

IF I MISS HEAVEN

Hebrews 3:7-4:1

INTRODUCTION:

- A. This morning, I want us to consider one of the most beautiful and glorious topics in the Bible: the home awaiting us in HEAVEN. **Revelation 21:4, 10-21.**
- B. ***HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHY WE DON'T KNOW MORE ABOUT HEAVEN?***
1. Maybe we are not told more because we "walk by faith, and not by sight."
2 Corinthians 5:7.
 2. Perhaps we are not told more in order to keep us from getting sidetracked from the important things of this life.
 3. Maybe we are not told more simply because of our inability to comprehend.
 4. God used what we could understand in an attempt to describe it to us.
ILLUSTRATION: Batsell B. Baxter used to illustrate it by telling of the farmer who had never been away from his farm but who went to New York--and then returned to find his children eagerly awaiting to learn what it was like. He compared the skyscrapers to the silo and the subways to the mole tunnels in the yard. He did not mean they were identical, but they were the closest things to it with which they were familiar. (RSVP Newsletter).
- C. As we begin our study, let us consider how the Hebrew writer makes reference to the rebellion of Israel in the wilderness, Hebrews 3:8-11.
- D. Israel hardened her heart, tested God and suffered His anger. **v.8-10**, "So I swore in My wrath, '*They shall not enter My rest.*' " **V.11.**
1. This means that they missed entering *the land of Canaan.*
 2. Of the possible **TWO MILLION** people who left Egypt, only 2 adults of that number made it.
- E. He tells us to encourage one another, **v.12-13.**
- F. Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have ***come short of it.*** **4:1.** This is a warning NOT TO MISS HEAVEN!
- G. However, the Bible tells us that many will miss heaven, ***Matthew 7:13-14.***
- H. Will YOU miss heaven? Will I miss heaven? If so, WHY?

I. I WILL NOT MISS HEAVEN BECAUSE:

- A. GOD HAS NOT PROVIDED A WAY, **John 14:6.**
1. Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."
 2. NOTE: this statement of Jesus comes just after his description of Heaven, **v.1-3.**
 3. The gate is narrow, but at least there IS a gate, ***Matthew 7:13-14.***

B. I HAVE NOT BEEN INVITED.

1. There are some places you **cannot** enter without a written invitation.
2. There are other places you **do not** go without an invitation.
3. Have you ever expected an invitation to a place or event and not received one?
4. You ARE invited to heaven:
 - a. "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." **Matthew 11:28-30.**
 - b. And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely. **Revelation 22:17.**

C. I HAVE NOT BEEN WARNED.

1. The Bible is filled with warnings
 - a. The story of the Rich Man and Lazarus is a warning to us, **Luke 16:19-31.**
 - b. Paul warned the Thessalonians that Jesus is coming "in flaming fire . . ." **2 Thessalonians 1:7-9.**
 - c. "For if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins." **John 8:24.**
 - d. "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish." **Luke 13:3.**
 - e. "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned." **Mark 16:16.**
2. I would also say that everyone in this auditorium has ALSO received warnings from family, friends, preachers, teachers, elders, etc.
3. "*Careless soul, Oh heed the warning, for your life will soon be gone.*" *Prepare to Meet Thy God.*

II. IF I MISS HEAVEN, IT WILL BE:

A. BECAUSE OF MY OWN INDIFFERENCE.

1. No matter how much you talk to some people, they simply do not have any concern about the destiny of their soul.
2. Though the soul is worth more than the whole world, some don't think it is important.
3. Indifference leads to biblical ignorance and you cannot obey what you do not know.

B. BECAUSE OF MY OWN STUBBORN PRIDE.

1. FUNNY ILLUSTRATION: A young woman went to her preacher and said, "Preacher, I have a besetting sin, and I want your help. I come to church on Sunday and can't help thinking I'm the prettiest girl in the congregation. I know I ought not think that, but I can't help it. I want you to help me with it."
The preacher replied, "Mary, don't worry about it. In your case it's not a sin. It's just a horrible mistake."
2. While that may be funny, it often is NOT funny when one is lifted up with pride toward another or toward God.
3. Naaman's pride almost cost him dearly, **2 Kings 5:1-14.**
4. If I have too much pride to submit to God, I cannot go to heaven, **Matthew 18:3-4.**

C. BECAUSE OF MY LOVE FOR THE WORLD.

1. Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. **1John 2:15.**
2. The word is choked by riches, cares and pleasures of this life, **Luke 8:14.**
3. Remember: “while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.” **2 Corinthians 4:18.**

D. BECAUSE OF PROCRASTINATION.

1. “I intend to obey the gospel.”
2. What a tragedy it would be if you intended to obey, yet, just never did....and missed heaven!
3. Procrastination is the devil’s most useful tool...it makes us *feel good* and is so *effective!*
4. Today is the day of salvation, **2 Corinthians 6:2.**

CONCLUSION:

- A. **“IF YOU MISS HEAVEN, YOU’VE MISSED IT ALL.”**
- B. Will YOU miss heaven? I pray not.
- C. If you DO, what will the reason be?
- D. INVITATION SONG: ***Prepare to Meet Thy God.***

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