



The fascination of heaven is a reality with most everyone whether they'd like to admit it or not. Numerous books have been written from people who have gone to heaven or on visions that they've seen of heaven. In today's chapter we not only get a biblical view that reveals the inexpressible glory and beauty of heaven but the culmination of all our wildest dreams and imaginations of what we're longing for while still in our earthly bodies. The most prestigious of film producers would not be able to light a match to the incomprehensible beauty and glory that will be seen by the redeemed saints of God! The time frame and conversation with the angels from when Christian and Hopeful leave the banks of the River of Death until they actually have the gate open to them at the Celestial City seems long and maybe with many questions that you'd think would only be asked after they're in heaven, but as we see, before the King opens the gate to them, they are in a spiritual region or realm where a lot of angelic activity is taking place. This may occur in the twinkling of an eye or not as God has no time frame and He himself is timeless, so once death occurs we are in a dimension we've never experienced before. Angelic manifestations are portrayed as those who minister to the heirs of salvation, they're messengers and here we see they are also escorts.

**John 1:51** says; *“And He said to him, ‘most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.’”*

**Hebrews 1:14** says, *“Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?”*

**Luke 15:10** says, *“Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”*

Seeing the Celestial City in full splendor now, Christian and Hopeful's arms are held as they ascend with ease through the air and clouds after shedding their mortal flesh in death. The Apostle Paul talks about this discarding of the flesh in **II Corinthians 5:1-4**, *“For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life.”*

Their conversation revolves around what will they see and be occupied with:

- 1) Innumerable angels, just men made perfect, the paradise of God and the Tree of Life. **Hebrews 12:22-24**; *“But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.”* The ‘just men’ are those who have been justified and sanctified because they received Jesus Christ into their lives while on earth, and are now glorified with Jesus.

[\*\*Romans 5:1-5.\*\*](#)

- 2) Remember the Tree of Life from the Garden of Eden? Well it's in heaven and the glorified saints are able to eat freely from it. **Revelation 2:7**; *"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."* **Revelation 22:2**
- 3) Since their earthly bodies have been shed, they're told that they will receive new garments that are fitting for the King's presence and will partake of the likeness of Jesus and his glorified body. **I John 3:2**, *"Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we shall know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is."* **Philippians 3:20-21**, *"For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it maybe conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself."* The Bible also says that we'll be like the angels and that people will neither marry nor be given in marriage, **Matthew 22:30**
- 4) We read in **Genesis 3:8-10** that God regularly walked with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. In heaven, they will have eternal fellowship with Him that will never be broken again!
- 5) They won't remember their earthly troubles and more than likely will be but a distant memory. **Revelation 21:1-4**
- 6) They will see their heroes' of faith from the Bible, friends and family that have gone on ahead of them. **Luke 13:28** says; *"There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out."*
- 7) They will receive comfort, joy and will reap what they sowed into the kingdom of God. **Matthew 25:21** says; *"His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'"*
- 8) They will receive crowns of gold which show they will be in rulership positions! **II Timothy 2:12**; *"If we endure, we shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us."* **Galatians 6:7-8**; *"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life."* Are you sowing now into the kingdom of God to reap a harvest in heaven?
- 9) They will forever see Jesus, serve Jesus and be with Almighty God. **I John 3:2** *"Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is,"* and **I Corinthians 2:9**; *"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."* **Matthew 25:21** says; *"His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'"* They will have jobs to do and be in rulership positions.
- 10) They will enjoy the fellowship of friends and family who have gone on ahead of them and will also be able to welcome those who will follow them. Maybe you will see people that you never expected to see in heaven and when you're there, you may welcome those who you never thought would turn their lives over to Christ! Each will be able to share their life's journey.
- 11) They will be clothed with glory and majesty to ride with Christ, to judge the world and angels! **I Corinthians 6:2-3**; *"Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life?"* **Jude 14-15** says; *"Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, 'behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.'"*

As they're ascending higher and higher, Christian and Hopeful are now greeted with a heavenly host of angels and trumpeters! Such joy is seen in **Luke 15:8-10** where Jesus tells of the woman who finds a precious coin that she lost and He says, *"Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."* We have to remember that this joy and acknowledgement is not about what Christian and Hopeful did in their human efforts but because they ran their earthly race with grace and overcame. I've said this before but it's worth saying again, everything about Christianity is on God's terms, not on our terms. IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS! It's said that Christian and Hopeful loved the King while they were on earth and that they had left everything to follow Him. **II Corinthians 2:25-26** says; *"For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life..."* **Acts 20:42**; *"But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry*



which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.” You may feel that no one has welcomed or paid attention to you on earth as you’ve served God faithfully, but that all changes when you get to heaven. The angels, Jesus, and Almighty God await you with unimaginable joy and anticipation. Keep walking on valiant soldier – heaven is cheering you on! [Revelation 19:6-9](#)

All of this shows that heaven is expecting Christian and Hopeful which also reveals that heaven is very conscious of what transpires on earth, the two are not disconnected from each other and as I said at the beginning, the angels seem to bridge these two worlds. **Matthew 18:10**; *“Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven.”* That is an explicit example! **Hebrews 13:2** says; *“Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.”*

They’re finally at the gate or door of the Celestial City! The Bible talks specifically about two gates or doors; 1) that Jesus Christ is the door – [John 10:9](#) and 2) the other being the door or gate of heaven **Luke 13:24** *“Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able.”* So Christian and Hopeful give the angels the scrolls that they’ve been carrying since they left the Wicket Gate. This shows their true salvation and that Jesus himself signed them with his blood. **Ephesians 1:13-14** says; *“In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.”* Also **Ephesians 2:8-10** says; *“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”* Jesus says to them to **open the gate!** As Christian and Hopeful enter the Celestial City – Heaven – they are transfigured, their earthly image of dust now became that of the heavenly Man! [I Corinthians 15:42-56](#). They were clothed with garments of gold, given harps too so they could continually praise God with and they were given crowns as rewards. Incomprehensible to our finite mind on earth but yet is the reality for all who gain access to heaven. Living in heaven more palatial, glorious, rewarding, and fulfilling than living in any gated palatial earthly estate! Heaven is a community only populated by blood bought saints who have not lost the faith.

I’m sure you’ve heard the statement at some time in your life that says; “they’re just so heavenly minded they’re no earthly good”. It couldn’t be further from the truth though. The fuller of heaven and Jesus we are the more good we are on earth! *“For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life.”* **I Corinthians 2:15-16**. Paul says it like this in **Colossians 3:1-4**; *“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.”* Like John Bunyan, we too should have our earthly ministry be intently and intensely set with our goal toward heaven.

Lastly, I’d like to leave with you a link to this video called [The Rich Man and Lazarus](#). It’s the story of the parable that Jesus told his disciples. Now it’s Old Testament so we don’t see Lazarus actually entering heaven, but going to Paradise and Abraham’s bosom. It does show though the reality of the decisions that we make on earth while alive and the consequences of our eternal destination.

Please write us and let us know your thoughts and how we can pray for you. God bless.