

LAMPLIGHTER

"Prophesies of a lamp shining in the darkness." - Isaiah 60:1-19

Vol. XXVII

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No. 1



The Meaning of Heaven



Observations by the Editor

Clinging to Earth

The Bible says that those of us who have been Redeemed in the Lord Jesus Christ are to consider ourselves as "aliens" in this world (Hebrews 11:9). We are to remember that we are "strangers and exiles" who are passing through this earth to a better world (Hebrews 11:13).

We are therefore commanded never to get comfortable with this world. The Apostle John put it this way: "Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (1 John 2:15). Likewise Paul wrote, "Do not be conformed to this world" (Romans 12:2). Instead, he urged each of us to "set your mind on things above" (Colossians 3:2).

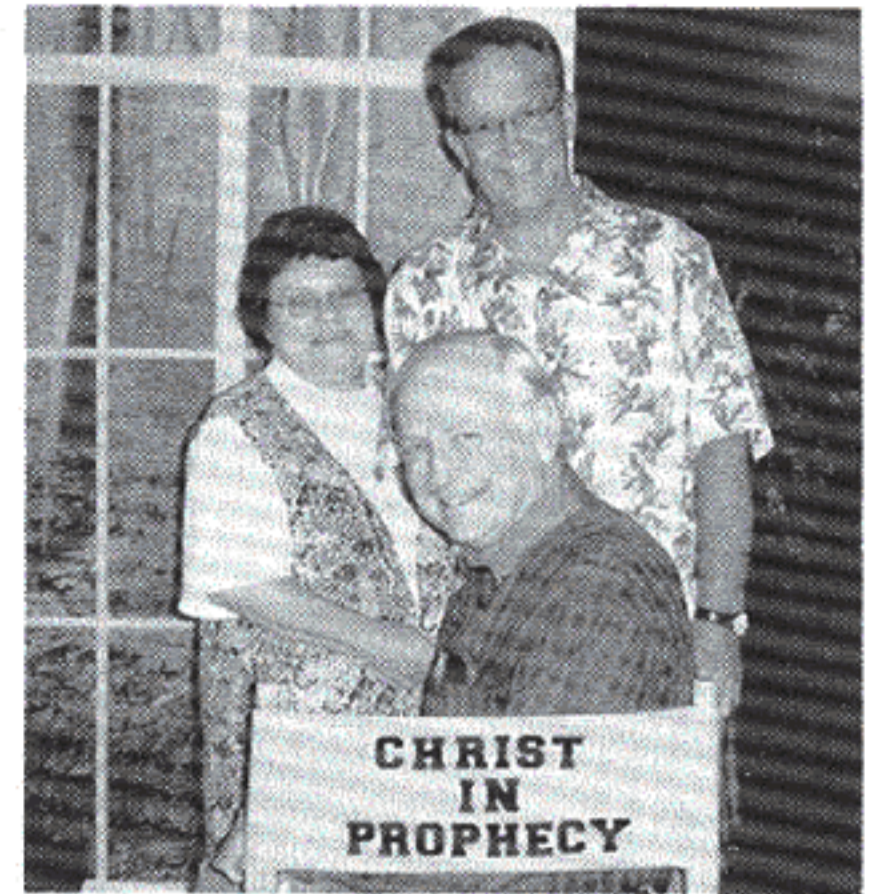
But despite these admonitions, most Christians seem to end up clinging to this world as if it is all we are promised. I'm convinced that the reason for this is that most of us know so little about the Eternal State. And that, in turn, is due to the fact that Bible prophecy is so sorely ignored by most pastors in their teaching and preaching.

The result is that the average person in the pew has no concept whatsoever of the nature of the life that God has promised them in the future. And ignorance leads to apathy. How can you get excited about something you know nothing about?

Yet Paul told us to get excited about the future. He wrote: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, nor has the mind of man conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him" (1 Corinthians 2:9). And in the very next verse, he says those things have been revealed to us by God's Spirit.

Yes, the Scriptures are full of information about what happens when you die. They also contain a lot of detail about the nature and meaning of the Millennium. They do not contain as much detail about the Eternal State, but they reveal enough for us to get a very definite feel for what it will be like.

I hope this issue of our magazine will spark your interest in studying Heaven in detail.



Dave Reagan is shown above with Jack & Sally Hollingsworth of Acts 29 Ministries.

End Time Themes

Over the past several months we have been focusing each issue of this magazine on a major end time theme.

We began a year ago with an entire issue devoted to an in-depth study of the Rapture. Then we took a look at the meaning and purpose of the Millennium. Next came an issue on the certainty of judgment. Last month we took a look at the earth in end time prophecy. This month our topic is Heaven. Our March-April issue will be devoted to the topic of everlasting punishment. Specifically, we will consider the reality of Hell.

If there are any end time topics you would like to see us feature in detail, please let us know. If you missed any of our back issues on end time themes, you can order them for one dollar each by calling 1-800-705-8316.

Katrina Issue

We received an overwhelmingly positive response to our October special edition of this magazine concerning the prophetic significance of Hurricane Katrina. In fact, we received so many orders from churches for multiple copies that we had to print several thousand more. We still have some in stock. They sell for one dollar each.

Cover Art

Our cover art this month comes once again from the talented hand of Diana Bryer. You can see more of her whimsical illustrations at www.dianabryer.com.

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Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 919
McKinney, TX 75070

Telephone: 972/736-3567

Fax: 972/734-1054

Sales: 1-800/705-8316

Email: lamblion@lamblion.com

Website: www.lamblion.com

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Heaven

The Meaning of Heaven Is it an ethereal or tangible place?

Dr. David R. Reagan

For many years I had little desire to go to Heaven. My only interest in Heaven was prompted by a desire to avoid Hell.

My apathy was rooted in what I had been taught about Heaven. Basically, I had been led to believe that going to Heaven meant being a disembodied spirit residing in an ethereal world, floating around on a cloud playing a harp. I just couldn't get excited about that picture!

My interest in Heaven developed slowly over a long period of time. It became a passion, in part because of my study of prophecy, but mainly because of my growing relationship with the Lord.

The more I came to know Him, the more I desired to be with Him.

The New Earth

The reason my study of prophecy did not play the key role in developing my interest in Heaven is because the Bible is strangely silent about the subject. The Bible tells us in great detail what the Millennium will be like, but it gives us almost no detailed information about the Eternal State.

What it does tell us often comes as a great surprise

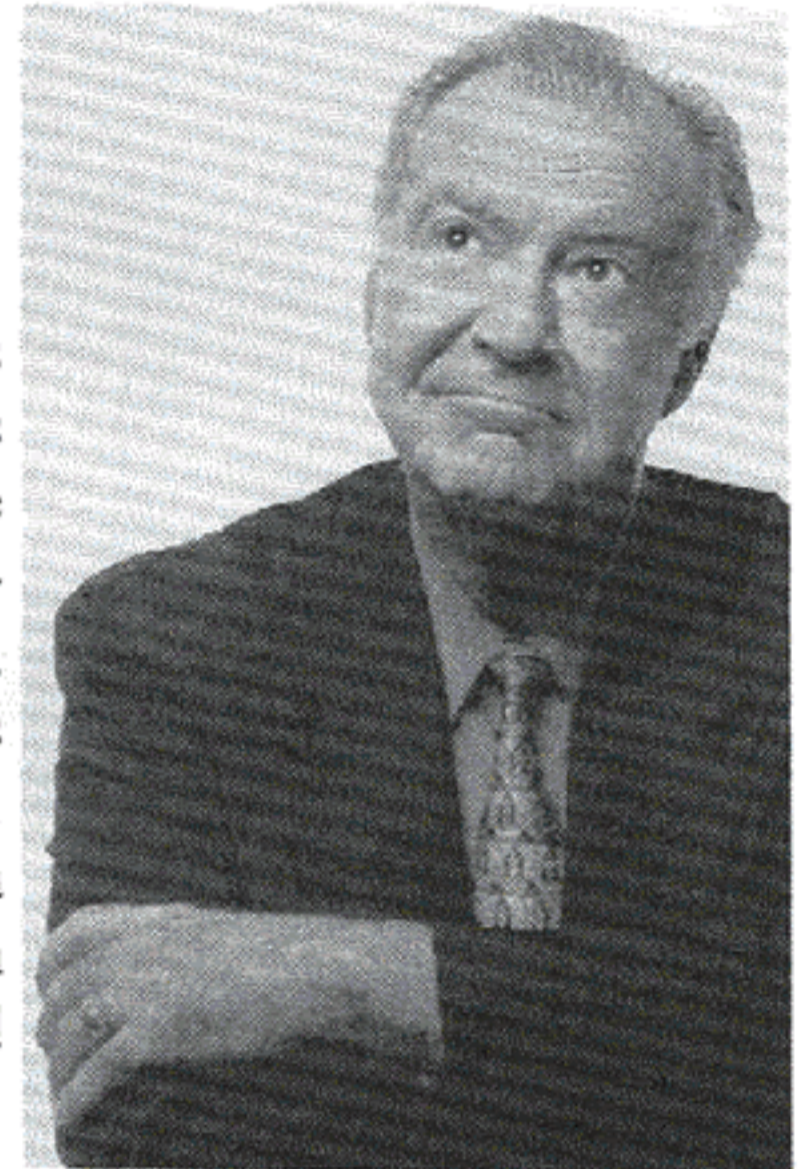
to most Christians because the scriptures about Heaven have been so terribly spiritualized. For example, the Bible plainly says the Redeemed will spend eternity on a new earth, not in an ethereal place called Heaven.

Isaiah was the first to speak of this truth when he spoke of "the new heavens and the new earth" which will endure forever before the Lord (Isaiah 66:22). This truth is repeated in the book of Revelation where the apostle John says he was shown a new earth, "for the first heaven and the first earth passed away" (Revelation 21:1).

John goes on to describe the new Jerusalem descending to the new earth, "coming down out of heaven from God" (Revelation 21:2). And then he states that God Himself will come to live on the new earth (Revelation 21:3):

Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them.

