



## Glory of Heaven

*John F. MacArthur Jr. , Leonard G. Goss (Editor)*

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If you're going to call it "home" for eternity, don't you want to know what it's like?

Our pictures of life in heaven cover the range from comical to curious, from mystical to fictitious--with maybe some biblical truth thrown in. For example: We know angels will be there. But thanks to TV, we think of them as being gorgeous, white-robed beings with enormous wings. We know we will be given new bodies, but books have convinced us that that means we will end up with a set of wings ourselves. And cartoons, movies, and modern music have portrayed those who have gone to heaven as having full knowledge of what's happening to their loved ones on earth.

But if heaven is in your future, a Hollywood scriptwriter's interpretation or some artist's rendering of it just won't do. You need to know the truth, which, ironically, is far better than anything our creative minds can imagine.

The only One who knows the glorious truth about heaven is God. And the only place to find that truth is in His Word.

In this book, pastor John MacArthur takes you through those very Scriptures and opens your heart to the realities of heaven, angels, and eternal life. It's a joyous study of every Christian's future. A future that you can and should anticipate.

Come along with this best-selling author for an in-depth look at where you'll spend eternity. Open up The Glory of Heaven and catch a glimpse of Home.

## Glory of Heaven Details

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# From Reader Review Glory of Heaven for online ebook

## Susan Weeks says

### Biblical and insightful.

John MacArthur reminds us that we err when we stray from scripture and place someone's "experiences" above God's clear teaching in His Word.

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## Aaron says

In his usual way, John MacArthur answers the falsehood of the world (and all too often the church) with the truth of the Bible. MacArthur's response to a question both in his preaching and his writing is always to turn to the chapter and verse that addresses the question directly. This approach is the perfect antidote to the subjective stories of Near-Death Experiences.

I especially liked that this book was not entirely a critique of Heaven is For Real and other such books. After dedicating a chapter to addressing the key problems with that book, MacArthur goes on to tell vastly more about what Heaven is like and that is important. Because if we are going to engage people on NDEs and Heaven is For Real, then we need to be able to tell them the truth, not just where they're wrong.

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## Keith Whitfield says

Updated version addresses newer claims of people going to and returning from heaven, eg "Heaven is For Real"

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## Richard Minor says

There is a tremendous fascination with Heaven today, and for good reason. The problem is that this fascination with Heaven has led to a large number of people writing books about trips that they have made there. Not only do their accounts disagree with each other, but they disagree with Scripture. So, what are we to think of Heaven?

John MacArthur does a very good job of discussing what Scripture actually says about Heaven. He spends a little bit of time discussing the problems with books whose author's claim to have gone to Heaven and back, but for the most part he discusses what Scripture says about Heaven.

I found the book to be very good and helpful in discussing the realities of Heaven and how it is to change the way believers live their lives here and now.

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## **Randall R Gancarz says**

### **Great biblical insights**

Great biblical insights at a time when most people need it. John MacArthur never waters down what he wants to say. Good book to get grounded in

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## **Randy says**

This was a a very good book. Well researched and written, which is very standard for books by MacArthur. I find them to be very enjoyable and generally learn quite a bit from them. As a Lutheran, as MacArthur does not write from that perspective, I do find myself having to do a fair amount of additional study to square his writing with Lutheran theology. That is good....as long as a person does that and asks questions where required.

One thing I particularly liked about this edition, is that it had been updated and included some information that completely debunks a couple of popular "died, gone to heaven and returned" books. I would recommend this book.

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## **Ed says**

MacArthur does a good job introducing the reader to a place call heaven. He uses the Bible to explain what heaven will be like, the New Jerusalem, and what will we be like in heaven. About half the book is an appendix 1 thru 4. There we read exerts from Richard Baxter on the everlasting rest, The Kingdom of Heaven by Thomas Boston, and two sermons: one by Charles H. Spurgeon , and one by J. C. Ryle, both are sermons on heaven. There is also a Scripture and General index in the rear of the book.

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## **Bill Ver Velde says**

This book feels more like a rebuttal to the near death experience culture than an overview of heaven. MacArthur spends much of the book arguing against books like Heaven is for Real, 90 Minutes in Heaven, and What Happens When You Die. While I appreciate and agree with MacArthur's arguments against the heaven obsessed culture, it feels like I was the victim of a bait and switch. I wanted a book on heaven, not an argument against heaven culture.

I read this book immediately after reading Scot McKnight's The Heaven Promise. I feel like Scot does a better job of grounding our resurrected bodies in Jesus' resurrected body. MacArthur does talk about this but he fails to make the point as strongly as it should be made. I also like Scot's format of question and answer better than MacArthur's.

