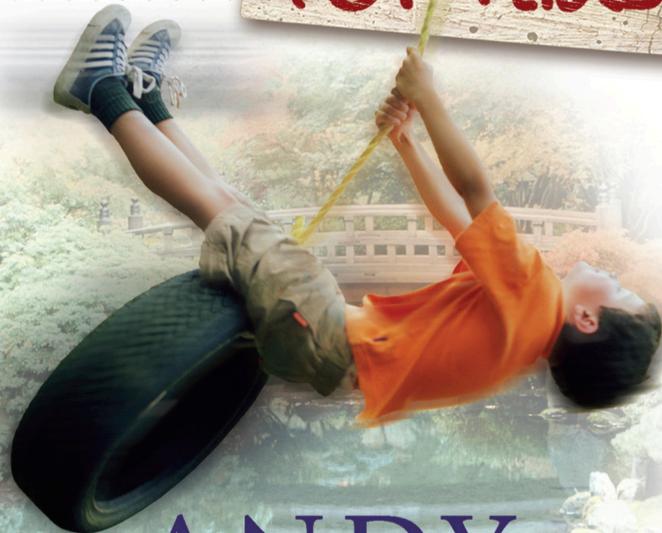


Answers kids will understand—  
based on the best-selling book for adults

# HEAVEN

for kids



RANDY  
ALCORN

## *Note to the Reader*

How many times have you thought about Heaven in the last week? Have you brought up the subject or asked anyone a question about Heaven? Unless a person or a pet close to you has died (or is dying), the topic of Heaven may not have crossed your mind. Still, since you have this book in your hand, you're already *beginning* to think about Heaven. Good for you!

This book has questions many people have asked about life after death. As you read it, you might find some of the questions *you've* asked. You'll probably also find some questions you've never *thought* about asking. But I think you'll find most of them very interesting. I've tried to base my answers to these questions on what God tells us about Heaven in the Bible. (There are a lot of wrong ideas about Heaven, but we can always depend on what the Bible has to say.) At the beginning of each chapter, you'll find two quotes—one from the Bible and one from *The Chronicles of Narnia*—that will start you thinking about the ideas in the chapter.

But now it's time to turn the page and take a look at the first question and answer. You may want to read just one at a time, or you may read several in one sitting. You'll probably want to look up some of the Bible verses too. You and your family could do that together. It's always fun to talk with your friends about the things you're reading, so you could bring up what you're learning with them.

Enjoy exploring life in Heaven. After all, it's a place where *you* can live forever someday—a place without fear, anger, sadness, or sickness. And it's not just a place without bad stuff. It's a place full of *great* stuff: beauty, joy, fun, lots

of activity, and rest when you need it. We'll have endless adventures together with Jesus and each other. It's a place where you can live with the wonderful and fascinating God who created you. And it's a place where you can hang out with all sorts of kind and interesting people who will be your friends forever.

Cool!

Anyway, I really hope you enjoy this book!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy Alcorn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "n".



# WHY SHOULD WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEAVEN?

*We are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives.  
And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior.*

PHILIPPIANS 3:20

*[Jewel the Unicorn] cried: "I have come home at last! This is my real country! I belong here. This is the land I have been looking for all my life, though I never knew it till now. The reason why we loved the old Narnia is that it sometimes looked a little like this. . . . Come further up, come further in!"*

C. S. LEWIS, *The Last Battle*

## **Do I really need to think about Heaven?**

Suppose your dad or mom told you that you were moving to a new place. What's the first thing you'd do? Ask questions, right? You'd want to know the *who*, *what*, *when*, *where*, and *why* about the place where you were going to live.

Now pretend you're part of a NASA team preparing for a five-year mission to Mars. After a period of heavy-duty training, the launch date finally arrives. As the rocket lifts off, one of the other astronauts says to you, "What do you know about Mars?"

Imagine shrugging your shoulders and saying, "Nothing. We never talked about it. I guess we'll find out when we get there." Think that would happen? Not likely, right? Part of your training would have prepared you for where you would be living for the next five years. You would have talked about Mars 24/7, wouldn't you? *After all, that's where you were headed!*

Maybe at some point you've said, "I believe Jesus died for the wrong things I've done" (more about that in chapter ten). Perhaps you've already asked for his forgiveness and placed your trust in him. If so, the Bible promises that Heaven

will be your future home. Jesus said so himself. “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” (John 14:2-3).

When my family goes on a trip, we like to know in advance what it’s like where we’re going. If we’re planning a vacation, we look at the brochures and maps and Web sites. We learn about the attractions—all the things that make it a place we want to visit.

Finding out in advance about the Grand Canyon or Disney World or summer camp helps us get excited and look forward to going there. The Bible says, “We are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth he has promised, a world filled with God’s righteousness” (2 Peter 3:13). But we won’t really look forward to that place unless we know something about its attractions before we get there, right?

So if Heaven—or as that verse calls it, “the new heavens and new earth”—will be your home someday, wouldn’t it be great to learn all you can

about it now? That way you can spend your whole life looking forward to the place that will be your home forever!