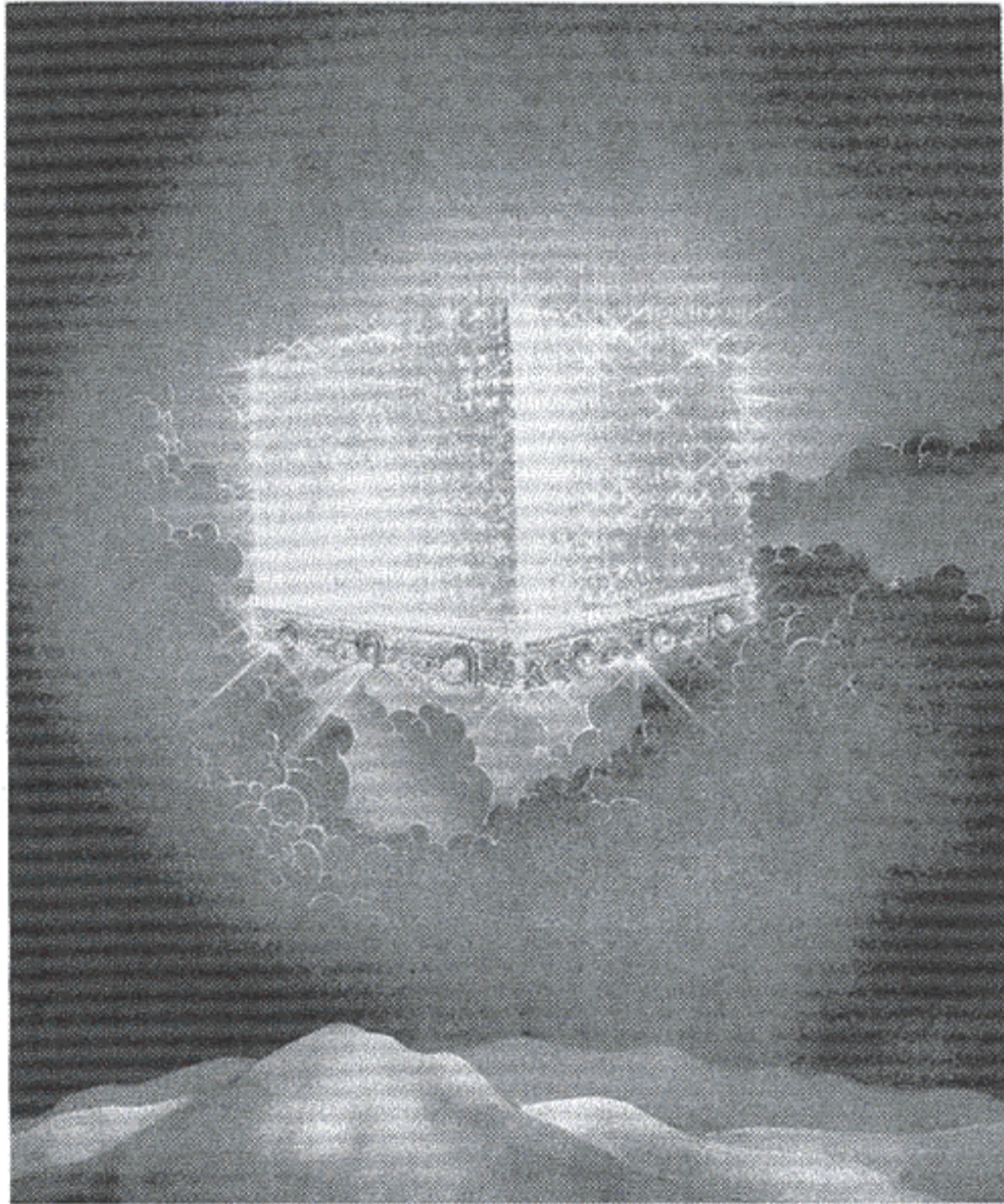
This truth had already been revealed to the Old Testament prophets. While being taken on a prophetic



tour of the millennial temple, Ezekiel was told by his guide (the Lord Jesus in a pre-incarnate appearance): "Son of man, this is the place of My throne and the place of the soles of My feet, where I will dwell among the sons of Israel forever" (Ezekiel 43:7).

The Redeemed are going to dwell forever in new bodies on a new earth in a new Jerusalem in the presence of Almighty God and His Son, Jesus. Heaven will come to earth!

The New Jerusalem



An artist's conception of the New Jerusalem being lowered down to the New Earth. Drawing by Pat Marvenko Smith. Her website is located at www.revelationillustrated.com.

The most detailed information which the Scriptures give about Heaven pertains to our eternal abode — the new Jerusalem. Twenty verses in Chapter 21 of Revelation are devoted to a description of it.

The information contained in Revelation 21 is not the first reference in the Bible to the new Jerusalem. It is mentioned in Hebrews 11:10 as a city "whose architect and builder is God." Jesus made a reference to it that is recorded in John 14:1-4. He called it His "Father's house," and He said He would prepare a place in it for His Church.

Jesus is currently expanding, embellishing, and beautifying this house which God the Father designed



Most people have a completely ethereal concept of Heaven that is totally unbiblical because it is based on the spiritualization of Scripture.

and built. Jesus is preparing it for His bride, just as in Old Testament times a bridegroom would add a room onto his father's house to accommodate himself and his bride.

The city is described in Revelation as beautifully decorated, like "a bride adorned for her husband" (Revelation 21:2). Later, John actually refers to the city as the bride of the Lamb (Revelation 21:9), because the city contains the bride of Christ, His Church.

I believe this implies that at the end of the Millennium all the Redeemed will be taken off the earth and placed in the new Jerusalem which will most likely be suspended in the heavens. From that vantage point we will watch as God burns up this earth and reshapes it like a hot ball of wax into a new earth, a perfected earth like the one which God created in the beginning. Then, we will be lowered down to that new earth inside the new Jerusalem.

The city will be spectacular in both size and appearance. It will be in the form of a cube that is 1,500 miles in every direction! And it will reflect "the glory of God" (Revelation 21:11, 16).

The Size of the City

The incredible size means the city would stretch from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico and from the Atlantic coast of America to Colorado. It would also extend 1,500 miles into the atmosphere.

This tremendous extension of the city vertically into the air is a clue that the new earth may be considerably larger than the current earth. Otherwise, the city would not be proportional to its surroundings.



Would such a city be able to adequately accommodate all the Redeemed? That's a good question. The best answer I have ever run across is the one provided by Dr. Henry Morris in his book *The Revelation Record* (Tyndale House, 1983).

Dr. Morris postulates the total number of Redeemed might be as many as 20 billion. He further guesses that approximately 50 percent of the new Jerusalem might be devoted to streets, parks and public buildings. Can 20 billion people be squeezed into only half the space of this city?

The answer is yes! In fact, it can be done easily. Each person would have a cubical block with about 75 acres of surface on each face. We are talking about an immense city!

This assumes, of course, that our new glorified bodies will be immune to the current law of gravity, as are the bodies of angels. This is a safe assumption, for Philippians 3:21 says that our glorified bodies will be like the body of Jesus after His resurrection, and His body was not subject to gravity, as evidenced by His ascension into Heaven.

This is the reason the city will be so tall. We will be able to utilize and enjoy all levels of it. There will

most likely be vertical streets as well as horizontal ones.

The Beauty of the City

And what streets they will be! The Bible says they will be "pure gold, like transparent glass" (Revelation 21:21). In fact, the whole city will be made of pure gold with the appearance of clear glass (Revelation 21:18).

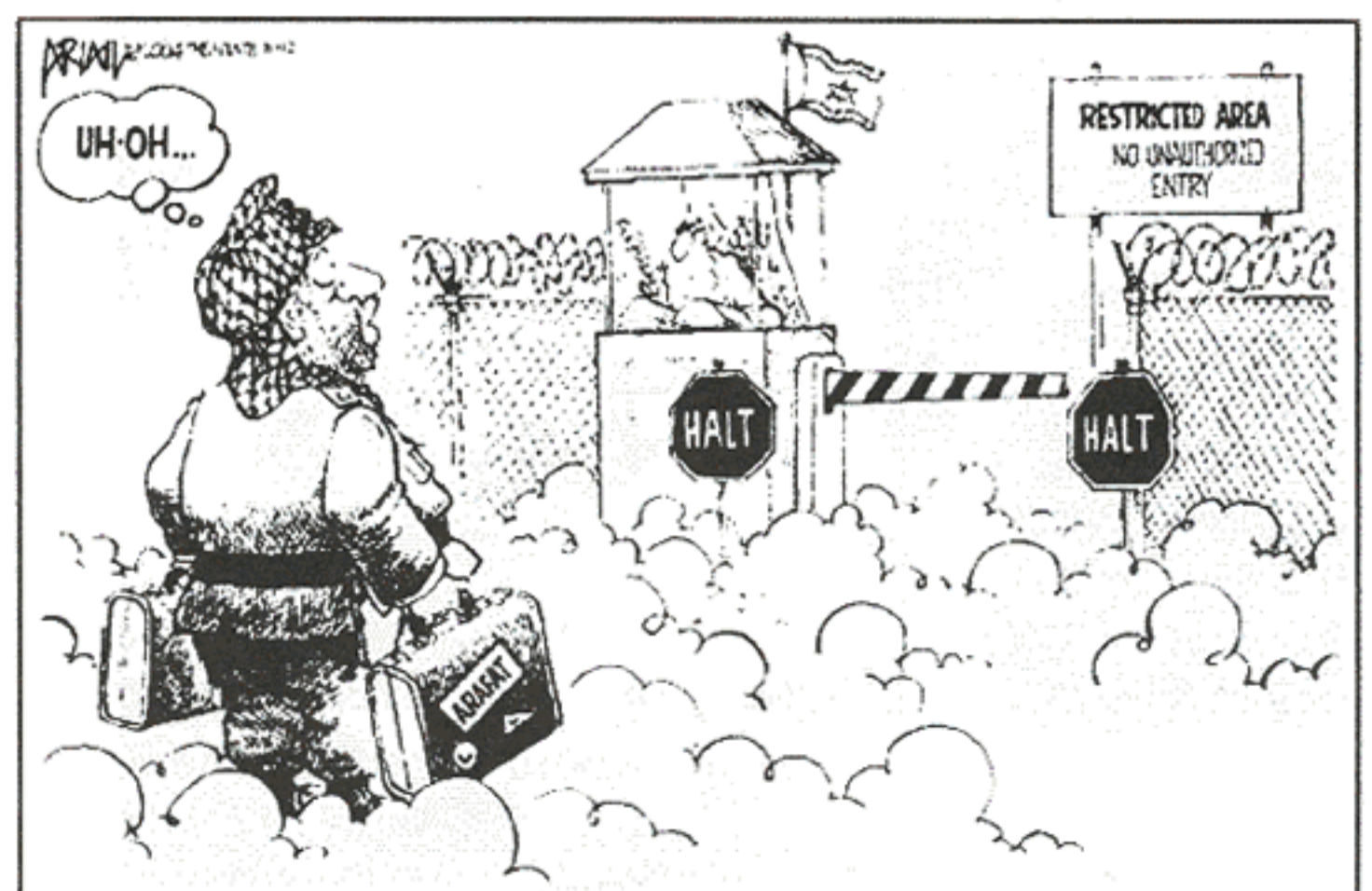
The city will sit on a foundation made of 12 layers of precious stones (Revelation 21:19-20). Each layer will feature the name of one of the 12 apostles (Revelation 21:14). The city will be surrounded by a jasper wall over 200 feet high (Revelation 21:17). There will be 12 gates, three on each side, and each one will be named for one of the tribes of Israel (Revelation 21:12).

