

HEAVENBOUND!

Ps. 48:1 Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness. 2 Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King.

What a year this is going to be! We have heard already, - and we'll be hearing increasingly more onwards from tomorrow, - all types of predictions of what is going to happen post-Brexit, after 11pm on 29th March. For some it is all doom and gloom, while for others it will be freedom and opportunity. ... What does 2019 *really* hold for us? ... Jim Reeves used to sing,

This world is not my home, I'm just a passing through,
My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue.

Imagine investing in the 'treasures' of this world. Imagine if you had enough money to buy everything and anything you want, would it make you happy? Would it be enough, or would there come a time when you would want more? ... Of course, there would.

It is good to work hard and achieve what you set your mind upon, but no matter how much you gain, you cannot take it with you. And therefore, it is foolish to put your hope in something you will someday leave behind. Indeed, Jesus told the story about a hard-working and successful farmer (Lk. 12:16-20) who gathered in such a bumper harvest he had to pull down his old barns and build new ones to contain all the crops. He had worked hard, tilled the soil, sown the seeds, nurtured the grain ... He spent his time in doing nothing else, except following his own aspirations to be successful. However, he had no thought of God. He neither gave thanks to God for his health and strength, for his farm and its produce ... God *never* came into his reckoning, - it was all about what *he* had done, and about what *he* had achieved. And one evening he said to himself, **Lk. 12:19** *I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. ... No thought of God, and no thought of eternity ... his destination after this life.*

Then, unannounced and uninvited, **20** *But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? ... All you have in your fields and in your barns and in your bank account, you will not take with you ... and the next verse says, 21* *So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God. ... There is another hymn which says,*

Take the world, but give me Jesus,
All its joys are but a name;
But His love abideth ever,

Through eternal years the same.

And the last verse says,

Take the world, but give me Jesus;
 In His cross my trust shall be,
 Til, with clearer, brighter vision,
 Face to face my Lord I see.

No matter what you have or haven't in this life, are you looking forward to seeing the Lord Jesus Christ? Everything of this world will fade away ... For those who have made no preparation, it will be a fearsome time, but for those who know Him as Saviour and Lord, He will welcome them into His presence forever.

Here is just a little taste of what this 'Glory land' offers ... what awaits every child of God in Heaven.

God is eternal, and He created Heaven. It is a place our finite minds cannot fully comprehend. No one can send us back pictures or reports, but Heaven is God's perfect dwelling-place. ... He did not always live in Heaven because Heaven is a part of His creation, created before this world.

... Where did God live before He created Heaven? The answer is ... God's own presence was His eternal residence. He was complete in Himself. He is *omnipresent*, - everywhere, - and no single place can contain His whole essence. As the Scripture explains, [Joshua 2:11](#) He is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath ... [Ps. 139:7](#) whither shall I flee from thy presence? ⁸ If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. ... there is no place He is not.

When God brings us home to Heaven, - where we shall be with Him forever, - we shall be changed and transformed into His perfect image. The earthly constraints and imperfections holding us back just now will be removed and God will change us into how He always intended us to be, - ... here is how that was, [Gen. 1:27](#) God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. ... And John reinforces the point, [I Jn. 3:2](#) we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

And that also means we shall be more ourselves, because we shall be as He originally *intended* us to be, before sin entered. We shall have no distractions, and all our attention in Heaven will be on Him, as He had designed for our first parents in the Garden of Eden. Forever we shall be [present with the Lord \(II Cor. 5:8\)](#) ... and only then we shall be as He originally appointed.

That is because Heaven is the place of holiness ... The righteousness and holiness of God is the required standard for every subject of Heaven ... and when He calls us He will fittingly clothe us in His holy holiness for the Bible says, we shall be as holy as He is! (1 Pet. 1:16 Be ye holy; for I am holy) ... That will be the Heavenly completion of His work!

There will be nothing in us even remotely associated with sin for there is *no sin* in Heaven, Rev. 21:27 there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth. There is no man-made religion, or selfishness, or attempts to make ourselves respectable because we are saved, as Paul wrote, Eph. 1:6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

On that day when God calls you to meet Him, you need not come expecting religion or good morals or anything which starts with you to save you, because Jesus tells about a company who will plead with Him ... they will be standing in front of Him *shaking* with fear, with tears streaming down their faces, Mt. 7:22 Many will say to [the Lord Jesus] in that day, ... Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? ... and ... done many wonderful works? ... But He has already explained, 21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. ... There will be nobody in Heaven on their own merits, but on the merits of Christ alone ... Every citizen is there because of God's free and sovereign grace applied to the sinner through the work of Christ on the cross.