That's what this book is all about.

## **Isn't it enough just to think about being with Jesus?**

Each of us is made for a person. And we're also made for a place. Jesus is the person. Heaven is the place.

Jesus lives in Heaven and is getting a place ready for us there. So if we look forward to being with Jesus, that's the same as looking forward to Heaven. Why? Because that's where we'll be with him. So whenever we think about being with Jesus, we're thinking about Heaven. And whenever we think about Heaven, we should be thinking about Jesus.

## **What do I look forward to?**

But let's be honest. Are you *really* looking forward to going to Heaven? Maybe in seventy or eighty years, right? After you've done all the things you want to do.

Think about some things you do look forward to:

- Christmas or another favorite holiday
- Your birthday, your sister's birthday (well, maybe not), or even your dog's birthday
- Going to your favorite place (like a water park, the beach, the woods, the river, or maybe SeaWorld or Six Flags)
- The last day of school and the start of summer vacation
- Seeing a movie you've been told is really, really good
- Getting the next book in your favorite series

Why do you look forward to those things? "Duh," you might say. The answer is obvious. Because of what you already know about these things, you use your God-given imagination. You can almost taste, feel, smell, hear, and see all of the wonderful things you expect.

For example, if your birthday's coming up, you might taste, feel, smell, hear, and see chocolate cake with thick frosting, the laughter of friends,

and presents. Maybe you're looking forward to seeing cousins, aunts, and uncles you haven't seen in a while. Or perhaps you're counting on getting lots of cool presents.

But guess what? Looking forward to Heaven is no different. In fact, looking forward to Heaven is even better than looking forward to Christmas or your birthday! Yet many people find that hard to believe because they don't know how to picture Heaven. They don't know how to look forward to it.

Does that describe you?

## **What do people believe about Heaven?**

Speaking of describing, what are some words you would use to describe Heaven? Would *fun* and *exciting* be words you'd use?

It might surprise you to discover that many people find no joy at all when they think about Heaven. Wondering why? They don't look forward to going there because of what they believe Heaven is like.

Gary Larson showed a common view of Heaven in one of his *Far Side* cartoons. In it a man with angel wings and a halo sits on a cloud, doing nothing, with no one nearby. He has the expression

of someone stuck on a desert island, bored because he has absolutely nothing to do. A caption shows what he's thinking: "Wish I'd brought a magazine."

Is that your view of what Heaven will be like? Or is it what someone you know thinks? Many people fear that Heaven will be . . . well, boring.

When you were younger, maybe you saw the movie *All Dogs Go to Heaven*. Think w-a-a-a-y back. Charles B. Barkin (Charlie), a German shepherd, goes to Heaven because, of course, everyone thinks "all dogs go to Heaven"! But Charlie doesn't want to be in Heaven. Why? Because there are no surprises—no exciting ones anyway. Everything is predictable. Even the temperature is a steady seventy-three degrees Fahrenheit, which sounds boring to Charlie. He prefers the excitement of life on Earth to an eternity of floating on a cloud, wearing wings and a halo. So he ditches Heaven to return to Earth.

In the sequel (*All Dogs Go to Heaven 2*), Charlie explains his frustrations with Heaven when he sings, "It's too heavenly here. It's too peaceful and paradise-like." In other words, Heaven is too dull for him.

Predictable? Boring? Endless years of the same old, same old? No one would look forward to that!

Well, I've got some good news for you. Charlie got it all wrong. Heaven is not like that at all. *No way!*

Have you ever read any of the books about Peter Pan and wished you could live in a beautiful, magical place like Neverland—but without Captain Hook and all the mean pirates? Well, Heaven is a better place than Neverland any day. How do I know? From what the Bible says about it.

That's why this book provides another view of Heaven: as a place worth thinking and talking and dreaming about. In fact, once you understand what the Bible really says about Heaven, *you can't help but look forward to living there!*



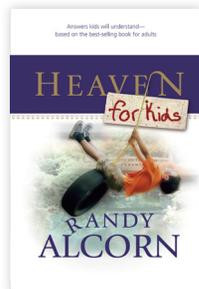
eternal perspective ministries

with author Randy Alcorn

## Learn more about *Heaven for Kids*

In a language kids can understand, Randy Alcorn explores Biblical answers to the questions kids often have about Heaven. Intended for kids age 8-12, *Heaven for Kids* is sure to be an excellent resource for families, especially those in which the parents have read the adult book and wish to pass on that same level of understanding to their children.

[Purchase this book](#)



## About Randy Alcorn

Randy is the founder and director of Eternal Perspective Ministries and the best-selling author of over 50 books (over nine million in print) including *Heaven*, *The Treasure Principle*, and the Gold Medallion winner *Safely Home*.



## About Eternal Perspective Ministries

Eternal Perspective Ministries (EPM) is a nonprofit ministry dedicated to teaching principles of God's Word and assisting the church in ministering to the unreached, unfed, unborn, uneducated, and unsupported people around the world. You can order all of Randy's books and products through EPM's online store at [www.epm.org](http://www.epm.org).