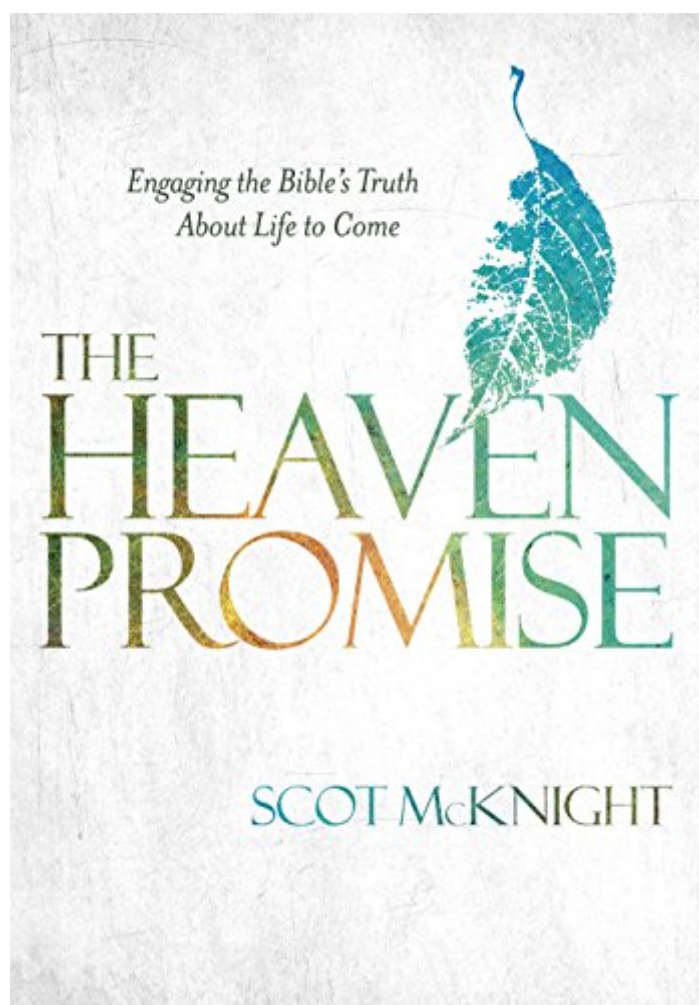


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The Heaven Promise: Engaging The Bible's Truth About Life To Come



Synopsis

Heaven isn't just a dream; it's a promise! For far too long, we've talked about heaven as if it were a dream or someplace that only exists in fairy tales. We want to believe it's real, but with such an expanse of contradictory information, it's difficult to know what to believe. To add even more confusion, we are left to sift through the tales of individuals who say they have crossed over and returned. With so many competing narratives and accounts based on what many think are beyond-death experiences, wouldn't it be nice to have a straightforward examination of what the Bible says about heaven? Best-selling author and New Testament scholar Scot McKnight thought so too. He has penned more than fifty books, including *The Jesus Creed*, and has had a fascination with heaven since he was a child. As a professor of New Testament at Northern Seminary, McKnight is no stranger to academic engagement and scholarly discourse. However, as an ordained deacon, McKnight is well accustomed to the concerns of the everyday thinker. *The Heaven Promise* represents the perfect blend of thoughtful research coupled with an easily digestible presentation. "My hope," McKnight shares, "is that people will be hopeful about heaven." The *Heaven Promise* offers an infusion of hope alongside a healthy anticipation of eternity. After all, heaven isn't just a dream; it's a promise. Heaven. Eternity. The Afterlife. When you mention any of these concepts, people of all ages and from all walks of life are certain to have opinions. How can we know for sure what heaven will be like? According to New Testament scholar and popular author Scot McKnight, all we need to do is to turn to Scripture to answer our questions. McKnight helps you examine God's Word in order to discover what awaits you on the other side of the grave. Using the Bible, McKnight answers the most-frequently-asked questions regarding heaven, including:

1. What about Near-Death Experiences?
2. What about Rewards in Heaven?
3. Who Will Be in Heaven?
4. Is God Fair?
5. Will There Be Families in Heaven?
6. What About Children Who Die?
7. What About Cremation?
8. What About Purgatory?
9. Will There Be Pets in Heaven?
10. Why Believe in Heaven?

Heaven isn't the construction of a fairy tale or some mythical narrative. It's very real; it's very good; and it's very much the fulfillment of God's promise to you.

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Customer Reviews

This is just what I would expect from Dr. McKnight. Wonderfully written with lots of stories to help those (like me) who love them. But of course there is lots of biblical exegesis to show that Scot is not just guessing or selling a "theology of hope." Scot's books get better and better as time goes on and I think that this is one of his best, if not his best yet. I bought a hundred to give to students and donors to the seminary of which I am the president. I can count on Dr. McKnight to be biblical, to use careful exegesis, and to use style and story to ensure those who are facing terrible problems that both Scot and God care about them! I'll give this book to someone who is suffering the loss of a child, death of a spouse, or even just the overwhelming problems of life and hope for a new one. No matter what hand life deals us, there is a promise of a perfect one coming. I can't wait! This book will bless you, encourage you, convict you, but mostly remind us that there is a "better place a'comin, by and by Lord, bye and bye. Buy this book and be blessed by it, I am so sure that I had my school buy 900 so that we can give them away to bless other people. Samuel Lamerson, Ph. D. President-Knox Theological Seminary Ft. Lauderdale, FL

McKnight explores and clarifies, in a thoughtful and insightful way, some of our deepest questions about heaven. This book grounds you in what we DO know from the Bible and challenges you to

consider what might be. I'm more sure of the glorious of Heaven than ever after reading this rich work. Thank you Dr. McKnight!