And yes, the gates will be "pearly gates," each one consisting of one huge pearl (Revelation 21:21).

Best of all, God the Father and Jesus will both reside in the city with us (Revelation 21:22). The Shekinah glory of God will illuminate the city constantly, and thus there will be no night nor will there ever be any need for any type of artificial light or the light of the sun (Revelation 22:5).

The throne of God and His Son will be in the city, and "a river of the water of life, clear as crystal" will flow down the middle of the city's main street with the tree of life growing on both sides of the river, yielding 12 kinds of fruit — a different fruit each month (Revelation 22:1-2).

That's it. God's Word only gives us a glimpse of Heaven. But what a tantalizing glimpse it is! It's a glimpse of perfect peace and joy and beauty.



The Activities of Heaven

What will we do for eternity? Again, the Word is strangely silent. All it says is that we “shall serve Him” (Revelation 22:3).

I have fantasized a lot about our Heavenly activities. I can imagine us spending a great deal of our time in worship, singing the psalms of King David, with him directing us. I think it is likely that our talents will be magnified, and we will be able to sing or paint or write with a majesty and scope we never imagined possible — and all to the glory of God!

Surely we will spend considerable time in the study of God’s Word. Think of studying the gospel of John with the apostle John as the teacher! I thrill to the thought of Jesus teaching the Old Testament, even as He did to His disciples following His resurrection (Luke 24:44-45). The Word of God is infinite in its depth, and I believe we will continue learning from it forever.

As we study the Word, I believe we will grow in spiritual maturity in the likeness of Jesus. And since God is infinite, no matter how much we grow in His likeness, there will just be that much more growing ahead of us. In this regard, I suspect that our spiritual growth will pick up where it left off in this life.

Sometimes, I really get far out in my thinking about Heaven. For example, I can imagine the Lord giving us the opportunity to see “instant video replays” of great events in Bible history. I hope so. I would like to see the dividing of the Red Sea, the destruction of Jericho, and the resurrection of Lazarus.

And what about tours of the universe? Surely we will be able to travel through space in our glorified bodies and see the miracles of God’s creation up close. Imagine



The greatest joy of Heaven will be fellowship with Jesus.

visiting all the planets in our galaxy as well as touring thousands of other galaxies!

Reigning with Jesus

But what does it mean in Revelation 22:3 where it says we will serve God as His “bond-servants”? I’m not sure. I suppose it means we will be given productive work to do. What that work will be I can’t say for sure. But there is a hint in Revelation 22:5 where it says we will reign with the Lord “forever and ever.”

To reign implies, of necessity, that we must reign over someone. Who will that be? Again, there is an intriguing clue. Revelation 21:24-27 refers to “nations” that will live on the new earth outside the new Jerusalem. Revelation 22:2 indicates that the people composing these nations will be in fleshly bodies, for it says that the leaves of the tree of life will be used for “the healing of the nations.”

A Prophetic Mystery

Who are these “nations”? This is one of the greatest mysteries of Bible prophecy. There are as many different guesses as there are commentaries on the book of Revelation.

Could they be the Redeemed who accept Jesus during the Millennium? Nothing is said about the ultimate destiny of those who are saved during the Millennium. No promises are made to them of glorified bodies.

I don’t know the answer. It is one of those areas where we look into a dimly lit mirror and will not understand fully until we stand “face to face” with the Lord (1 Corinthians 13:12).

Heavenly Fellowship

This brings me to the greatest blessing of Heaven. Revelation 22:4 says we shall see the face of God!

The Word says in Exodus 33:20 that no man has ever seen the face of God. But we will be given that privilege when we fellowship with Him in Heaven.

And that is really what Heaven is all about. We will experience an intimacy with the Lord that tran-



Are you living with an eternal perspective?

scends anything possible in this life. We were created for fellowship with God (John 4:23), and that purpose will reach its zenith in the Eternal State as we live in God's presence.

That is why Paul wrote, "to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21). He went on to explain that to continue living in the flesh meant the opportunity for fruitful labor in the Lord's kingdom. But he still had a desire to depart this life, for that departure would open the door for sweet, intimate, personal fellowship with the Lord (Philippians 1:22-23).

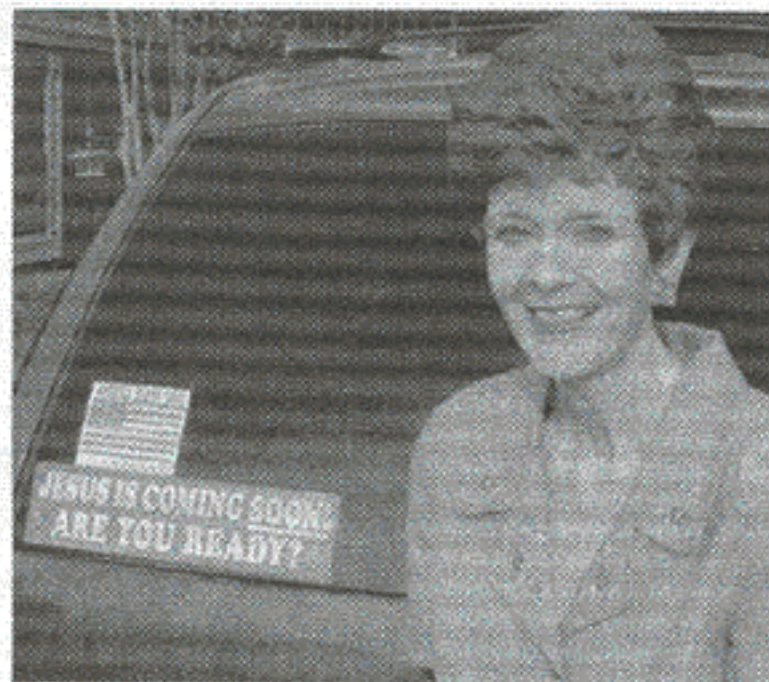
What about you? Are you clinging to this world, or do you yearn for Heaven?

The more you come to know the Lord, the more you will love Him. And the more you love Him, the more You will desire to be with Him.

That's only natural. We always desire to be with those whom we love.

Longing for Heaven

I love my wife dearly. We have been married for more than forty years. I have to travel a lot. I call her every night I'm on the road to tell her that I love her. I send her mushy love cards. And when I have to be gone for an extended period, I send her gifts like bouquets of flowers.



Ann Reagan

I love to talk with my wife by phone. I love to send her love notes. I love to surprise her with gifts. But none of these are substitutes for being with her! When you love someone you want to be with them.

In like manner, I love to fellowship with the Lord in worship, in Bible study, and in prayer. But these spiritual activities are no substitute for actually being with the Lord.

Because I love Him, I want to be with Him. Personal, intimate fellowship with the Lord — that is the essence of Heaven.

May it become a reality very soon! ✚

Heaven

A song by an unknown author

Just imagine Heaven
And what God's kingdom will be like.
Where we will live forever
With no more pain or tears or strife.
Some folks think of Heaven
As just a distant dream beyond some star,
But if it's as real as Jesus promised,
It's just as near to us as our own heart.

Some call it "Canaan Land."
Some call it "Beulah Land."
It's called "peace beyond the river,"
A place not made with hands.
And it's that great celestial city
With mansions 'round God's throne.
But for all who know my Lord,
They call it "home."

Just imagine living in God's New Jerusalem,
And our wandering days are over
And our weary hearts at rest in Him.
We'll wake up from our dreaming
And we'll meet our Savior face to face.
As He receives us as His children,
He will smile and say,
"Welcome home to stay."

I Can Only Imagine

Words and Music by Bart Millard

I can only imagine what it will be like
When I walk by Your side.
I can only imagine what my eyes will see
When Your face is before me!
I can only imagine.
I can only imagine.

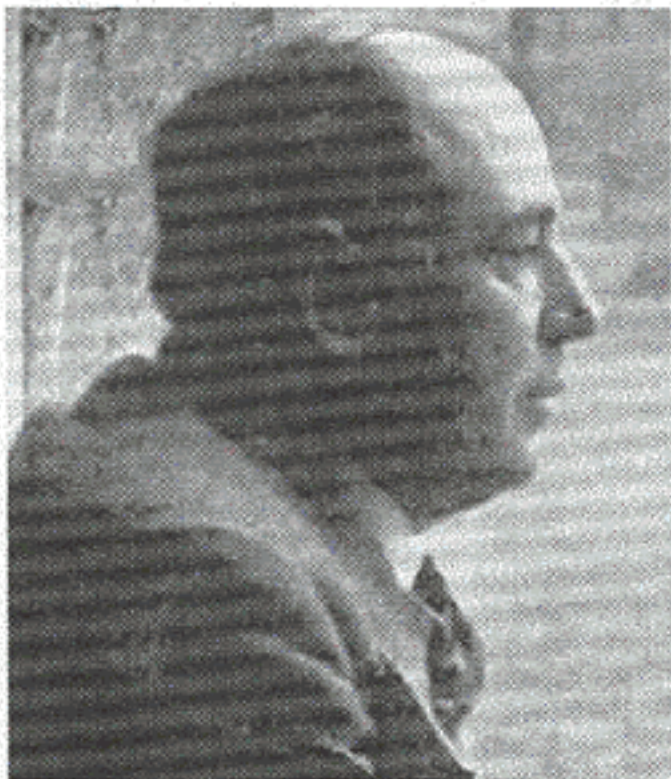
Surrounded by Your glory
What will my heart feel?
Will I dance for you, Jesus,
Or in awe of You, be still?
Will I stand in Your presence,
Or to my knees will I fall?
Will I sing Hallelujah?
Will I be able to speak at all?
I can only imagine. I can only imagine.

