

The Faith We Sing

May 2, 2021
“I’ll Fly Away”

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we love You. Thank You for preparing a place in heaven for us. Thank You for sending Jesus as the way, the truth, and the life. Teach us to seek You and Your will on earth as it is in heaven. Help us to share the hope we have with others. We pray this in the matchless and powerful name of Jesus. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES:

Revelation 21:1-4 (CEB)

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³I heard a loud voice from the throne say, “Look! God’s dwelling is here with humankind. He will dwell with them, and they will be his peoples. God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more. There will be no mourning, crying, or pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

Philippians 3:19-20 (CEB)

¹⁹ Their lives end with destruction. Their god is their stomach, and they take pride in their disgrace because their thoughts focus on earthly things. ²⁰ Our citizenship is in heaven. We look forward to a savior that comes from there—the Lord Jesus Christ.

Psalms 90:10-12 (NIV)

*¹⁰ Our days may come to seventy years,
or eighty, if our strength endures;
yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow,
for they quickly pass, and we fly away.
¹¹ If only we knew the power of your anger!
Your wrath is as great as the fear that is your due.
¹² Teach us to number our days,
that we may gain a heart of wisdom.*

INTRODUCTION

Albert Brumley was working in the cotton fields of Oklahoma and was dreaming of flying away from the exhausting work. This experience was the catalyst for writing the hymn "I'll Fly away." Brumley's song resonates with many people in our world who dream of the day they are taken from the troubles of this world to a place we call heaven. The song points us toward hope for eternity and urgency for today.

According to scripture, heaven is paradise restored and God's vision for the future. We don't know a lot of details about what heaven is like, but we do know that Jesus has defeated death and because he lives we too will live again. The resurrection of Jesus is what gives us hope for eternity. Since heaven is God's vision for the future we are called to work for that vision now. However, many people become spiritually complacent in our world and don't prioritize working on God's vision. Moses reminds us that the best way to get our priorities straight is to remember that our days are numbered.

QUESTIONS

- 1) Read Revelation 21:1-4 on page 1. What do you think heaven will be like? What do you hope to experience when you first enter heaven?
- 2) How does your specific view of heaven change the way you live on earth?
- 3) Have you ever felt unsure of whether or not you're going to heaven? How have you worked through that?
- 4) Read Psalm 90:10-12 on page 1. Do you tend to think of your days as endless? Why is it difficult for us to number our days?
- 5) Read Philippians 3:19-20 on page 1. What do you think it looks like to live believing your citizenship is in heaven?

FINAL APPLICATION

This week pray this prayer "Teach me to number my days that I may gain a heart of wisdom."