Reflection Question:

How does the reality of heaven impact how you live today?

Scripture from the CSB unless noted.