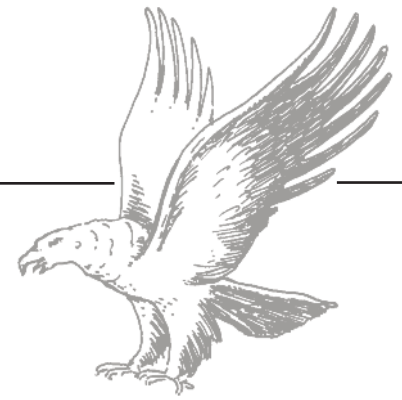


# Wings

*“Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles.”  
Isaiah 40:31*



September 20, 2015

## Our Heavenly Home

The Bible describes our ultimate hope as a home in heaven. There is much about that future reward that we don't know, but what we do know is enough to get us excited.

*“Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” Then He who sat on the throne said, ‘Behold, I make all things new . . .’” (Rev. 21:3-5).*



In this life, there are three frustrations that dog us all our days: the presence of pain and suffering, the fear of death, and the inaccessibility of a God who could fix the first two problems if He wanted to, but doesn't. So we stagger along through our few miserable years here, taking the blows and longing for something better.

These vexations cultivate a belief—almost universal among humans—that there must be something better beyond death. The details may vary across cultures, but the common thread is an instinctive awareness that this life is not all there is, that we have something bet-

ter to look forward to beyond the grave. Surely this life is not all there is.

The Bible supports this idea. In the Old Testament, believers had little more than a vague awareness of a future reward, the details of which were shrouded in mystery. We are given more information in the New Testament. This passage near the end of Revelation paints an especially beautiful portrait that stirs our souls. The language used here, although figurative, directly addresses the three major frustrations that burden us in this life.

First, in that perfect home *there will be no tears*. Everything that would bring us grief will be gone: no more pain, no more suffering, no more disease, no more heartache. In that new life, God will “make all things new.” Every bit of the decay, corruption, degeneracy, and crookedness that we encounter in this life will be absent, replaced by a life that is forever fresh and unblemished.

Second, and more importantly, the perfection that defines that experience will be *permanent*. Unlike the transitory delights that we may encounter here—

with the grim knowledge that it won't last—in that future home death will never close the doors on the joys that surround us.

Finally, we will at long last have the answer to the greatest question of all: *God*. Here in this life we long for God's presence, for some small sign that He is there and loves us. But in that new environment, God will no longer be an abstract hope. Instead, He will be a real presence. “He will dwell with them. . . . God Himself will be with them . . . . God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.” God will embrace us with His own arms, and we will know Him, not by faith, but by sight.

This all sounds so beautiful. But how can we be confident that it is true and not just some ancient fable? Christianity is unique among the religions of the world in that it offers a hope based on an historical event: the resurrection of Jesus Christ. His victory over death is the bedrock of our faith, giving us an assurance of our own resurrection some day (1 Pet. 1:3-5; 1 Cor. 15). Heaven is real; believe it and live it!

— David King