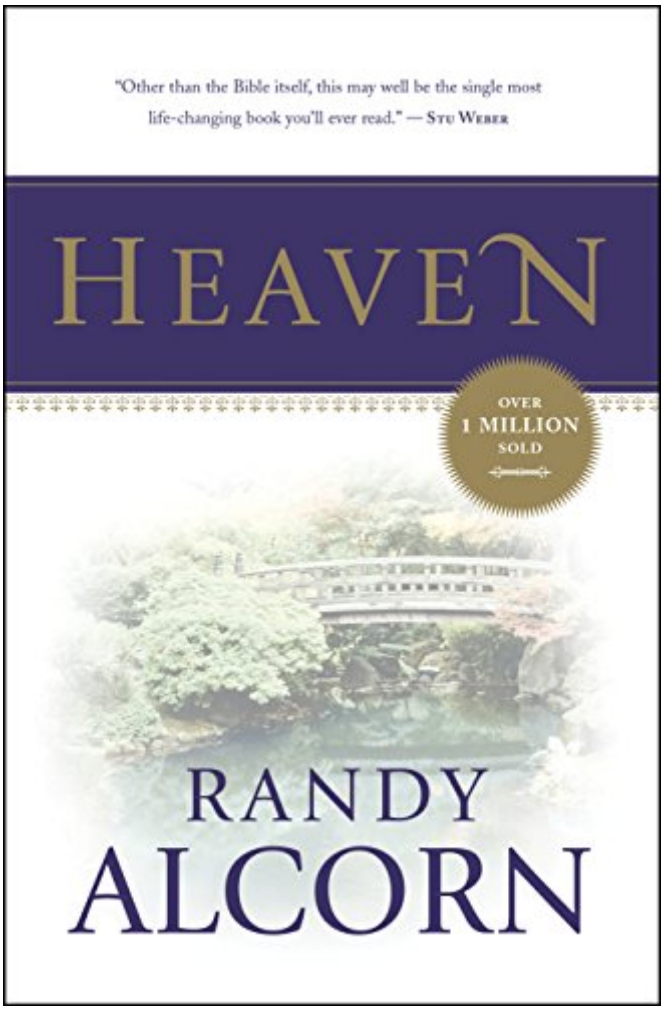
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Heaven (Alcorn, Randy)



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Synopsis

What will heaven be like? Randy Alcorn presents a thoroughly biblical answer, based on years of careful study, presented in an engaging, reader-friendly style. His conclusions will surprise readers and stretch their thinking about this important subject. Heaven will inspire readers to long for heaven while they’re living on earth.

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Customer Reviews

When losing a loved one my thoughts turn to Heaven. This happened when I lost my Mom twenty years ago and again recently when I lost my father-in-law. IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ve long wanted to read this book, but was probably intimidated by its massive size. I decided now was the time. As an added bonus, my mother-in law read the book at the same time I did, and we would occasionally talk about what we were reading.Alcorn has done his research on this topic, having read 150 books on Heaven. He quotes liberally from many of those books.He writes that in our seminaries,

