

# Glimpses of the Glory Land

by Reginald Wallis

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HEAVEN! Who of the sons of men can conceive its blessedness? Heaven is GLORY. That can be articulated, but it cannot be interpreted. Heaven must be *experienced* in the school of heart education. It cannot be explored or explained. Theological exegesis disappoints the heart. Only as the believer lives experimentally with the Risen Lord in the "Heavenly Places" can he be instructed in the reality of Heaven. Even then, the saintliest child of God will surely be lost in wonder, love and praise before the dazzling glory, the effulgent brightness and the radiant beauty of the Heavenly Jerusalem. "Not half of that City's bright glory, to mortals has ever been told."

A dear old negro saint was once asked what he would do if, on arrival at the place he thought was Heaven, he was informed that the Gospel story was a myth, Heaven was not a reality, and that he had been deceived. "Well" said the old warrior, "I'll just say dat I had a *good time getting here, anyway.*"

## 1. What does the Holy Spirit Mean by Heaven?

Divine revelation as to the Gloryland is limited (1 John 3.2). DR. CHALMERS wisely urges, however, that "while we attempt not to be wise above that which is written, we should attempt, and that most studiously, to be wise *up to that which* is written."

PAUL and JOHN, of course, could give us first-hand information on the subject. If beloved Paul were asked with what authority he spoke of the future Home of the ransomed, he might say, "Ah, I have had a glimpse of it for myself. My first vision was on the Damascus road. I was blinded by a Heavenly radiance above the brightness of the sun. Then again, I was actually *in Heaven* for a never to be forgotten experience (2 Cor. 12.2-4). Its glory beggars all description. It is 'unutterable.' I can only say it is 'very far better' than the loftiest experience of Heavenly glory here below."

And the Apostle whom Jesus loved might well add, "Yes, and for me too a door was opened in Heaven, and I saw the Lord *Himself*. That was all. HE was Heaven. I fell at His feet as one dead!" Yes, that is it; whether here in spirit, or there in actuality, a vision of the Lord Jesus is the only unveiling of Heaven.

"Where Jesus is, 'tis Heaven there."

The Fulness of HEAVEN is JESUS HIMSELF.  
The duration of HEAVEN is the ETERNITY OF JESUS.  
The Light of HEAVEN IS THE FACE OF JESUS.  
The Joy of HEAVEN IS the PRESENCE OF JESUS.  
The Melody of HEAVEN is the NAME OF JESUS.  
The Harmony of HEAVEN is the PRAISE OF JESUS.  
The Theme of HEAVEN is the WORK OF JESUS.  
The Employment of HEAVEN is the SERVICE OF JESUS.

Note, firstly, then, that

### **I. The Word Teaches that Heaven is:**

**1. A Kingdom** (Matt. 18.23). It is a region where the unrivalled supremacy of the King of kings is acknowledged. It is, therefore perfect in its constitution, just and merciful in its laws, and immaculate in its administration. Praise God. What a contrast to the corruption of earthly politics!

**2. An Abiding City** (Heb. 13.14; Rev. 21.21). It is unshakeable in its foundations, and never hoary with the years. It is glorious in its architecture, and its construction (Heb. 11.10). It is the City of the Living God (Heb. 12.22). It glories in having "Jesus for its King, angels for its guards, and saints for its citizens. " Its walls are Salvation and its gates Praise.

**3. A Reserved Inheritance** (Col. 1.12). As such it is retained inviolate for *all* who are "meet to be partakers." Unlike an earthly heritage, it can never be forfeited or withdrawn.

**4. The Believers' Home** (John 14.2). What tender, beautiful memories cluster round the word "*home*." It cannot be described in terms of material things. The words "house" and "mansion" leave the heart cold, but the mention of *home* quickens the pulse and warms the spirit. Heaven is a glorious climax, a goal of desire, the consummate joy and rest of the pilgrims.

**5. A Sabbath Rest** (Heb. 4.9, R.V.). It will not be the rest of passivity or idleness, as we shall see later. Conflict with the flesh and the Devil will be over for ever, and all antagonistic elements will be eliminated. This is the heritage of the "People of God. "

**6. A Land of Pure Delight** (Rev. 7.16,17). The happy voices of children will be heard in its streets, for "of such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Supreme happiness will reign there. The Heavenly courts will resound with Divine melody, and no croaking voices or jarring discords shall ever mar the eternal harmony. The saints shall not rest day or night in

their glad ascription of worship to the enthroned and victorious Lamb. They shall be crowned with everlasting joy and gladness.

"When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, We'll have no less time to sing His praise than when we first begun."

**HALLELUIAH!**

Oh, beloved children of God, let us get our hearts into tune here and now. Let not the harp be hung upon the drooping willow tree. Let not the Adversary apply the soft pedal, or silence the "Hallelujahs." Let us often sing of the glories of Heaven on the way there.

There shall be no more sorrow or sighing, clouds of shadows. Gloom will give place to glory, and the sigh to a song. There will be no more mourning over wayward loved ones, and no hearts that bleed with crushing grief and anguish. There will be no tears there; no sickness and no pain ; no heart-breaking farewells at the sick-beds of loved ones; no heavy-footed trudge to the mournful graveside. The last great enemy, DEATH, will be for ever vanquished. No sin shall mar the splendour of that beautiful land. No unclean or abominable thing shall ever enter in, or anything false or deceptive. There will be no dens of iniquity, no saloons, no filth and no shame. All the dread effects of the Fall shall be for ever banished. Consider, secondly:

## **II. What Kind of People will be There?**

**1. The Redeemed shall walk there.** Not respectable religionists, but deep-dyed sinners who have been redeemed by the precious blood of Christ. An old Negro Spiritual says, "Everybody talkin' 'bout Heaven ain't goin' dar." True! John Newton exclaims, "If ever I reach Heaven I expect to find three wonders there. First, to meet some one I had never thought to see there; second, to meet someone whom I had expected to miss there; but third, the greatest wonder of all will be to find myself there."