Heaven is also the place of security ... where no enemy can gain admittance, - you will never be ejected from Heaven, neither will you wander out of it, and yet ... Rev. 21:25 the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day. You will never get 'fed up' with it and want to be somewhere else for the psalmist explains, Ps. 33:21 For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name.

It is a place of absolute peace, safety and tranquillity ... completely without danger. It is secure in the fullest knowledge of God and its foundation is immovable. When we look up into the sky, into space, ... we realise how small a speck our little planet is ... and yet it was to here God sent His Son to prepare a people to take unto Himself ... What a place Heaven must be! ... Even all the stars and the moon and the sun will have gone for there is no need for them in Heaven, Rev. 21:23 for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. 24 And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it.

It is secure because it has God as its Ruler, the One Col. 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son. ...

It has a royal garden of unequalled attraction (Rev. 22) ... and it has the great home of the Father, which He shares with all His redeemed, **Jn. 14:2** In my Father's house are many mansions ... **3** I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

Heaven is a place of outstanding beauty. ... In the Old Testament, Moses, and the Hebrew dignitaries **Ex. 24:10** saw the God of Israel: and there was under his feet as it were a paved work of a sapphire stone, and as it were the body of heaven in his clearness. ... Daniel saw it also, **Dan. 7:9** I beheld ... and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. **10** A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him.

There will be no hatred in Heaven, - no bitterness, no malice, - ... no jealousies or nastiness or rivalry. ... It is the place of perfect harmony. There is no loneliness there ... not even among that **Rev. 7:9** great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongue ... Despite the multitude being so great Heaven won't be overcrowded. God has designed for His people to be as one ... and He will be able to see where each of His children are. Created for God's glory, it meets the needs of His people throughout eternity.

And yes, there will be no strangers ... no outsiders, no visitors, no immigrants, and no unknowns for everyone will know everyone and the songs we sing will all be in harmony! ... Our eyes will be dancing as we look upon our Saviour, - we shall never become tired of looking ... and no earthly description can adequately convey the bliss of gazing upon the face of Jesus! We shall be with those we knew on earth and we shall have greater Heavenly harmony than at any time previous ... the same perfect love for every subject of Heaven ... even those we never met on earth.

And the language of Heaven will be understood perfectly by all ... The activity in Heaven, the wonder of Heaven will all be couched in the Heavenly glory emanating from out of the Throne. ... Yes, all eyes will be on the Triune God, - the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and we shall enjoy the deepest and most unfathomable fellowship with Him forever. There will never be a time when we shall want for anything for He shall supply all our needs according to His great riches in Glory (Phil. 4:19).

Will all this *really* happen? It is in God's Word, and it's God's promise so it *will* happen because He said it! ... Is it wrong to think about Heaven? ... No, not at all, for if you were planning to move to the other side of the world, you would

be making preparation. It is a great task moving to another country ... but this is a greater journey we are considering, so as the writer to the Hebrews counsels, **Heb. 4:11** *Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest*

Richard Baxter wrote, “There is nothing but Heaven worth setting our minds upon” ... Heaven is ahead of every believer, so keep ploughing onwards, **Phil. 1:6** *Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ ... Don’t be way-led by any of this world’s distractions, but “keep right on to the end of the road” which will take you into the presence of the Lord forever.*

And yes, be assured of this, you’re not doing it on your own for the Holy Spirit is preparing you, - believer, - for Heaven, just as the Lord Jesus is preparing Heaven for us ... Yes, it can be tough ... it is not all ‘sunshine and roses’ ... but keep going on for that is how He told us to be looking forward to Glory, **Mt. 6:33** *seek ye first the kingdom of God ... and it is bound to be that when we are seeking the final Kingdom we are also thinking about it! Heaven is our eternal inheritance, - the prepared place for God’s prepared people.*

There’s a light upon the mountains,
and the day is at the spring,
When our eyes shall see the beauty
and the glory of the King;
Weary was our heart with waiting, and
the night-watch seemed so long,
But His triumph-day is breaking, and
we hail it with a song.