

## DID JOHN SEE YOU?

A dear pastor was very burdened for the lost husband of a very faithful lady in his congregation. The pastor had witnessed to the man on more than one occasion, but the man showed little interest in anything the preacher had to say. One day the pastor asked the wife, "Could you trust me to come by your place when neither you nor your husband would be at home? I'll be able to accomplish my task in less than an hour." The lady told the pastor that on a certain afternoon they would not be in the house. She said she would leave the door open at this time and he could make himself at home. The pastor assured her he would be in and out quickly.

The husband was the first to arrive home on that given day and he saw a simple 3 x 5 note card taped to the front door with one question written on it. It read, "Did John see you?" The man went into the house and on the wall of the living room he saw another note reading, "Did John see you?" Taped to the refrigerator was the identical question, "Did John see you?" As he entered into the hallway leading to his bedroom he found another card with the same question, "Did John see you?" The man's curiosity was really stirred. He went into his bedroom and found the same question carefully situated on his chest of drawers, "Did John see you?"

Finally he made his way to the restroom and as he was preparing to shave he saw the final note card with the same nagging and indecipherable question, "Did John see you?" This time there was one difference; this card had a telephone number written just under the question. It bore no name, just a phone number. The man stopped what he was doing and called the number. The pastor answered and identified himself. The man quickly inquired, "Sir, since I have been home I keep seeing this card with the same question, 'Did John see you?' Then the last card had your number on it. What is this all about?"

The preacher, seizing the moment, said, "In Revelation 5 the Apostle John was caught up to heaven and while there he saw *"...ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands..."* (Revelation 5:11) saints of God, believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. He saw your wife, your kids; he saw me and all believers in heaven from this age. I just want to know, "Did John see you in that crowd?" Before the day was over that gentleman got saved! I would like to ask you, "Did John see you?"

### 1. The Word of God, My Invitation to Go There

The Bible says, *"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"* (Romans 10:17). The Bible is the Word of God and you can rely on it.

The Bible is reliable because God declares it so. *“Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him”* (Proverbs 30:5). The Bible is reliable because of the scientific accuracy enclosed. People were dying from the communicable disease called the Bubonic Plague until doctors followed the biblical order of cleansing by running water, *“And when he that hath an issue is cleansed of his issue; then he shall number to himself seven days for his cleansing, and wash his clothes, and bathe his flesh in running water, and shall be clean”* (Leviticus 15:13). There are many other examples in the Scriptures of scientific accuracy. The Bible is reliable because of fulfilled prophecy. For instance, over three hundred prophecies of Jesus before He walked on the earth were fulfilled to the letter in the 33 years He lived among us. The Bible is reliable because of the antiquity of the Book. Voltaire said that one day the Bible would be merely a relic in museums. Well, it keeps surfacing as the most popular book ever printed. Voltaire is dead, but the Bible is alive and well on planet earth. Did not our Lord say, *“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away”* (Matthew 24:35; Mark 13:31; Luke 21:33). You can trust the truth contained in the Scriptures that present to us God’s plan of salvation.

## **2. The Reason I Am Going There**

I am going to heaven because of the unmerited favor of God, in a word: “Grace!” *“Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus”* (Romans 3:24). Some attempt to argue that salvation is by God’s grace mixed with our good works that saves us and keeps us saved. This is not what the Bible teaches, for the apostle said it like this: *“And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work”* (Romans 11:6). I agree with the words of the old hymn, Rock of Ages, “Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I cling. Naked, come to Thee for dress; Helpless look to Thee for grace. Foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.”

## **3. The One That Made It Possible for Me to Go There**

Referring again to Romans 3:24, it says, *“Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus”* (Romans 3:24). I emphasize the words, *“through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”*

In our text of Revelation 5:9, we read: *“...For thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation.”* In this passage the word for “redeemed” is from the Greek word: ἀγοράζω (agorazō), meaning, to buy in the market place, specifically in the slave market.

In Galatians 3:13 it says, *“Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree.”* Here the word “redeemed” is taken from the Greek word: ἐξαγοράζω (exagorazō),

meaning to buy out of the slave market, to recover and ransom from the power of another.

In I Peter 1:18,19 it says, *“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”* The word “redeemed” in this passage is taken from the Greek word: *λυτρόω* (lutroō), meaning to release on receipt of ransom; to liberate and set free.

Salvation is totally and wholly through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and to Him is all the glory! He is the only one who could make it possible.

#### **4. The Way That I Am Going There**

We who are saved will either die to get there or get raptured. Both ways will work! Paul says, *“We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord”* (II Corinthians 5:8). The alternative is described in I Thessalonians 4:17: *“Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”* Both events for the Christian give the same ultimate outcome as explained in Philippians 3:20,21: *“For our conversation (citizenship) is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.”*

What a way to go!

#### **5. The Rejoicing That Will Take Place When I Get There**

Our text reminds us that our response to being in heaven will be singing and praising God. Revelation 5:9a tells us, *“And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy....”* Revelation 5:12 and 13 continues, *“Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.”*

I agree with old John Jasper, the former slave who said if the mighty angel asks him if he wants to see Moses, Peter, John, Paul or any of the patriarchs when he gets to Heaven, he will answer, “Angel, I appreciate you wantin’ me to see ‘dese other people that I do want to see later – but right now I’s e gots to see Jesus furst of all; He’s ‘da one who died for me!”

The songwriter had it right, “What a day that will be when my Jesus I shall see, and I look upon His face, the One who saved me by His grace. When He takes me by the hand and leads me through the Promised Land. What a day, glorious day that will be!” And beside all this, we shall see and be with loved ones and friends who have gone on before us. No wonder Heaven is so full of rejoicing!

I ask you this question in closing: “Did John see you?”

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Johnny Pope". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.