Perhaps I am being too hard on The Glory of Heaven since I am comparing it to Heaven Promise which I like better. But MacArthur's book feels more like playing defense while Scot McKnight plays offense.

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## **Tanwin says**

There are many books written by John MacArthur that are as a result of a response to other books. This book is a response to a whole genre of "Heaven Tourism".

In the last decade, there has been an increase in book publications of people's accounts of going to Heaven, Hell, and other near death experiences. In the first half of this book, MacArthur addressed the inaccuracies of these accounts and how these accounts were originally came from spiritualism, not Christianity.

The second half of this book, MacArthur describes what Biblical Heaven is like. However, this is where the book falls short. This is not my go-to-book in terms of heaven. There are other books out there that are better and more comprehensive on the subject of Heaven (eg. Randy Alcorn's Heaven).

Overall, this is a good critique book on the subject of heaven tourism which we certainly need today. However, if you want to learn more about biblical heaven, there are better books out there.

3 out of 5

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## **Justin Daniel says**

In Colossians 3:1, the Apostle Paul encourages believers to seek heavenly things when he says, "If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God." Some Evangelical Christians have taken this perhaps a little too far with a genre of books that is becoming increasingly popular to both Christians and Non-Christians alike: the ascension-into-heaven genre. Pastor Todd Burpo, for example, is making millions off of his child's claims that he went to heaven, first penning a book, "Heaven is for Real" and, more recently, a feature film. Even more recent, last week the publishing company "Tyndale House" (who publishes Christian fiction and non-fiction alike) pulled the book "The Boy Who Came Back from Heaven." Kevin Malarky wrote the book, after his son (who is now a quadriplegic after a tragic car accident) visited heaven. After a story leaked from the boy's mother that both she and her son protested against the facts of the book, Tyndale pulled it from their shelves. There are others: 90 Minutes in Heaven, 23 Minutes in Hell, To Heaven and Back, among others. Clearly America is consumed with the afterlife. According to a poll in 2013, over 74 percent of Americans believe in Heaven. But this is the problem with this simple "belief" and these stories: are they real? As you can see, the subtitles for most of these books include a sentence that says, "a true story."

If you know me at all, you will know that Dr. John MacArthur has heavily impacted my life, and I often attribute my salvation to his ministry. In this book, he delves into these miraculous occurrences and debunks these accounts by expounding on what the Bible tells us Heaven will be like and then compares this to the model that these writers have described. It is no small wonder that after reading this book, these accounts of Heaven are superficial, dangerous, confused, and little Biblical support.

While I don't want to regurgitate all the problems of these books, I want to stress an interesting point that Dr. MacArthur makes: very few people in the Bible see Heaven. When God does give man a glimpse into Heaven, the notion isn't one of irreverence as most of these books portray. I haven't read any of them personally, but from reading snippets, one can see that most people treat Jesus as their "buddy" and God is in the form of some kind of man or light. The picture of Heaven in the Bible when men do see in it is one of extreme reverence and even fear. For example, Issaiah glimpses into Heaven in chapter 6 of the book of the Bible with the same name, and after seeing the glory of God, he says,

"And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!"

None of the characters in these books ever has a reaction like this, and yet this happens also to the Apostle John when he sees Heaven in Revelation. The point is that Heaven is often a place that people trivialize and fail to see what the Bible actually says about it. Even when you say the word "Heaven" out of it's context ("That [insert whatever] was so heavenly), we often times use it to describe the most wonderful thing we can imagine. And while that is what Heaven will be like, it will not be full of things that make us happy in this life.

No, Heaven will be much more grand for the Christian. Not only will we be in new, glorified bodies, but we will do nothing wrong, have no evil thoughts: indeed, we will be perfect. What is even more awesome than this, is that we will be with God, the creator of the world where there won't even need to be a sun because of His glorious light. And we will, for eternity, glorify Him.

There is a lot more to it than that, but if there's anything that Dr. MacArthur brought to my attention, it was that people like the Apostle Paul were Heaven minded. As he says in the Epistle to the Philippians, he longs to be in Heaven! The Heaven of the Bible will not be a boring place or a place where all our selfish desires are fulfilled, but it will be a place where the truest desires of the Christians heart will be fulfilled. As the Westminster Catechism puts it, "Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever." That will become a reality in Heaven someday.

I strongly recommend this book for both Christians and Non-Christians who desire to know what the real Heaven will be like.

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## **Kristine says**

Heaven is something we as Christians like to talk about but don't seem to examine closely very often. Thus

my interest in picking up this volume.

I thought it did a good job balancing refutations of some better known "went to heaven and came back" tales while going to the Bible for what we are told about real heaven. I feel a lot more comfortable defending the positions I hold regarding both of these aspects. What the Bible has to say about our true identities as citizens of heaven, New Jerusalem, what we will be like in heaven, and what angels are like are touched upon. The size of the Scripture index alone shows the research that went into this book.