Fast Facts about Heaven

The Current Heaven	
It was created by God.	Revelation 10:6
It is God's residence.	1 Kings 8:30
It is the location of God's throne room.	Isaiah 66:1 and Revelation 4
It is a "high and holy place."	Isaiah 57:15
It is located in "the third heaven."	2 Corinthians 12:1-4
It is a material place.	Revelation 4 & 5
It is a place of glorious worship.	Revelation 4 & 5
It is the intermediate residing place of the Redeemed who have died.	Revelation 6:9-11 and 7:15
Satan has access to it and accuses the Redeemed on earth both night and day.	Revelation 12:10
There are animals in Heaven.	Revelation 4:6-9
There are innumerable angels in Heaven.	Revelation 5:11
Jesus is in Heaven serving as the High Priest of the Redeemed.	Hebrews 8:1 and 9:11-15

The Future Heaven	
The Redeemed will reside eternally in a new Jerusalem.	Revelation 21:9-23
God is presently preparing the new Jerusalem.	John 14:1-5
The new Jerusalem will be located on a new earth.	2 Peter 3:12-13 & Revelation 21:1-2, 5
The new earth will be this earth, refreshed and perfected by fire.	Psalm 78:69, Ecclesiastes 1:4 and Revelation 21:5
The Redeemed will have renewed, perfected, immortal bodies that will no longer be subject to suffering and death.	Isaiah 35:5-6 and Revelation 21:4
The Redeemed will have new names.	Revelation 2:17
The new Jerusalem will contain the throne of God.	Revelation 22:3
God Himself will come to the new earth and live in the new Jerusalem with His Redeemed.	Revelation 21:3
The curse which currently afflicts the creation will no longer exist.	Revelation 22:3
Outside the new Jerusalem, on the new earth, there will be nations living in the flesh.	Revelation 21:24-26
The leaves of the tree of life, growing inside the new Jerusalem, will be used for the healing of the nations.	Revelation 22:1-2
The Redeemed will experience intimate fellowship with God.	Revelation 22:4
The Redeemed living in the new Jerusalem will serve God.	Revelation 22:3
The Redeemed will reign forever with God.	Revelation 22:5

Quotes about Heaven



C. S. Lewis

"If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next. The Apostles themselves, who set on foot the conversion of the Roman Empire, the great men who built up the Middle Ages, the English Evangelicals who abolished the slave trade, all left their mark on earth, precisely because their minds were occupied with Heaven. It is since

Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this one. *Aim at Heaven and you will get earth 'thrown in;'* aim at earth and you will get *neither.*" — C. S. Lewis

The Apostle Paul

"I consider the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us." — Romans 8:18

"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, nor has the heart of man conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him. But God has revealed these things to us through His Spirit . . ." 1 Corinthians 2:9-10

"Set your minds on things above, not on the things that are on earth." — Colossians 3:2

"This momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison." — 2 Corinthians 4:17.

René Pache



"The future heaven is centered more on activity and expansion, serving Christ and reigning with Him . . . The emphasis in the present heaven is on the absence of earth's negatives, while in the future heaven it is the presence of earth's positives, magnified many times through the power and glory of resurrected bodies on a resurrected earth, free at last from sin and shame and all that would hinder both joy and achievement."

Randy Alcorn

"The presence of God is the essence of Heaven (just as the absence of God is the essence of Hell) . . . The best part of life on the new earth will be enjoying God's presence, having Him actually dwell among us . . . *Heaven's greatest miracle will be our access to God.*"

Oprah Winfrey

"My idea of Heaven is a great big baked potato and someone to share it with."



Doug Horton



"If the destination is Heaven, why do we scramble to be first in the line for Hell?"

(Doug Horton was Dean of Harvard Divinity School from 1955 to 1959.)

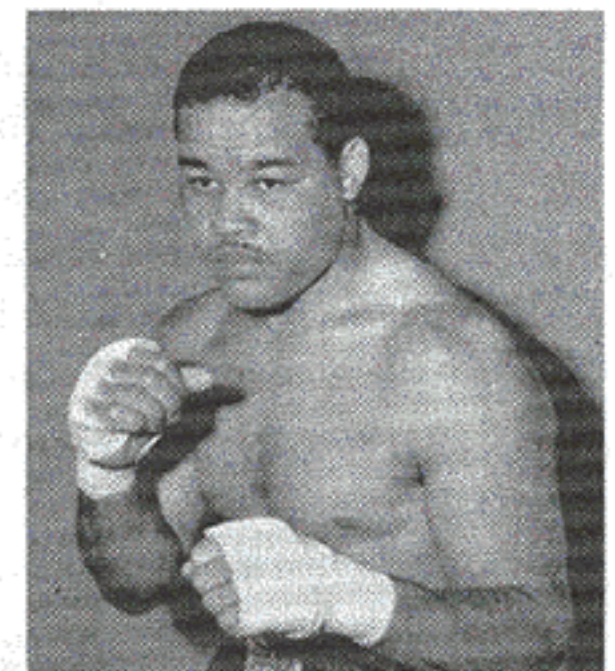
John Newton

"When I get to Heaven, I shall see three wonders there. The first wonder will be to see many there whom I did not expect to see; the second wonder will be to miss many people whom I did expect to see; the third and greatest of all will be to find myself there." (John Newton, 1725 - 1807, was the author of the hymn, "Amazing Grace.")

Joe Louis

"Everybody wants to go to Heaven, but nobody wants to die."

(Joe Louis was heavyweight champion of the world from 1937 to 1949.)



A Thought-Provoking Epitaph



Some years ago there lived in London a man by the name of Solomon Peas. Mr. Peas gave instructions to put the following words on his tombstone:

"Beneath these clods and beneath these trees, lies the body of Solomon Peas. This is not Peas; it is only his pod. Peas has shelled out and gone home to God."

Mr. Peas not only had a sense of humor, he also had a good theology. He knew that when a child of God "shells out," he goes home to be with the Lord. ✚

An Outstanding New Book About Heaven

Dr. David R. Reagan

Randy Alcorn's new book that is simply entitled, *Heaven*, is must reading for all Christians. It dispels many long-held myths while underlining some overlooked and misunderstood biblical truths.

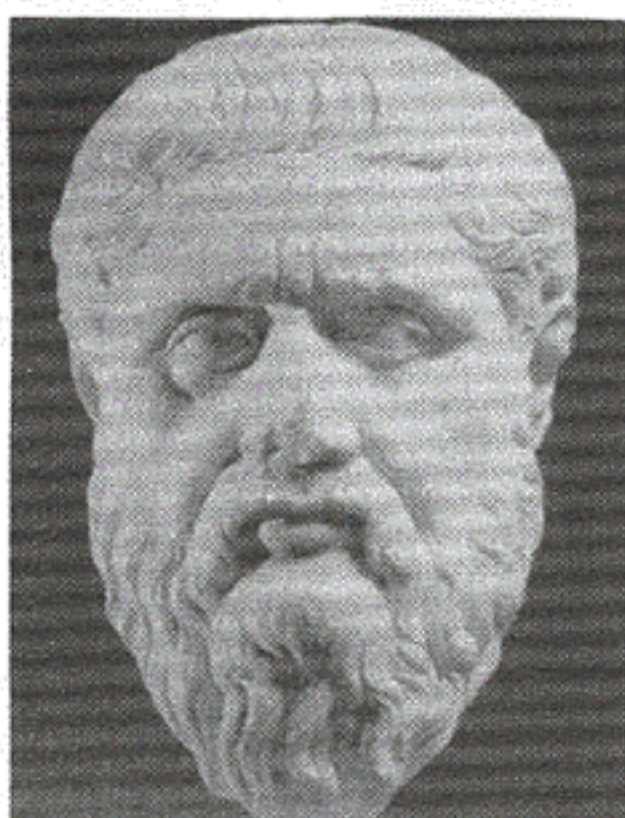
The author starts making his point on the dedication page where he dedicates the book to a long list of departed saints "and countless others who departed 'prematurely' (yet in God's good time) to a world far greater than this one but far less than the one to come, which all of us who know King Jesus will behold together, slack-jawed, on the New Earth's first morning." Now, that's what I call a mouthful of a dedication!

His Basic Thesis

In this amazing dedicatory sentence, Mr. Alcorn makes one of the major points of his book — namely, that the current Heaven where God resides will not be the Heaven where the Redeemed will live eternally. The current Heaven is located in "the third heaven" (2 Corinthians 12:2), an undisclosed spot somewhere in our universe or an adjacent universe. But the eternal Heaven, where the Redeemed will live forever with God will be located on a new earth — this earth renovated, refreshed and perfected by fire.

Needless to say, this fundamental biblical truth comes as a shock to most Christians. That's because most of us have grown up under preaching that has been "Christopltonized," as Mr. Alcorn would put it (page 52). What he means by this term is that Christian theologians from the time of St. Augustine in the 5th Century have interpreted end time prophecies concerning Heaven as if they were written by Greek philosophers instead of Hebrew prophets.

The Impact of Greek Philosophy



Plato

Plato believed that material things, including the human body and the earth are inherently evil, while immaterial things such as the soul are good. This viewpoint is thoroughly unbiblical. The Bible teaches that the creation was originally perfect, that it was corrupted by the sin of Man, but that it will one day be redeemed to its original perfection. God loves His creation, and He intends to refresh it by "making all things new" (Revelation 21:5).

Being heavily influenced by Greek philosophy, Augustine spiritualized the biblical concept of a new earth to mean a non-literal, spiritual Heaven. Subsequently, the Church came to embrace this "spiritual view" that human spirits are better off without bodies and that Heaven is a disembodied spiritual state.

Randy Alcorn is the founder and director of Eternal Perspective Ministries located in Gresham, Oregon.



He served as a pastor for 14 years before forming EPM in 1990. He has also served as an adjunct professor at Multnomah Bible College and Western Seminary in Portland, Oregon.

Mr. Alcorn is the author of 20 theological books and several novels. He is married and is the father of two married daughters. He enjoys spending time with his family, biking, playing tennis, doing research, and reading.

Mr. Alcorn summarizes the impact of Christopltonism by saying it "has had a devastating effect on our ability to understand what Scripture says about Heaven, particularly about the eternal Heaven, the New Earth . . . If we believe, even subconsciously, that bodies and the earth and material things are unspiritual, even evil, then we will inevitably reject or spiritualize any biblical revelation about our bodily resurrection or the physical characteristics of the New Earth" (page 52).

How to Grasp Heaven

Mr. Alcorn emphasizes over and over again that the eternal Heaven is going to be a tangible, material world located on this earth after it is renovated. He points out that when the Eternal State begins, the Bible says God will "make all things new" (Revelation 21:5). It does not say that He will make new things.

Therefore, if you want to get a feel of what Heaven will be like, the author urges you to look around and observe your environment. He argues that you must understand "that in order to get a picture of Heaven . . . you don't need to look up at the clouds; you simply need to look around you and imagine what all this [world] would be like without sin and death and suffering and corruption" (page 17).

The Necessity of the Earth's Redemption

In fact, the author argues that God *must* redeem the current earth to keep it from being remembered "as a graveyard of sin and failure" (page 137). The restoration of this earth, producing the New Earth of eternity, will "justify the old earth's disaster," making good out of it, "putting it in perspective" (page 137). In short, "it will preserve and perpetuate earth's original design and heritage" (page 137). These conclusions prompt Mr. Alcorn to declare: "God is the ultimate salvage artist. He loves to restore things to their original condition" (page 89).

An Effective Format

One of the most appealing things about this book is its question and answer format. The author deals in detail with over 200 questions about Heaven that cover every aspect of the topic. Here are some representative samples:

- What is the nature of the intermediate Heaven? (The current Heaven)
- What is life like in the intermediate Heaven?
- Why is earth's redemption essential to God's plan?
- What will it mean to see God?
- What will the New Jerusalem be like?
- Will there be space and time in Heaven?
- Will we be ourselves?
- Will we eat and drink?
- Will we engage in sexual relations?
- Will we be capable of sinning?
- Will we be reunited with our pets?
- Will there be arts, entertainment, and sports?