churches, and families, we have given ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“little attention to the place where we will live forever with Christ and his peopleÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •the New Earth, in the new universeÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•. The eternal Heaven is the central subject of this book.Alcorn believes the book will stand up to biblical scrutiny. But right up front, he invites the reader to contact him if they have biblical grounds for disagreeing with anything in this book. He is open to correction and mentions that the revised edition of the book contains a number of changes he made based on input from readers of the first edition.The book is organized as follows:Part 1: In ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“A Theology of Heaven,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• he explains the difference between the present Heaven (where Christians go when they die) and the ultimate, eternal Heaven (where God will dwell with his people on the New Earth).Part 2: In ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Questions and Answers about Heaven,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• he addresses specific questions about life on the New Earth that arise out of the foundational teachings in Part 1. Part 3: In ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Living in Light of Heaven,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• he encourages the reader to let the doctrine of Heaven transform us and fill us with joyful anticipation.He also includes the following:1. Appendix A: ChristoplatonismÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s False Assumptions2. Appendix B: Literal and Figurative Interpretation3. Selected BibliographyAlcorn writes that most people do not find their joy in Christ and Heaven. Instead, he states, many people find no joy at all when they think about Heaven. They assume that they will be bored, playing a harp on the clouds all day long. He writes that many Christians whoÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ve gone to church all their adult lives (especially those under fifty) canÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t recall having heard a single sermon on Heaven.Alcorn states that nearly every notion of Heaven he presents in this book was stimulated and reinforced by biblical texts. As you talk to others about Heaven as you read this book, they will probably ask ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Where did he get that?ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• Alcorn helpfully lists scripture references throughout the book as he teaches about Heaven. He also states that we should ask GodÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s help to remove the blinders of our preconceived ideas about Heaven so we can understand what Scripture actually teaches about it.Alcorn writes that when a believer dies, he or she enters into what is referred to in theology as the intermediate state. This is a transitional period between our past lives on Earth and our future resurrection to life on the New Earth. The intermediate or present Heaven is not our final destination. Rather, we will live with Christ and each other forever, not in the intermediate, or present, Heaven, but on the New Earth, where God will be at home with his people. In the book, when referring to the place believers go after death, Alcorn uses terms such as the present Heaven or the intermediate Heaven. He refers to the eternal state as the eternal Heaven or the New Earth.Alcorn states that the problem is not that the Bible

doesnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t tell us much about Heaven. ItÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s that we donÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t pay attention to what it does tell us. He states that we were all made for a person and a place. Jesus is the person. Heaven is the place.I found this to be a fascinating book, covering many aspects of Heaven that I had not previously thought of.

Heaven is a theologically correct, comprehensive, and enlightening picture of our future eternal life. I am a happier person for reading it. Recognizing how the future heaven will allow us to accomplish everything that the devil has stolen from us here will certainly make me behave as a better more patient person here. Randy AlcornÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s reorientation of heaven with true worship via our individual pleasure as children of God provides a valuable tool to reach the lost who can find no interest in harps & clouds, but if provided a ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“hot rodÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• and all the garage space and tools to enjoy it ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ suddenly they do not want to miss heaven! HeavenÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s pleasures are true and we should speak these truths to be winsome in describing GodÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s great plans!MA Christian Apologetics(P.S. I do not agree with Alcorn's view that no animal death occurred before the fall of Adam & Eve, but this is a minor point to the whole book.)

Fantastic Book, provides insight to some questions you might have on what happens after death, he uses scripture for his thoughts and insight, although some is subject to interpretation, like anything though all things are subject to your own opinion, but it is nice to have to research done for you so you can make your own opinion. I use the book for reference all the time, have it on Kindly and a hard cover.

Alcorn's way of relating his theology is accessible to people who aren't steeped in theological jargon. He does a good job of explaining his beliefs. When he has scripture to back up what he believes, he is concise in sharing his view. When he is sharing a belief not necessarily supported specifically by scripture, he says that he is sharing an opinion - I appreciate the transparency in how he shares what he believes. While I don't agree with every deduction he makes, I do believe that he is right about the premise of the book: there is so, so much to know and understand about Heaven. Scripture says a LOT. I love that Alcorn promotes that Christians need to think about this more, and his good use of scripture to show how much more we can know. What we believe happens when we die is crucial to our worldview, and to how we live day by day. I love this book. We need to open ourselves to the potential that Christ Himself promised - a future and a hope and a home.

Still reading the book and doing a Bible study using it as a resource. A very interesting and deeply resourced and studied treatise on Heaven! I think Randy Alcorn has brought some facts to us to ponder and consider in regard to our time spent in Heaven after our time here on earth. Believers in Jesus Christ will be blessed with the considerations brought forth by Randy Alcorn. I recommend you reading the book and drawing your own conclusions about the material.Jim BatesMarshall, Texas

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