

HEAVEN

BEYOND IMAGINATION

By

Dave Lindsay

Mankind was created in an infinite universe that contains an unlimited array of cosmological wonders. Yet mankind continues to perceive heaven in terms of materialistic "things" that are relatively easy to imagine. Despite the agnostic position of the scientific community, its studies of the universe should help to invoke an enhanced perception of what heaven could conceivably be like.

Revelation 21 may offer a glimpse, but heaven is best described as beyond the human imagination. Much like scientists can't fathom the extents of our universe, we can't possibly begin to fathom the concept of heaven.

In the cosmic scheme of things, Earth and mankind are as minute as a single grain of sand on all the beaches on our planet. "Behold, the nations are like a drop in a bucket, and are regarded as a speck of dust on a balance." While I believe wholeheartedly that mankind was intended to play an incredibly significant role in God's overall plan for eternity, man arrogantly places far too much emphasis on the significance of his existence. God created man but He also created a vast infinite universe with a much broader and more significant purpose in mind.

This may be considered a "visionary" view, but it is a well-justified perspective. At some point in the not-so-distant future, at least on a cosmological scale, God's chosen few will be invited to share in the heavenly rewards (whatever they may be) for the balance of eternity. The timeframe itself is difficult to imagine, but an eternity could conceivably be comparable to hundreds of trillions of years. God has an infinite realm of cosmological splendor at His disposal and I believe He created it with a distinct plan for its development.

I certainly wouldn't dismiss anyone else's perception, but I have an extremely difficult time perceiving the rewards of heaven as limited to something as hollow as an

existence in a glorious "place" with an array of insignificant monetary values. I have a hard time believing that God who created the entire universe would place much, if any, significance on monetary things like living on a plush planet in luxurious mansions in a some magical city with streets of gold lined with magnificent jasper. There may very well be such a place, perhaps some sort of base of operations (???), but it is simply too easy to imagine such a place. A "reward" such as that would seem to be contradictory to what the Bible teaches and are insignificantly miniscule, particularly on a cosmic scale. Perhaps we should be envisioning eternal "rewards" that are considerably more enticing and genuinely more exciting for the non-believers as well.

The bible encourages us to use our imagination and, since I believe mine is rather vivid, I'd like to convey a personal vision of an eternal god-like celestial existence, one that is truly beyond the realm of anyone's imagination.

"Have I not said that you are gods also?" Jesus made that statement for a reason. Perhaps what Christ was saying to us is worthy of more consideration. If eternal life provides us with an existence as "gods" of some sort, I just don't see our Heavenly Father wasting our god-like

capabilities on an eternity spent lounging around in luxurious mansions. I would be extremely surprised to learn that our heavenly responsibilities were somehow limited to indulging in perpetual praise and song. I believe He has a much bigger and considerably more significant plan in store for us.

God chartered the course of our spiritual destiny long before He created the universe and mankind. What that eternal fate might consist remains a mystery, but as depicted in Corinthians 2:9-10, heaven is beyond our imagination. "No one's ever seen or heard anything like this, never so much as imagined anything quite like it, what God has arranged for those who love Him. But God has revealed it to us by his Spirit"

Heaven might very-well be a "place" somewhere in the universe or beyond, perhaps where God reigns from. It may be like the description in Revelation 21, but that "place" would probably be God's 'Headquarters', the nucleus of operations for development of His vast cosmological kingdom. This "place" might be where His chosen few gather and in His glorious presence, but since ours is a rapidly expanding universe, I seriously doubt that His plan for the rest of that universe is to discard it. I just don't think

He would waste any of it.

Since our universe is still expanding and at a rate faster than the speed of light, it is relatively safe to assume that God's greatest creation is still in the extremely early stages of development. After Christ returns and mankind's earthly role has played out, I seriously doubt that God's plan for the rest of the universe will be considered "finished". It is much more likely that God's plan, and mankind's spiritual role in it, will have only just begun.

God has at His disposal the most elaborate spiritual network in existence and mankind cannot even begin to comprehend it. I believe it would be foolish to assume that God created this elaborate universe just to monitor man's life on one miniscule planet. There are trillions of galaxies, each filled with hundreds of billions of stars and solar systems. While the relevance of mankind's role is exceedingly significant, there is clearly considerably more to God's eternal plan for the universe.

With a cosmological perspective in mind, I can imagine that our heavenly existence will consist of something much more significant. Keep in mind; Heaven is beyond anything I

could possibly imagine. So, my hope is that what I can imagine will inspire others to think outside the earthly "box" we live in and consider heaven on a cosmological scale.

The Bible teaches that God will provide His chosen few with a god-like stature, "heavenly bodies". Therefore, to enhance the development of His creation, He could conceivably assign fragments of His Universe to each of them. It is not inconceivable to imagine that God could furnish each of us with our own world, solar system, galaxy or an entire cluster of galaxies...greater rewards for some than for others, but a phenomenal eternal life for all.

I can imagine Him dispersing spiritual knowledge, understanding and wisdom via the River of Life that flows from God's heavenly throne to each of His representatives and in all corners of the universe. In accordance with God's supreme plan for what I believe is an ongoing process of creation, the chosen few would begin their heavenly eternal reign as His preordained "gods".

Since there are more galaxies in the universe than people who have lived on earth, it is relatively easy to imagine the chosen few being commissioned by God to serve

as 'sub-creators'. Perhaps the place He has gone to prepare for them will include a League of Angels to help each of His representatives to fulfill their exhilarating eternal assignments. Inspired by God's enhanced version of the 'desires of their hearts', God's chosen could conceivably establish their own godly presence and create variations of life in new worlds on His behalf and in accordance with His directives. With God, all things are possible.

Beyond Imagination: The worlds His Chosen Few might create and the heavenly process they might use to create life in the trillions of galaxies that exist in our universe, are truly inconceivable and far beyond any realm of human understanding. An eternal "godly" life as "sub-creators" is therefore truly beyond the ability of any human being to fathom much less imagine. So, as farfetched as it may seem,

Granted, a scenario of this magnitude may seem farfetched to some, but my postulation certainly meets the "beyond imagination" criteria. A heavenly afterlife such as this is certainly within the realm of one man's rather vivid imagination. I find the notion of an eternal life serving God in that capacity to be extraordinarily exciting.

Without the required knowledge and understanding, which could only be instilled by God Himself, no man could even begin to imagine what kind of worlds they might create. So, the perspective of heaven one might contrive based on these visionary principles is truly beyond anyone's wildest imagination.

The best part of it all, and the point being made; Regardless of the heaven that awaits us, what God has in store is far more spectacular than anything anyone of us could possibly imagine!

Even if you consider my visionistic perspective to be unlikely, one thing is for certain. Believers can rest assured; God's Eternal Life will be considerably more fabulous and exciting than anything mankind could ever conceive or achieve in its fleeting "flash" of cosmic existence on Earth.

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Author@DLBooks.com