Definitely recommended for believers looking for a thorough but understandable book encouraging us to look forward to the true heavenly experience awaiting.

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### **Laura says**

MacArthur's appendix on New Age, pantheism, dualism, and mysticism is succinct and helpful given the influence of it in our culture. Also, I appreciate his faithfulness to Scripture in describing the Lord and heaven.

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### **Rose says**

What an absolutely uplifting and inspiring book! With all the 'earthly' stuff out there in print, it was so refreshing to have a true biblical account of heaven. The book takes us from what heaven is not to what heaven actually is; what we will be like in heaven; what we will do in heaven; the New Jerusalem and all things made new; to the what the angels are and what their role is, etc.

This book is John MacArthur's updated print. He utilizes this edition to incorporate clarity to what the Bible actually has to say about all things heaven, thus refuting modern day accounts of so-called heavenly journeys there and back.

What I truly liked most about this book as opposed to other books on heaven is that Dr. MacArthur straight up uses nothing but biblical text to paint a glorious picture of heaven. I don't think I have ever read a description more biblically accurate and awe inspiring. This book will be a permanent fixture on my shelf.

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### **Rod says**

I'm fascinated by people who claim to have gone to Heaven/Hell and back. But just like MacArthur; I know the truth is not in their stories. These poor deluded fools may not be lying - but what they claim does not match the Word of God, therefore it's best to ignore or critique their claims. And this book begins to question their accounts against the information God gave us in the Bible.

I think John MacArthur could have gone into way more detail in dealing with Burpo's Heavenly tale. (I don't blame the Burpo child for his thoughts - but Pastor Burpo should know better; especially when their book sets Daddy up as a divine preacher with magical Holy Spirit blessings. I bet Benny Hinn is kicking himself for not writing a book like this.)

This book does take us carefully into the Biblical account of Heaven. And that is what counts. Thanks John.

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## **Candice says**

I highly recommend this book to all Christians. It is important to be able to distinguish between the terminology of biblical Christianity and what is actually biblical. In “The Glory of Heaven,” John MacArthur does a wonderful job debunking modern-day fads and new age ideas about heaven and challenges the reader to use the bible as the one and only source of information about heaven. He asserted that, “What God has revealed in Scripture is the only legitimate place to get a clear understanding of the heavenly kingdom.” (p. 18)

My favorite part of the book was MacArthur’s challenge of the spiritual genre of “Heaven and Back.” He showed that everyone who claimed to have died, gone to heaven, and come back (what Tim Challies refers to as “heaven tourism”) is not legitimate. He used scripture to remind the reader that the glory of heaven is incomprehensible. “[It] is seriously dangerous to listen to anyone who claims to know more about God, heaven, angels, or the afterlife than God himself has revealed to us in Scripture.” (p. 19)

This genre is especially scary because it is soaked with Christian terminology, being written by Christians and non-Christians alike, and being published by Christian publishing companies. “The ongoing influence of [these] writings actually signifies a serious setback for both faith and reason. Accepting the reality of supernatural things is not the same as believing the truth.” (p. 27)

MacArthur targeted “Heaven is for Real” because it is such a hot item. He pointed out that many of the scriptural references that Pastor Burpo used were not analyzed for context. Only superficial readers will be convinced that this little boy had a heavenly experience. It is essential to read critically at all times. “One of the most troubling aspects of ‘Heaven is for Real’ is the way Todd Burpo constantly insinuates that personal experiences – even the spectral memories of a three-year-old boy under anesthetics – are somehow more compelling than Scripture alone.” (p. 47)

I think the point of the book was can be understood best by the following passage:

“[W]hile we do not yet live physically in heaven, we do have our spiritual citizenship in the heavenly realm. Therefore we should be preoccupied with heavenly things.” (p. 80)

The following were some of my favorite passages:

“Worldliness and materialism have become the hallmarks of postmodern culture. And yet it is rather amazing that all those trends combined have not managed to quell the human longing for heaven’s glory and faith’s assurance.” – p. 18

“Contemporary evangelicals simply have a too-low view of Scripture and a too-high regard for trendy things.” – p. 34

“Any pursuit that diminishes people’s reliance on the Bible is fraught with grave spiritual dangers.” – p. 37

“We are not sufficiently concerned with heavenly values, so we don’t appreciate how wickedly sinful it is to hold on to earthly ones.” – p. 67



“[W]e don’t seek to escape this life by dreaming of heaven. But we do find we can endure this life because of the certainty of heaven. Heaven is eternal. Earth is temporal.” – p. 69

“Language fails when humans try to describe divine glory.” – p. 98

“Heaven will seem more like home than the dearest spot on earth to you.” – p. 151

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