These down-to-earth questions about the life to come on the New Earth are so fascinating that you will find it hard to put the book down once you start reading it.

The thing that amazed me was how anyone could write 476 pages about Heaven when the Bible says so little about it. I discovered four keys to the author's in-depth coverage.

Imagination

The first is the author's imagination. He can derive more hints from a verse than anyone I have ever encountered. A good example can be found on pages 65-67 where he derives 21 conclusions from Revelation 6:9-11. That's a total of three verses! Many of these conclusions, though not unbiblical, are nonetheless quite a stretch and need to be recognized as such.

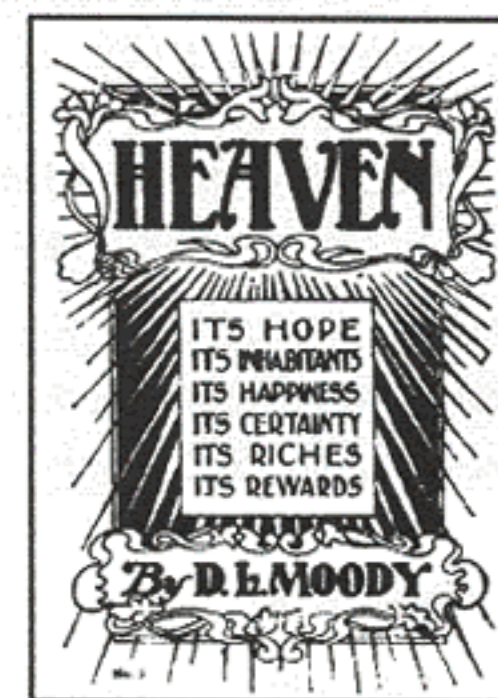
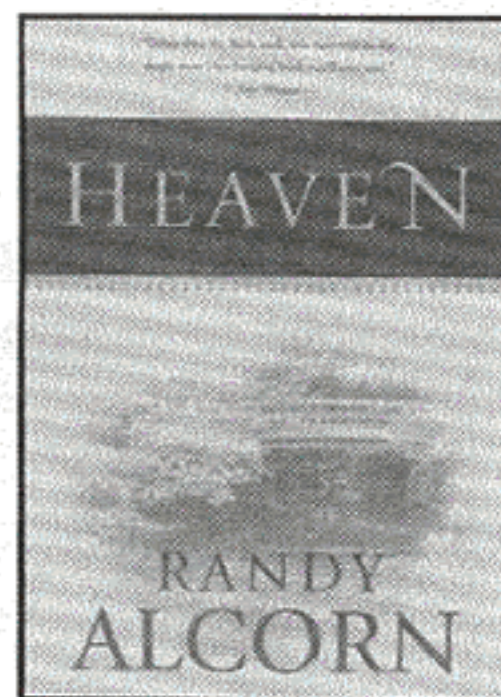
Misapplications

The second key to the author's in-depth writing on a topic so scantily covered by Scripture is that he misapplies many passages about the Millennium to the Eternal State. For example, every time the Scriptures mention "new heavens and a new earth," as in Isaiah 65:17, he immediately jumps to the conclusion that the passage pertains to the Eternal State. But this is not always the case, and it certainly is not in the Isaiah 65 passage where death and child bearing are both mentioned.

The fact the author seems to overlook is that there are two new earths that lie ahead of us. One is the Millennial earth which will be



this earth radically changed by earthquakes and supernatural phenomena in the heavens. The second will be the eternal earth which will be the Millennial earth renovated by fire.



Common Sense

The third factor that has enabled Mr. Alcorn to write in such depth is what I would characterize as his extraordinary common sense. Many of his conclusions are derived from what I would call common sense reasoning. For example, in dealing with the often asked question, "Will I maintain my identity in Heaven?" Mr. Alcorn writes (page 278):

You will be you in Heaven. Who else would you be? If Bob, a man on earth, is no longer Bob when he goes to Heaven, then, in fact, Bob did not go to Heaven. If when I arrive in Heaven, I'm not the same person with the same identity, history, and memory, then I didn't go to Heaven.

Continuity

The fourth and most important factor that has produced Mr. Alcorn's in-depth thinking about Heaven is what he calls "the principle of redemptive continuity." By this he means that eternal life will be as life is now — except that it will be perfected. So, if you want to imagine what Heaven will be like, look around you and imagine what this world would be like without disease, suffering, crime, and natural calamities. Here's how Mr. Alcorn puts it (page 112):

Conversion does not mean eliminating the old but transforming it. Despite the radical changes that occur through salvation, death, and resurrection, we remain who we are. We have the same history, appearance, memory, interests, and skills. This is the principle of *redemptive continuity*. God will not scrap His original creation and start over. Instead, He will take His fallen, corrupted children and restore, refresh, and renew us to our original design.

Applying this principle to the Eternal State, Mr. Alcorn titles one of his chapters, "What will our daily lives be like?" (pages 317-324). He asks: "Will we rest? Will we sleep? Will we work? Will we have our own homes? Will we open our homes to guests?"

To all these questions he applies the principle of redemptive continuity and concludes by answering them with a resounding "Yes!"

Exceptions to Continuity

He does, however, point out that there will be some exceptions to the principle of continuity. One of the most important being marriage and sex. The only marriage that will exist in Heaven will be that of the Redeemed to the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus made it clear in Matthew 22:30 that in our glorified, immortal bodies we will not marry.

Mr. Alcorn reasons that since there will be no marriage in Heaven as we know it today, there will also be no sex, since it was designed by God to be a part of the marriage relationship. But he speculates that it may be replaced by something even better (page 338):

There may . . . be some way in which the intimacy and pleasure we now know as sex will be fulfilled in some higher form. I don't know what that would be, but I do know that sex was designed by God, and I don't expect Him to discard it without replacing it with something better.



Another Disappointing Feature

In addition to his misapplication of some Millennial passages to the Eternal State, there is one other thing I found disappointing about Mr. Alcorn's book. It was his ambivalence about the Millennium. He states point-blank that he believes there will be a literal thousand year reign of Jesus on this present earth, but he hastens to add that he is not "dogmatic" about it because "I also understand and respect the strong interpretive arguments that have been made in support of Amillennialism" (page 140).

It is amazing to me that a man who demands that all scriptures about Heaven be taken literally would turn around and say he can understand why some people might want to spiritualize the passages concerning the Millennium. I suspect that this sentence was due to pressure from the publisher (Tyndale House) in order to give the book a wider appeal.

Nonetheless, I highly recommend the book. It is thorough, carefully reasoned, biblical, thought-provoking, and highly entertaining. Mr. Alcorn is obviously a person who has spent innumerable hours thinking about Heaven. Also, his fundamental thesis about the nature of Heaven is one that Christendom needs to hear because it is directly related to the strength and quality of our hope.

The Relationship of Prophecy to Hope

Many Christians, because they know so little about the world to come, cling tenaciously to this world, living with little hope. Mr. Alcorn's outstanding book will convince you that "the best is yet to come."

And that, in turn, reminds me of the story of the dying woman who told her pastor she wanted to be buried with a fork in her right hand. When he asked why, she said: "Every time we have a pot-luck meal at church, we are told to keep our forks when the plates are picked up, because, referring to the desserts, we are told, 'The best is yet to come!'"

Yes, the best is yet to come, and because of that Randy Alcorn ends his book with an interesting thought (page 415):

We have redefined eternal life to mean an off-Earth existence stripped of the defining properties of what we know life to be. Eternal life will be enjoying forever what life on Earth is at its finest moments, what it was intended to be. Since in Heaven we'll finally experience life at its best, it would be more accurate to call our present experience the *beforelife* rather than what follows the *afterlife*.

And all I can add to that is *Maranatha!* ✚

Quotes from Randy Alcorn's book:

"The predominant belief that the ultimate Heaven God prepares for us will be unearthly could not be more unbiblical. Earth was made for people to live on, and people were made to live on Earth" (page 91).

"The idea of Earth and Heaven becoming one is explicitly biblical. Christ will make Earth into Heaven and Heaven into Earth. Just as the wall that separates God and Mankind is torn down in Jesus, so too the wall that separates Heaven and Earth will be forever demolished" (page 101).

"We must distinguish the biblical promise of seeing God from the beliefs of Buddhism, Hinduism, or New Age mysticism, in which individuality is obliterated or assimilated into Nirvana. Though God will be absorbing, we will not be absorbed by Him. Though we may feel lost in God's immensity, we will not lose our identity when we see Him. Instead, we will find it" (p. 192).

"If Heaven is truly our home, we should expect it to have the qualities we associate with home. *Home* as a term for Heaven isn't simply a metaphor. It describes an actual, physical place . . . a place we'll share with loved ones; a place of fond familiarity and comfort and refuge; a place of marvelous smells and tastes, fine food, and great conversation; a place of contemplation and interaction and expressing the gifts and passions that God has given us. It will be a place of unprecedented freedom and adventure" (pages 440-441).

How to get a copy of the book.

To secure a copy of Randy Alcorn's book, *Heaven*, call 1-800-705-8316. Call between 8:00am and 5:00pm (Central time) Monday through Friday.

The book is available only in a hard cover edition. It runs 476 pages in length, and it contains an extensive scripture index that makes it easy to find the author's thoughts about any particular verse. The cost of the book is \$25, including the cost of shipping. Consider purchasing two copies, one for yourself and one for your church's library.

Will we be re-united with our pets in Heaven?

Michelle Shannon

Our dog, Sable, died late last night, May 24, 1998. She was just over 9 years old.

We had taken her to the vet on May 18, just six days earlier, and a tumor was found. But the vet said she was otherwise in great health. So, we decided to have the tumor removed after our camping trip that weekend.

When we returned Sunday, Sable was dying. She struggled to greet my husband, Steve, and then slumped down, breathing laboriously. She would not get up again.

We knew she would not make it through the night, so we stayed with her, gently stroking her fur and scratching her favorite places, until she was gone — just before midnight.

What a blessing it was to us to be able to be there for her in her last moments. We are greatly comforted that she was not alone.



Michelle's dog, Sable.

Seeking an Explanation

It's been a long time since we lost a pet. This time, though, we had a 5-year-old who would need an explanation. But, we knew what to say. It would be "easy," regardless of our tears because we ourselves believed what we would say: "Yes, honey, Sable is in Heaven with the Lord Jesus, and He is taking great care of her. And, yes, one day we will see her again."

