

# What It's Like!

## Heaven, Part 1

☑ **Target:** *Anticipate our heavenly future!*

### Key Verses

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

*Revelation 21:2—Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of Heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*

### Suggested Bible Reading

- ☐ Heaven and Resurrection: 1 Corinthians 15; Revelation 21–22
- ☐ God's reign in our hearts and on earth: Psalm 84; 93; 97; 99

### Other Recommended Reading

- ☐ *Glimpses of Heaven* (Aurora publication)

### Prayer and Praise: "Thank You for Your Love, Jesus!"

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Thank You for Your love, Jesus. Thank You for taking me as I am and loving me in spite of all my many weaknesses. Thank You for leaving Your Father and Your Heavenly Home and coming down to Earth to be a sample of love for us. Thank You for dying for me that I may live with You forever.

I thank You, Jesus, that I'm able to travel the road of life with You as my constant Companion. I thank You for revealing to me our ultimate destination, Your Heavenly Kingdom. Thank You for the Heavenly Kingdom that You have prepared for Your children, a place of such beauty and happiness!

Thank You, Jesus, that Your love, mercy and patience with me is not the same as mine is for others. Your love cannot be measured. Your mercy is higher than the heavens. Your patience is deeper than the deepest sea. Your understanding of my problems and cares gives me comfort and faith. I love You! I praise You! I honor and extol You!

### Meditation: Why Moses "Forsook Egypt"

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When you think about Heaven it helps you to bear some of the things you have to go through now. This is one reason that Moses accomplished what he did, because he "looked to the reward, as seeing Him Who is invisible."

*Hebrews 11:24–27—By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, (25) choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, (26) esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. (27) By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.*

He looked past all the troubles he had in Egypt, and he saw the Lord and his reward in the future! He could put up with the present by foreseeing the future. Seeing Heaven helped him endure all that he had to go through here on earth.

He could have been Pharaoh, the king of Egypt! Yet when he looked over Egypt and all of its temporal riches and power and glory, he then looked beyond all that to the World beyond, and “looked to the reward.”—He esteemed the reproach of Christ greater than all the riches of all Egypt, the most powerful nation on earth, the richest nation in the world in that day, of which he could have had the most powerful position as its king. He looked beyond this earthly veil, this earthly level, and looked for an eternal Heavenly City whose Builder and Maker is God!

## **Getting to Know the Bible: The Letters of Paul (Part 2)**

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Part of Paul’s ministry was the writing of letters or “epistles.” (See “Bible Knowledge, Part 1” for a summary of the 14 Letters of which he was the author.)

Much of Paul’s writing was dedicated to explaining salvation by grace through God’s love. Some of his letters read as rather long legal theological discourses, as he’s trying to help the intellectual to understand. Paul was a lawyer and he was trying to interpret the Gospel for the sake of brilliant minds and legalists like himself. He does a very good job of it, but as a consequence, many of his writings are quite difficult to understand and follow.

Besides the basic theological teachings contained in his writings, some of what he wrote was applicable for his time and his day, but doesn’t necessarily bind us today.

For instance, what he said about women not speaking in the church was perhaps in deference to the Jewish society in which he had been raised where women did not hold any positions of public leadership. However, this was actually contradictory to what the Holy Ghost said through the mouth of Peter in the second Chapter of Acts (Acts 2:17–18). How are women going to keep silence in the church if they are going to prophesy, or how are they going to prophesy if they are going to keep silence in the church? Paul himself recognized that not everything he spoke was from the Lord, but was just his own reasoning: “...To the rest I, not the Lord, say.” (1 Corinthians 7:12)