

# HOPE RISING

Hope is Heaven  
April 10-11, 2021

The Bible talks about Heaven 582 times.

## Colossians 3:1-2 (NLT)

Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth.

- Heaven is more spectacular than anything we could see on Earth.

## 1 Corinthians 2:9 (NLT)

That is what the Scriptures mean when they say, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him."

- Heaven is the special promise Jesus gave to relieve Earth's troubles.

## John 14:1-3 (NLT)

"Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am."

The Hope of Heaven Guarantees:

### 1 My confident assurance of an eternal home.

## Hebrews 6:18-20a (TPT)

So it is impossible for God to lie for we know that his promise and his vow will never change! And now we have run into his heart to hide ourselves in his faithfulness. This is where we find his strength and comfort, for he empowers us to seize what has already been established ahead of time—an unshakable hope! We have this certain hope like a strong, unbreakable anchor holding our souls to God himself. Our anchor of hope is fastened to the mercy seat in the heavenly realm beyond the sacred threshold, and where Jesus, our forerunner, has gone in before us.

## 2 Corinthians 5:8-9 (TPT)

We live with a joyful confidence, yet at the same time we take delight in the thought of leaving our bodies behind to be at home with the Lord. So whether we live or die we make it our life's passion to live our lives pleasing to him.

### 2 My constant motivation to make the most of this life.

## 1 Corinthians 15:17-20 (TPT)

And if Christ is not alive, you are still lost in your sins and your faith is a fantasy. It would also mean that those believers in Christ who have passed away have simply perished. If the only benefit of our hope in Christ is limited to this life on earth, we deserve to be pitied more than all others! But the truth is, Christ is risen from the dead, as the firstfruit of a great resurrection harvest of those who have died.

## 2 Corinthians 12:1-4 (ICB)

I must continue to brag. It will do no good, but I will talk now about visions and revelations from the Lord. I know a man in Christ who was taken up to the third heaven. This happened 14 years ago. I do not know whether the man was in his body or out of his body. But God knows. And I know that this man was taken up to paradise. I don't know if he was in his body or away from his body. But he heard things he is not able to explain. He heard things that no man is allowed to tell.

## Psalms 73:22-26 (NLT)

I was so foolish and ignorant—I must have seemed like a senseless animal to you. Yet I still belong to you; you hold my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, leading me to a glorious destiny. Whom have I in heaven but you? I desire you more than anything on earth. My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak, but God remains the strength of my heart; he is mine forever.

### 3 My comforting affirmation regarding those who have passed away.

## Psalms 23:1-6 (NLT)

The LORD is my shepherd; I have all that I need. He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams. He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name. Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me. You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings. Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the LORD forever.

## Revelation 21:3-4 (NLT)

I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever."

**Hebrews 12:1-2 (TPT)**

As for us, we have all of these great witnesses who encircle us like clouds. So we must let go of every wound that has pierced us and the sin we so easily fall into. Then we will be able to run life's marathon race with passion and determination, for the path has been already marked out before us... Because his heart was focused on the joy of knowing that you would be his, he endured the agony of the cross and conquered its humiliation, and now sits exalted at the right hand of the throne of God!

**2 Peter 3:8 (NLT)**

But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day.

**4****My courageous ability to resist the fears of life and death.****Psalms 27:1-4 (NLT)**

The LORD is my light and my salvation—so why should I be afraid?  
The LORD is my fortress, protecting me from danger, so why should I tremble?

When evil people come to devour me, when my enemies and foes attack me, they will stumble and fall. Though a mighty army surrounds me, my heart will not be afraid. Even if I am attacked, I will remain confident. The one thing I ask of the LORD—the thing I seek most—is to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, delighting in the LORD's perfections and meditating in his Temple.

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 (NLT)**

And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not grieve like people who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died.

**1 Corinthians 15:57-58 (TPT)**

But we thank God for giving us the victory as conquerors through our Lord Jesus, the Anointed One. So now, beloved ones, stand firm, stable, and enduring. Live your lives with an unshakable confidence. We know that we prosper and excel in every season by serving the Lord, because we are assured that our union with the Lord makes our labor productive with fruit that endures.

**Memory Verse for April, 2021****Isaiah 40:31 (NIV)**

But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.  
They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary,  
they will walk and not be faint.



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