Over the past few years, it has been very disappointing to hear what other Christians have to say about animal death. One source said, in referring to the New Earth (our eternal abode), "there will be no animals at all . . ." Another said, "The Bible does not give us any reason to say yes to the question of whether or not a pet goes to Heaven."

Well, I have a problem with these conclusions. While it is true that the Bible is about Man, not animals, and that there is



Michelle Shannon lives in Houston, Texas. She is the mother of three children. She and her husband, Steve, attend First Baptist Church.

This article was first published in the *Lamplighter* in December of 1998 and has been posted on our website since that time.

Michelle is active in the rescue of injured and abandoned animals.

much about animals we are not told, God has given us just enough to comfort us.

God cares for the animals He created

Revelation 4:11 tells us that all things were created for God's pleasure.

Matthew 10:29 says that even when a little sparrow falls to the ground, God notices.

Luke 12:6 says that God never forgets about the animals.

Psalm 104:21-30 and Matthew 6:26 describe how God Himself feeds the animals.

Proverbs 12:10 declares that a righteous man cares for the needs of his animals.

Job 12:10 assures us that "In His hand is the life of every creature."

Man's sin brought death and suffering to animals. God had decreed in Genesis 1:29-30 that green plants and fruit were to be the diet for all creatures. People and animals alike were to be strictly herbivores. Carnivorous activity necessitates death and suffering, which, of course, in the beginning, would have had no part in the beautiful creation God had called "very good" (Genesis 1:25).

Man was given the responsibility of serving as overseer of the animals. In fact, it wasn't until after the flood experienced by Noah that animals became afraid of people (Genesis 9:2). When Man chose to rebel against God, Man brought down not only himself but also all those for whom he was responsible.

In Genesis 3:17 God told Adam: "Cursed is the ground because of you . . ." According to Hosea 4:3 this curse affected animals too: "Because of [the sins of Man], the land mourns, and . . . the beasts of the field and the birds of the air and the fish of the sea are dying." Paul confirmed this in Romans 8:20 when he

wrote: "For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it . . ."

But there is good news! Animals share in and even look forward to the redemption of Mankind accomplished by Jesus on the Cross. Because God cares for His animal creations, as seen above, they also reap the benefits of the redeeming Cross of Jesus. When He returns, the creation will be restored to its original "very good" state, and carnivorous activity will cease. This promise is found in Isaiah 11:6-11 where God says, "the wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox . . . They will neither harm nor destroy on all My holy mountain for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord . . ." (Isaiah 65:25).

In his allegorical book, *The Great Divorce*, C. S. Lewis gives us a beautiful picture of a redeemed lady arriving in Heaven with a glorious procession of animals. An observer asks his angelic teacher:

"And how . . . but hullo! What are all these animals? A cat — two cats — dozens of cats. And all those dogs . . . why, I can't count them. And the birds. And the horses."

"They are her beasts."

"Did she keep a sort of zoo? I mean, this is a bit too much."

"Every beast and bird that came near her had its place in her love. In her they became themselves. And now the abundance of life she has in Christ from the Father flows over into them."

I looked at my teacher in amazement.

"Yes," he said. "It is like when you throw a stone into a pool, and the concentric waves spread out further and further. Who knows where it will end? Redeemed humanity is still young, it has hardly come to its full strength. But already there is joy enough in the little finger of a great saint such as yonder lady to waken all the dead things of the universe into life." (1)

And, so, Sable, we know exactly where you are . . . in the caring palm of your Maker, bringing Him the pleasure for which you were created.

We look forward to seeing you in our procession. ✚

Notes:

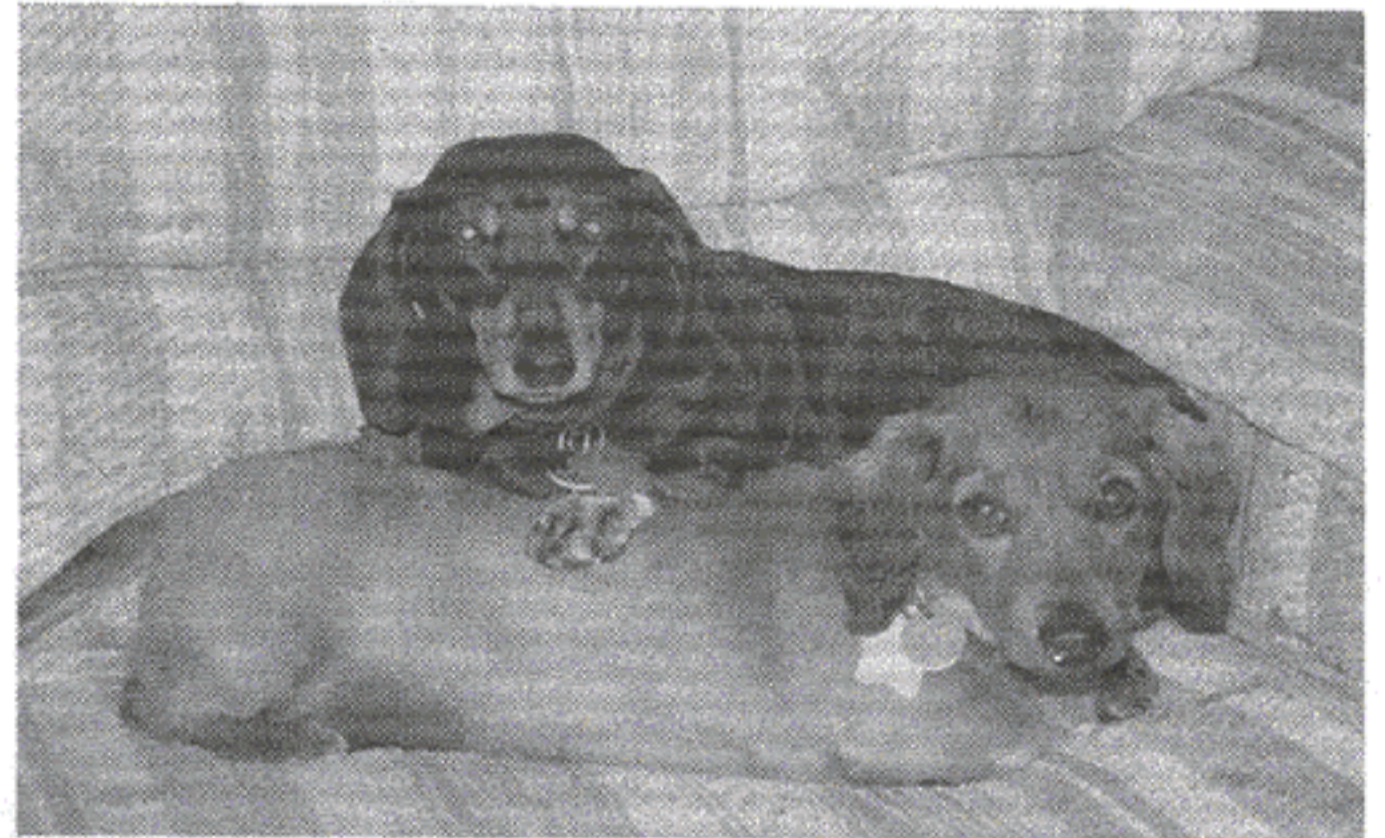
1) C.S. Lewis, *The Great Divorce* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1996), pp. 106-107.

Some Afterthoughts

Dr. David R. Reagan

Michelle Shannon's love story about her dog really touched my heart. I guess, in part, the reason it impacted me so strongly is because I am such a dog lover. I have always had a dog as long ago as I can remember.

I currently have two. Both are miniature dachshunds. One is light tan and long-haired; the other is a black and tan short-haired. The long-haired one is named Samson. Like his namesake, he is feisty and hyper-active. He is constantly on the move, surveying his back yard domain, protecting it from any and all intruders, particularly the pesky mockingbirds who love to tease him. He barks non-stop.



Zack and Samson. Zack is the black dog.

The older dog is Zack, short for Zaccheus. He is the opposite of his adopted younger brother. He is calm, cool, collected, and sedentary. He lies in his bed all day and watches in amazement as Samson huffs and puffs around the yard. On rare occasions — usually when the trash truck comes down the alley — Zack will lift up his head and let go with one deep, resonating bark. At the same moment, Samson is trying to climb the fence and is yelping hysterically.

It's amazing to me what distinctive personalities animals can have. I praise God for creating them, and I thank Him for the joyful companionship that they provide.

The God of Restoration

Michelle is convinced that the pets of the Redeemed go to Heaven. She may be right. The eternal fate of animals is a question the Bible does not directly answer.

As Michelle points out, God loves His creation, including the animals, and He is determined to restore all of creation — both the plant and animal kingdoms — to the original perfection they enjoyed before being corrupted by the sin of Man.

Jesus died not only to redeem Mankind, but to redeem the creation. This was emphasized prophetically in the Hebrew Scriptures in two ways. First, it was taught symbolically. When the High Priest would enter the Holy of Holies once a year to sprinkle blood on the mercy seat of the Ark of the Covenant, the book of Leviticus tells us that he would take a step back and



The Peaceable Kingdom

sprinkle some of the blood on the ground in front of the Ark (Leviticus 16:15).

Why did he do this? The blood on the mercy seat was a prophecy that one day the blood of the Messiah would make it possible for the grace of God to cover the law of God (the tablets of law rested in the Ark under the lid called the mercy seat). The blood on the ground was a prophecy that the sacrifice of the Messiah would also make it possible for God to lift the curse that rests on creation and redeem all of it to its original perfection.

Alcorn's Viewpoint

In his book, *Heaven*, Randy Alcorn addresses the issue of animals in Heaven. He begins by pointing out that there are animals in Heaven now (Revelation 4:6-8), and that there will be animals on earth during the Millennium (Isaiah 11:6-9). According to what he calls "the principle of redemptive continuity," he argues that there will certainly be animals in the eternal Heaven.

Now, whether these animals may be some of our pets is another question which he also addresses. He refers to Luke 3:6 which says, "And all flesh will see the salvation of God." Some translations say "all people" but the key Greek word here is *sarx* which is inclusive of all flesh, including animals.

Mr. Alcorn also points to an interesting statement in Psalm 104. Speaking of animals, the psalm says:

29 You take away their spirit, they expire
And return to their dust.

30 You send forth Your Spirit, they are created;
And you renew the face of the ground.

In response to this passage, Mr. Alcorn asks: "What does God mean that He sends His Spirit and creates them?" He concludes that the passage is talking about "re-creating animals after they've died." As he points out, the same "they" who die are the "they" who are created or re-created as part of the earth's renewal. This is perhaps part of what Jesus meant when He said that His return would be the time of "regeneration" (Matthew 19:28).