Scot takes the results of much scholarship and make it very understandable. I particularly appreciate his careful distinction between what can be known with certainty from scripture and what can be reasonable inferred from philosophy and other sources.

It was good to better understand the promises of God to His people. He did an excellent job of showing throughout the Bible the promises made and weaving them together to give the reader a deeper and more complete understanding.

I gave this as a gift

OVERVIEW: The Heaven Promise answers the most frequently asked questions regarding heaven, including: 1. What About Near-Death Experiences? 2. What About Rewards in Heaven? 3. Who Will Be in Heaven? 4. Is God Fair? 5. Will There Be Families in Heaven? 6. What About Children Who Die? 7. What About Cremation? 8. What About Purgatory? 9. Will There Be Pets in Heaven? 10. Why Believe in Heaven?

AUTHOR: Scott McKnight is the author of more than fifty books including The Jesus Creed. He currently serves as a professor of New Testament at Northern Seminary in Lombard, Illinois. A much sought after public thinker and speaker, he blogs regularly at Patheos under the banner of "Jesus Creed." He and his wife, Kris, enjoy life in the suburbs of Chicago.

My Review: The Heaven Promise is now one of my favorite books. Scot McKnight has for a long time been one of my favorite theologians. This doesn't mean that I agree with all that he writes or teaches but I do agree with most of it. That's one of the reasons I like this new book. McKnight is a New Testament scholar and he uses the Scriptures to answer questions about heaven, eternity and the afterlife. Scott McKnight wants you to know that heaven isn't the construction of a fairy tale or some mythical narrative. It's very real; it's very good; and it's very much the fulfillment of God's promise to you. This book may not answer all of your questions about heaven but it will answer many of them. I agree with author John Ortberg. He said, "What a terrific book! Scot lays out the great questions about heaven • What will it be like? Who's going there? • and seeks to address them with biblically grounded wisdom." "My hope," McKnight shares, "is that people will be hopeful about heaven." After you read this book I believe you will be hopeful about heaven!

Christians believe in Heaven. It is our final destination at the end of life, our After-After-Life, our great hope for eternity. Nevertheless we don't all believe the same things about it. Popular images of heaven depict a whole lot of harp playing up there on those billowy white clouds. Our images of heaven and the after life are formed from pop-culture--movies, books, comics--and medieval art and literature. In contrast, Scot McKnight wrote *The Heaven Promise* to give us a picture of our Christian final hope, drawn primarily from the pages of the Bible. It was perhaps only a matter of time before McKnight tackled the topic of heaven. Several years ago, this New Testament scholar and popular blogger and author, took on Reformed evangelicalism for reducing the gospel 'to going to heaven when you die' (See *The King Jesus Gospel*). However McKnight never repudiated heaven; his problem was with the ways the gospel (and heaven) were relegated to the afterlife. McKnight divides *The Heaven Promise* into four sections. Part one is essentially an introduction to the question of heaven, our assumptions about the afterlife and where we got them. Part two looks deeper on what the Bible says about heaven: that it is promised to us by God, that this promise is sealed by Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension, that a bodily resurrection awaits those who share in Christ's resurrection, and that heaven begins wherever the reign of God is. Part three unfolds six promises about heaven: God will be God (present in all his glory, majesty and power). Jesus will be Jesus (central to everything as a reflection of the God of heaven). Heaven will be a utopia of pleasures. Heaven will be eternal life. Heaven will be a global fellowship. Heaven will be the eternal beloved community. These six promises will have implications for what heaven will be like and for how we live our lives now. Part four was the part of the book I read first. It is kind of a FAQ section. McKnight tackles ten questions people have about heaven. He answers questions about near death/out of body experiences, heavenly rewards, 'who get's in,' God's fairness, family in heaven?, children who die, cremation, purgatory and pets. In his final question "Why Believe in Heaven?" he gives a personal account of his belief in heaven. I found this to be a well-written account of heaven grounded in biblical theology. McKnight has a gift for presenting complicated but important theological ideas in language that ordinary readers understand. In a few places, McKnight challenged my reading of particular passages and what that tells about heaven (i.e. he gives a fresh interpretation of Jesus' confrontation of the Sadducees). McKnight doesn't simply rehash Bible verses about heaven. He talks about the implications of what our vision of heaven should have for our day-to-day life. For example, his chapter on the eternal beloved community (chapter 13) expounds on how the Bible's last book describes the end of the exploitation and injustice of Babylon. McKnight knows we aren't there yet. We live in a world with food deserts and unjust

incarcerations (McKnight gives examples of each). He suggest that our heavenly vision of Justice and Shalom should cause us to seek to live out heaven now. For McKnight heaven isn't just 'pie in the sky when you die' but a vision we live towards. This is a popular level book, so not exhaustive. You may not agree with McKnight on every point. But if you want a book that gets you excited about heaven and presses into the implications for life, this one is great! I give it four stars. Note: I received this book from Waterbrook Multnomah and the Blogging for Books Program in exchange for my honest review.

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