**2. All the inhabitants of Heaven will enjoy tri-partite perfection.** (1) **PHYSICALLY** (1 John 3.1-2). On earth the believer is a redeemed spirit living in an untransformed body. Then, he shall be clothed upon with a radiant resurrection body. No dread diseases, or lingering sicknesses will hamper the body or herald the icy Hand of Death. The saints shall be "Glorified together with Him." (2) **MENTALLY**. There will be no mental deficiency in Heaven. Here on earth the human mind, even the sanest and wisest, has become aberrant, in greater or lesser degree, because of sin. Then shall the perfect mind of Christ be fully realised in His loved ones. (3) **SPIRITUALLY**. The Church will rejoice in an unblemished glory (Eph. 5.27). The glorious Head shall find in her no

cause for reproof (1 Cor. 1.8). His Body shall not only be blameless, but faultless (Jude 24). A perfect Love will be manifested by all (1 John 4.18), and there will be unquestioned obedience and loyalty (Rev. 7.15). Let us next consider:

### **III. What will be the Superlative Blessings of Heaven?**

I suggest two: Firstly, and paramountly, **the unspeakable joy of seeing and being with Christ** (1 Cor. 13.12; Phil. 1.23). To actually see the King in His beauty, face to face, will eclipse all other Heavenly glory, however magnificent. Faith shall be turned into sight, and one unveiled look into His wonderful face will reveal the full "knowledge of the glory of God." This will be all the Heaven we want, and certainly all we need.

LUTHER said he would rather be in Hell with God's presence, than in Heaven without it.

Secondly, **the Re-Union of Loved Ones**. Shall we recognise our loved ones in Heaven? Shall I know my devoted mother to whose prayers I owe everything? It cannot conceivably be otherwise. Old Testament saints are spoken of, in death, as going to "their own people." Luke 13.28 also implies clearly the recognition of loved ones in the Better Land. The deeply-implanted longing in the human heart to be with, and to love, dear ones is surely God-given, and will not be disappointed up there. Further:

### **IV. How shall the Saints be Employed in Heaven?**

They will be busily active, though it will not be the little boy's conception of "sitting on clouds and playing harps." It will be a scene of unhindered activity and glorious service. Nor is this incompatible with the idea of true rest. Rest is not idleness. Inertia is of the earth, earthy. It tends to weariness. In Heaven, great minds of earth will continue their deep meditations, freed from human limitations and distractions. Indefatigable workers will pursue their ceaseless engagements, yet with feet unclogged by the cumbersome clay of earth. What happy conversations there will be, also, as the saints rehearse the great things the Lord has done for and with them.

There will be no carnal gossip in Heaven. Every conversation will be Christ-exalting. Would God that we might now seek to follow the pattern of the Heavens! All ecclesiastical and doctrinal wranglings will cease. There will be no more controversy about Election and Freewill, Pre- or Post-Tribulation theories, and the 1001 other points of dispute which the Devil uses to separate the people of God to-day. There will be no denominational arguments, either! It will be a holy convocation of the Redeemed throng who come from the east and the west, the north

and the south, to sit down in the Kingdom. What a fellowship! And as we look back over the vicissitudes of the earthly pilgrimage, how we'll bless the Hand that guided and the Heart that planned! Lastly:

## **V. What is the Practical Relation between Present Grace and Future Glory?**

It should ever be remembered that as the Lord Jesus is preparing Heaven for the saints (Matt. 25.34; John 14.1-2), so the Holy Spirit is now *preparing the saints for Heaven*. Of course, it is recognised that all who have been justified will certainly be glorified (Rom. 8.30). "Our title to glory we read in His Blood." In these days of coldness and departure, however, a further truth needs to be emphasised. There will doubtless be degrees of Glory in Heaven among the saints, *depending entirely upon the cultivation of Christlikeness on earth and the measure of Grace here below* (1 Cor. 15.41-42). Whilst all believers will be *Constitutionally* like Christ, and perfectly happy according to their capacity, yet these *capacities* will vary there as they do here. "Degrees of glory hereafter in Heaven will depend upon degrees of Grace here on earth. " This is a vitally important *subjective* verity. Whilst salvation is truly all of Grace, let us not presume upon such Grace, or entertain a carnal conception of the sovereignty of God. In a very real sense every believer is the maker of his own destiny, not only as to his eternal destiny through justifying faith, but as to the grade of Glory he will possess in the Heavenly realm. The manifested glory of that blessed time will be the outer radiance of the inner life of Christ (Col. 3.4). Here upon earth, the urge of the Holy Spirit among the saints is for a *progressive translation* into His image, from glory to glory, unto the perfect Day (2 Cor. 3.18; Dan. 12.3). Positions of future Kingdom authority and degrees of glory are determined here on earth (Matt. 25.20-23; Luke 19.12-13).

This is verily an arresting and yet inspiring thought. May the very Spirit of Heaven be infused into our hearts these days, that the dear Lord may find in His people that upon which He has set His heart. Earthly faithfulness is never detached from Heavenly reward in glory, and He is "not unmindful to forget..." We shall be *there* in spirit, what we are here.

Whose, then, is the Kingdom of HEAVEN? It belongs to the "pure in heart," and to those who suffer for righteousness' sake (Matt. 5.10). The Heavenly treasure is being laid up now (Matt. 6.20; 19.21), and vessels of mercy must be "*prepared* unto glory." To share His eternal glory in Heaven, there must ever be the willingness to take the same pathway as He took. That is the way of the Cross. "Let this mind be in you..."

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