My Personal Conclusion

We know for certain that animals will exist on earth during the millennial reign of Jesus (Isaiah 11:6-9), and we are told that all animals will become herbivorous once again. The wolf will lie down with the lamb. The lion will eat straw with the ox. A little child will play in the cobra's hole because the cobra will no longer be poisonous (Isaiah 11:8). I have a picture of the "peaceable kingdom" hanging behind my desk. It shows a little boy in a white robe walking down a road with a lion on a leash. The lion will be a pet instead of a threat.

The Bible tells us very little about the Eternal State that will follow our Lord's millennial reign. All we know for certain is that the Redeemed will live in new bodies on a new earth in the presence of Almighty God, serving Him and experiencing intimate fellowship with Him. The book of Revelation says we will "see his face" (Revelation 22:4). Animals are not mentioned in the eternal context.

But that does not mean they will be absent. I suspect that one of the many delightful surprises God will give to the Redeemed will be the joyful companionship of the pets they knew and loved here on this earth. I hope so. ✚

Note: Since this article was written, Dr. Reagan's older dog, Zack, has died. Zack loved to curl up beside Dr. Reagan as he sat on the couch in his study and wrote in his prayer journal each morning. It's during those morning devotionals that Dr. Reagan now misses Zack the most.



A Poco Story with a Grande Message

Author Unknown

(Submitted by Wayne Gaylord of Forney, Texas)

A boat docked in a tiny Mexican village. An American tourist complimented the Mexican fisherman on the quality of his fish and asked how long it took him to catch them.

“Not very long,” answered the Mexican.

“But then, why didn’t you stay out longer and catch more?” asked the American.

The Mexican explained that his small catch was sufficient to meet his needs and those of his family.

The American asked, “But what do you do with the rest of your time?”

“I sleep late, fish a little, play with my children, and take a siesta with my wife. In the evenings, I go into the village to see my friends, play the guitar, and sing a few songs . . . I have a full life.”



The American interrupted, “I have an MBA from Harvard, and I can help you! You should start by fishing longer every day. You can then sell the extra fish you catch. With the extra revenue, you can buy a bigger boat.”

“And after that?” asked the Mexican.

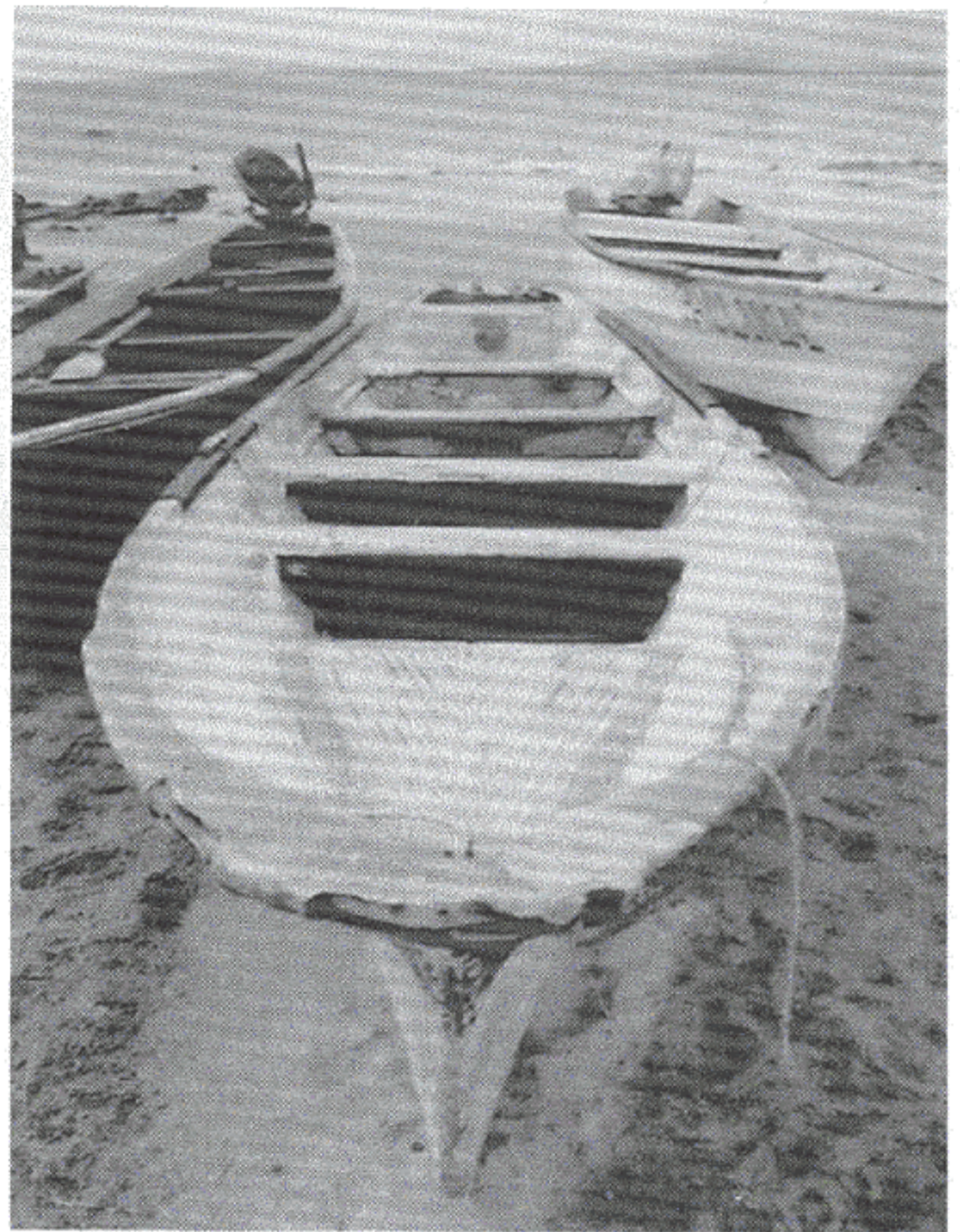
“With the extra money the larger boat will bring, you can buy a second one and a third one and so on until you have an entire fleet of trawlers. Instead of selling your fish to a middle man, you can then negotiate directly with the processing plants and maybe even open your own plant. You can then leave this little village and move to Mexico City, Los Angeles, or even New York City! From there you can direct your huge new enterprise.”

“How long would that take?” asked the Mexican.

“Twenty, perhaps twenty-five years,” replied the American.

“And after that?”

“Afterwards? Well my friend, that’s when it gets really interesting,” answered the American, laughing. “When your



business gets really big, you can start selling stocks and make millions!”

“Millions? Really? And after that?” asked the Mexican.

“After that you’ll be able to retire, live in a tiny village near the coast, sleep late, play with your children, catch a few fish, take a siesta with your wife and spend your evenings doing what you like and enjoying your friends.”

And the moral is: Know where you’re going in life . . . you may already be there! ✚

Editor’s Note: There are, of course, other morals to this little story, such as the fact that the quality of one’s life is not dependent on the amount of one’s income.

A Quote Worth Repeating



“When will we ever realize that fallible men using fallible tools, going to fallible schools, getting fallible degrees, will never learn enough and live long enough to tell the infallible God we know more about creation than He does?”

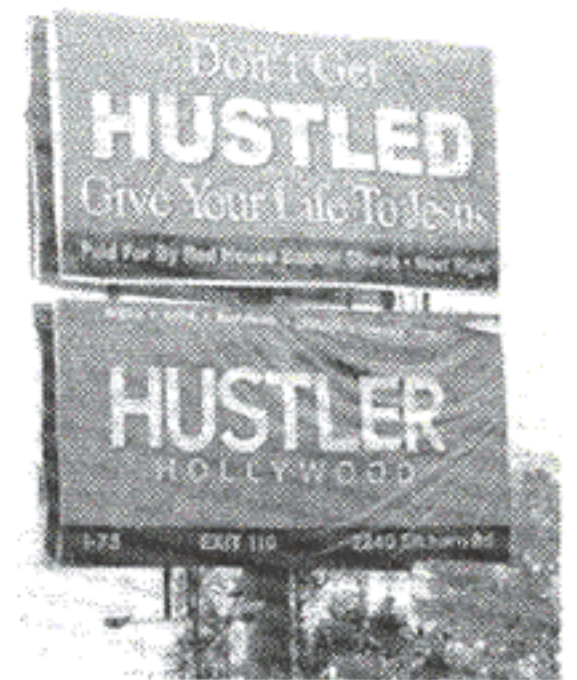
— Dr. Thomas Sharp of the Creation Truth Foundation in Noble, Oklahoma.

Iranian Insanity — On October 26 Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad declared that Israel is “a disgraceful blot” that should be “wiped off the map.” His remarks were made at a student conference whose theme was “A World without Zionism.” He led the students in chants, crying out, “Death to Israel!” and “Death to America!”

TIMES and Seasons

Battle of the Signs — When a porn shop called “Hustler Hollywood” opened in Richmond, Kentucky, a local church decided

to take action. The church, called Red House Baptist Church, bought some sign space located directly above the sign advertising the porn house. It read, “Don’t Get Hustled. Give your life to Jesus.”



The Post-Modern Crisis — Dr. Ed Hindson, Dean of the Institute of Biblical Studies at Liberty University and Professor of Religion, recently penned a penetrating insight into the mindset of young people today.



Dr. Ed Hindson

“We have a post-modern culture which is inherently irrational. To put it simply, today’s younger generation doesn’t care what is true. They prefer to believe whatever makes them feel good despite all the so-called facts. Public education has convinced them of a *relativism* that quickly and conveniently dismisses fact for feeling . . .

“Therefore, post-moderns can mix incompatible theologies into their philosophical ‘blender’ and come out with a mutual belief in Jesus, Buddha, Krishna, tarot cards, same-sex marriage, and abortion — all while claiming to believe in biblical inerrancy! . . . For them, nothing is certain but their own experiences.”

Church Conference Terrorized — In early November, hundreds of enraged homosexual activists, shouting obscenities and chanting, “Shut it down!” gathered outside the Tremont Temple Baptist Church in Boston to harass and intimidate those attending a Focus on the Family conference. The conference featured speakers who had been delivered from homosexuality by the power of God.

According to Boston officials, the protesters did not have a permit to demonstrate outside the church or to use sound equipment or block traffic. Nevertheless, the police stood aside and virtually allowed the demonstrators to do whatever they pleased. At times the police even cooperated with the activists, chatting with them, directing traffic for them, and finally allowing them to completely block the entrance to the church. There were no arrests despite the near-riot behavior and the apparent breaking of laws regarding the conduct of public demonstrations.

White House Celebrates Ramadan — For the fifth year in a row President Bush hosted a celebration of the Islamic month of Ramadan. And once again, he referred to the Muslim god as “the God of Abraham.” This annual celebration was instituted in response to the 9/11 attacks. It is equivalent to FDR responding to the attack on Pearl Harbor by arranging an annual celebration of the Shinto religion. ✚

Judicial Insanity — The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco ruled on November 2nd that there is “no fundamental right of parents to be the exclusive provider of information regarding sexual matters to their children.” The three-judge panel of the full court further ruled that parents “have no due process or privacy right to override the determinations of public schools as to the information to which their children will be exposed while enrolled as students.”



