

# Have You Opened Your Gift?

By Joyce Rhoads

The Life Application Bible says “the Bible devotes far less space to describing eternity than it does to convincing people that eternal life is available as a free gift from God.” The writers of the Bible used terms and descriptions or “hints” of our present experiences to describe eternity because mere humans are not capable of grasping eternity and, of course, will be realized only at judgment. The following verses describe our future if we accept God’s gift of eternal life.

John 14:2-3 describes eternity as a place prepared for us. ***“My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”***

John 20:19, 26 describes eternity as unlimited by physical properties. ***“On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you!’ ‘A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you!’”***

1 John 3:2 tells us we will be like Jesus. ***“Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.”***

1 Corinthians 15:50-52 says we will have new bodies. ***“I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.”***

1 Corinthians 2:9 tells us it will be a wonderful experience. ***“However, as it is written: ‘What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what***

***no human mind has conceived—the things God has prepared for those who love him—”***

Revelation 21:1 tells us it will be a new environment. ***“Then I saw ‘a new heaven and a new earth,’ for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.”***

Revelation 21:4 tells us it will be a new experience of God’s presence. ***“And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and He will dwell with them. They will be His people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.’”*** 1 Corinthians 13:12 also tells us ***“Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely.”***

Revelation 21:4 tells us we will have new emotions and there will be no more death. ***“He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.”***

God has always only wanted our hearts. Matthew 6:21 says, ***“Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.”*** The Old Testament is full of stories of God’s chosen people falling out of love with Him and worshipping idols. Genesis 6:6 tells us ***“So the Lord was sorry He had ever made them and put them on the earth. It broke His heart.”***

There is sweet peace found in repentance and strength in joining God’s army of servants while here on earth. Heaven awaits!