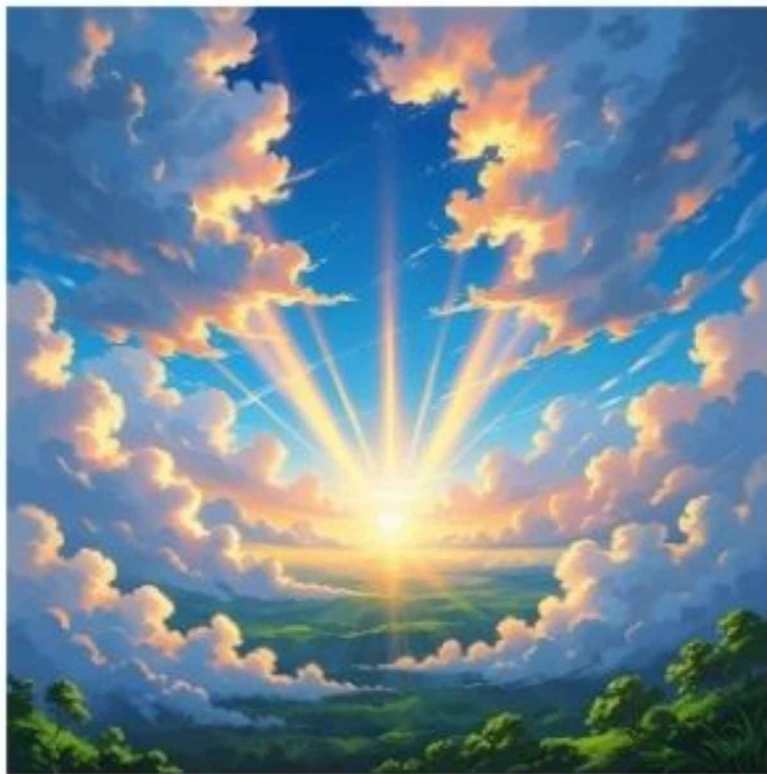


HEAVEN CONSCIOUSNESS AND ETERNITY



BY: PASTOR ISAAC T. ADEOLA

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By

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INTRODUCTION:

Heaven is the habitation of God and a place promised to the saints of God (John 14:1–3). It is a beautiful and glorious place. It is a place to be treasured and of pleasure forevermore (Matthew 13:44–45; Revelation 21:4).

A songwriter says, “A glimpse of heaven will all the toils of life repay.”

Scripture Focus: Revelation 21; Matthew 6:33; Colossians 3:1–2; 1 John 3:1–3; Matthew 6:19–21

A CALL TO ETERNITY

Eternity is the timeless age in which the inhabitants live without death. It is a world without end. Our God lives in eternity (Isaiah 57:15).

His people also shall live in eternity (1 Thessalonians 4:16–17).

Invitation to heaven and eternal life is to whosoever will (John 3:16; Revelation 22:17).

Every child of God that hopes to be with God in eternity must be determined and conscious of this lively hope.

Note: To be conscious is to be awake and alive (Ephesians 5:14). In the sense in which it is used in our topic, it means being mindful, always bearing in mind and not being forgetful. It also means watchfulness or being alert with patience and great perseverance, as Elisha when his master was to be taken away (2 Kings 2:9–12).

1. HEAVEN

- Heaven is God's habitation – 1 Kings 8:30, 39, 43, 49; Isaiah 66:1; Matthew 5:16
- Heaven is a prepared place for believers in Christ – Matthew 5:3, 10, 12
- Heaven is beautiful and glorious – Revelation 21:2, 11, 18–23
- Heaven is a holy place – Revelation 21:2
- Heaven is an eternal perfect place where there is no evil and no evil men – Revelation 21:4, 27
- Heaven is open to whosoever will and thirst – Revelation 21:6, 17
- Heaven is for overcomer – Revelation 21:7

2. ETERNITY

Holiness is total righteousness.

In Isaiah 57:15, we understand that God lives in eternity.
Romans 1:20 talks about His eternal power and Godhead.

In the Scriptures, we also see phrases like:

- “eternal damnation” – Mark 3:29
- “eternal weight of glory” – 2 Corinthians 4:17–18
- “eternal glory” – 2 Timothy 2:10; 1 Peter 5:10
- “eternal salvation” – Hebrews 5:9
- “eternal judgement” – Hebrews 6:2
- “eternal redemption” – Hebrews 9:12
- “eternal inheritance” – Hebrews 9:15
- “eternal fire” – Jude v.7
- “eternal life” – Matthew 19:16

- “everlasting punishment” and “life eternal” – Matthew 25:46

There are several other scriptural passages attesting to the fact of eternity—life after life here on earth.

Eternity has no end. Eternity is in two parts:

1. Eternal life – life without end or everlasting life for believers in Christ (John 3:16)
2. Eternal death – everlasting death or eternal damnation, condemnation, everlasting punishment for sinners (Revelation 21:8)

These are the two destinies awaiting man, depending on our choice, the kind of life we live, and whom we believe and serve here on earth (Matthew 6:24).

Physical death is the gateway to eternity, and it is always unannounced. People of all ages die. Death can knock at your door anytime, any day, and anywhere—through accidents on a journey (by air, land or sea), fire outbreaks,

collapse of buildings, sudden attacks, poison, war, riots, natural disasters (flood, storm, earthquakes etc), plagues, epidemics, sickness, and diseases.

Note: Life, they say, has no duplicate. Read Ecclesiastes 12:1–7.

Another gateway to eternity for Christians is the rapture of the saints, which can occur any moment from now. It is only the believers that are ready who will be caught up (1 Thessalonians 4:16; 1 Corinthians 15:51–52).

While we are still alive—before death knocks or before the rapture takes place—we are to be mindful of where we want to spend eternity.

3. HOW TO BE CONSCIOUS OF HEAVEN AND HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

Scripture: Matthew 6:19–21; Colossians 3:1–2; 1 John 3:1–3

We must hold things in this world with loose hands.

We must be hungry and thirsty after righteousness and seek after those things which are of eternal value, and not allow the cares of this world to choke our minds.

We must ensure that we:

- Believe in Christ and be born again – John 1:12; 3:3–7, 14–16; Acts 3:19; 1 John 1:9; 5:1, 4–5
- Have the righteousness of Christ – Matthew 5:20; Romans 3:21–22
- Abide in Christ – John 15:1–6; 1 John 2:28
- Let His Word abide in us – 1 John 2:24–25
- Obey God and do His will – Matthew 7:21–23; Mark 16:15–16

- Humble ourselves as little children – Matthew 18:3–4
- Consecrate and follow God – Mark 10:21; Matthew 6:17–19
- Forgive others, have a clean conscience, love like our Father in heaven – Mark 11:25–26; Matthew 5:44–45
- Stand firm in Christ – Galatians 5:1; Colossians 1:21–23
- Pray without ceasing – Luke 18:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:17
- Have fellowship with other believers – Hebrews 10:24–25; Acts 2:47

CONCLUSION

Heaven is real, and hell is also real.

Heaven is a place of rest for the saints, while hell is a place of torment for the unrepentant sinner.

Now choose rightly and be prepared.

About the Author

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