The case arose when six parents sued the Palmdale, California School District after finding out that their elementary-age children were asked a series of sexual questions in a class room psychological assessment test. Incredibly, the test included questions like these: “How often do you touch your private parts?” “How often do you think

about sex?” “How often do you think about touching other people’s private parts?” “Do you get upset when other people talk about sex?”

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals is the most liberal court in the United States, and its decisions have been overturned by the Supreme Court more than those of any other court. So, we can pray that this ungodly decision will be overturned on appeal.

Meanwhile, on November 30th, a U. S. District Court Judge in Indianapolis ruled that it is unconstitutional to open sessions of the Indiana House of Representatives with prayers that mention Jesus Christ! Prayers can continue, but the name of Jesus or His title as Christ cannot be mentioned in the prayers. The Speaker of the House, Brian Bosma, stated that he was shocked by the ruling. “It is really the first step to completely remove the opportunity to express ourselves in accordance with our faith,” Bosma said. “It’s absolutely wrong. It’s absolutely intolerable.”

A New Book by Dennis Pollock

Dennis Pollock, Lamb & Lion's former associate evangelist, has written a book about how to control blood sugar. The book is scheduled to be released by Harvest House Publishers on January 1st.

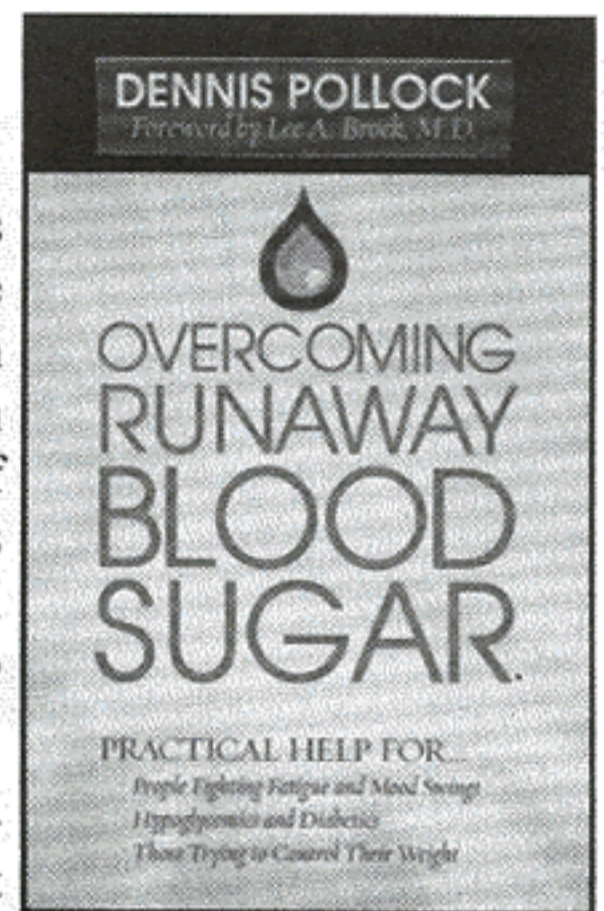
This book is the product of Dennis' quest for answers after experiencing severe pre-diabetic blood sugar fluctuations that threatened to lead him to the same fate as his mother who lost both legs to diabetes. When Dennis realized that his own blood sugar was rising and falling precipitously, he knew it was time to take action. That action included prayer, research, and a careful monitoring of his blood sugar.

In the course of time God revealed to Dennis the basic keys that bring runaway blood sugar under control. He was amazed and thrilled to find out that there were things he could do to tame this terrifying monster. As he watched the daily readings of his glucometer (a device for measuring blood sugar), he had clear proof that no one has to merely accept the automatic sentence of diabetes.

In this book Dennis reveals his own tribulations and fears, and the successful quest God led him on which resulted in far better health and normalized blood sugar. If asked if he is a diabetic, Dennis sometimes answers, "No, but I passed up a great opportunity to become one!"

If you are suffering from diabetes, hypoglycemia, or the first symptoms of unstable blood sugar, by all means get this book. It could be the first step to a brand new life of health and victory.

The book sells for \$12 plus \$3 for shipping. You can order the book directly from Dennis by sending a check to Spirit of Grace Ministries, P.O. Box 2068, McKinney, TX 75069. Or you can call him at 469/450-2351. ✚



Ministry News

Worship Conference — In early November Dr. Reagan participated in a worship conference that was held at Living Waters Church in Shelbyville, Kentucky. Dr. Reagan began each session by preaching on an aspect of worship in order to prepare the way for Paul Wilbur to lead in worship.

Paul Wilbur is considered to be the foremost Messianic worship leader in the world today. He has produced numerous audio and video albums of Messianic worship, several of which were recorded in Israel.

Dr. Reagan is scheduled to do another conference with Paul Wilbur at Central Christian Church in Wichita, Kansas on January 28-29.



The Lamb & Lion Board of Trustees — Each year, during the first weekend in December, the Lamb & Lion Board of Trustees meets for a spiritual retreat. All but two of the 20 board members are pictured above. The trustees bring their wives, and all the Lamb & Lion staff members and their families attend. It is an opportunity for rich fellowship with each other and the Lord. Jack and Sally Hollingsworth of Acts 29 Ministries always supply the music. This year there were two guest speakers: Dr. Ken Humphries of Treasured Truth Ministries in Northern Ireland and Mr. Don McGee, founder and director of Crown & Sickle Ministries in Amite, Louisiana.

Meetings and Conferences — In January Dr. Reagan will be speaking at Summit Christian Church in Sparks, Nevada (21-22) and at Central Christian Church in Wichita, Kansas (28-29). In February he is scheduled to speak at Santa Fe Christian Church in Santa Fe, Texas (5), at Graceland Baptist Church in New Albany, Indiana (11-12), and at Cornerstone Assembly of God in Danville, Kentucky (25-26). On February 18 Dr. Reagan will be one of several featured speakers at the Stealing the Mind Conference which will be held at Ocean Hills Community Church in San Juan Capistrano, California. ✚



Dave Reagan with Paul Wilbur.

We need your support as a Prophecy Partner!

Program Requirements

The financial base of Lamb & Lion Ministries is provided by its Prophecy Partners. These are the people who pledge to provide \$20 a month or more for one year.

We currently have 1,448 Prophecy Partners. We need to increase that number to over 1,500 for 2006 if we are to continue expanding our media outreach with the message of the soon return of Jesus.

We ask our Prophecy Partners to aim at giving \$1 a day for a year — or \$30 per month. Many do this, and some give even more. The minimum contribution is \$20 per month.

Program Benefits

There are many benefits and blessings associated with being a Prophecy Partner. First and foremost is the knowledge that your sacrificial support is going to a ministry whose purpose is to point people to Jesus Christ and to proclaim His soon return.

As a Prophecy Partner you will receive a monthly audio or video program or special publication, together with a personal report from Dave Reagan highlighting major events and decisions affecting the ministry.

The tape or publication usually covers some special study topic or current events topic related to Bible prophecy. From time to time a special gift, like the ministry's annual calendar, is sent to our Prophecy Partners in recognition of their support.

Program Purposes

Your donations will be used to help pay for our media outreach all across this nation and around the world via television and the Internet. They will also be used to help cover the cost of the many free tapes and publications which we distribute yearly to people who cannot afford to pay for them.

We need your support! Join us for 2006.

Prophecy Partner Commitment

Yes! I want to be a Lamb & Lion Prophecy Partner during 2006.

Name _____

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2006 Monthly Commitment \$ _____
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or

2006 Yearly Commitment \$ _____
(Goal of \$360 — minimum of \$240)

Mail to Lamb & Lion Ministries P.O. Box 919, McKinney, TX 75070.
Or, call in your commitment to 1-800-705-8316.

Television Update

In early December Dr. Reagan videotaped three TV programs with Don McGee of Crown and Sickle Ministries and Dennis Pollock of Spirit of Grace Ministries.

Don and Dave recorded a special Easter program called "The Passion in Psalm 22." The other two programs, one of which included Dennis Pollock, were part of a series of three programs being produced on the topic of Heaven.



Dennis Pollock, Dave Reagan, and Don McGee.

Television Schedule

The ministry's weekly television program, "Christ in Prophecy," is available nationwide on two networks.

DayStar Network				
Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day & Time	Wed. 4:00pm	Wed. 5:00pm	Wed. 6:00pm	Wed. 7:00pm
	Sun. 10:30pm	Sun. 11:30pm	Mon. 12:30am	Mon. 1:30am

Inspiration Network				
Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day & Time	Tues. 5:30pm	Tues. 6:30pm	Tues. 7:30pm	Tues. 8:30pm

Our television program is also broadcast three times a week over the **Family Vision Network**, a regional network that covers all of Southern Louisiana: Sunday at 6:30am, Monday at 8:30am, and Wednesday at 7:00pm. ✚

The Best Book Ever About Heaven

Randy Alcorn's new book about Heaven is the most thorough and entertaining one that has ever been published on the subject.

This is a book that will keep you enthralled as the author deals with every imaginable question about Heaven, from the most mundane ("Will we drink coffee in Heaven?") to the most profound ("Will we be capable of sinning?").

The next time you hear someone say, "I can't begin to imagine what Heaven will be like," you'll be able to tell them, "I can."

In the most comprehensive and definitive book on Heaven to date, Mr. Alcorn invites you to picture Heaven the way the Scriptures describe it — a bright, vibrant, and physical New Earth, free from sin, suffering and death, and brimming with Christ's presence, wondrous natural beauty, and the richness of human culture as God originally intended it.

God has put eternity in our hearts. With this book, Randy Alcorn brings eternity to light in a way that will surprise you, spark your imagination, and change how you live today.

If, like most Christians, you have always thought of Heaven as a realm of disembodied spirits, clouds, and eternal harp strumming, then you are in for a delightful surprise.

This is a book about real people on a New Earth with real bodies enjoying close relationships with God and each other while eating, drinking, working, playing, traveling, worshipping, and discovering new things.

"Other than the Bible itself, this may well be the single most life-changing book you'll ever read."

— STU WEBER —

HEAVEN



RANDY
ALCORN

If you have ever wondered what Heaven will be like, what you will be like, what you will do, and whether or not it will ever get boring, this is a book you need to read.

The book is available only in a hardback edition. The text runs 457 pages. With appendices and indices, it runs a total of 516 pages. The cost is \$25, including the cost of shipping. To order, call **1-800-705-8316** between 8am and 5pm (Central time), Monday through Friday. See pages 10-12 for an in-depth review of the book.



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