

Friday, March 23: Read [Read Revelation 22 \(Mark 8\)](#)

Author Deron Spoo has coined this chapter What Heaven Holds in Store. Two words that could sum up our thoughts about heaven from this passage are mysterious and majestic. Heaven is mysterious because there's so much we don't understand. Heaven is majestic because there is much about it that we simply can't understand. It is way above and beyond earthly experiences; the abode of perfection, God's dwelling place.

Revelation 22 does use some familiar imagery to help us out though. It mentions a river flowing with life giving water. It mentions a street said to be golden and glorious. Maybe that's Main Street! And scripture mentions a tree there, "the Tree of Life". Similar to Eden, but now fully available to all who dwell there: nourishment unending for humanity now come full circle from the fall in the garden to the paradise of God. Finally, heaven is centered around God's throne, glorious like we could never fathom in our fallen, imperfect existence here on earth. All this is both mysterious and majestic and so much more. If you know Jesus Christ, you are heaven bound. Until you arrive, why not ask him to use you to coax others to follow Christ and ensure their own eternal destiny in the land of gladness and glory.

Notes:

Pray for Our Missionaries

Juan & Adriana Palacios (Angola, Africa), **David & Miriam Trott** (Cochabamba, Bolivia), **Mario Bloise** (Argentina), **Dan & DeAnn Gerard** (San Antonio, TX), **Robert and Kailey Newkirk** (South Sudan), **Mike and Fran VanBruggen** (South Africa), **Craig and Shelly Shafer** (Sentani, Indonesia), **Sue Sanders** (Detroit, MI), **Matt and Becky Kooi** (Tijuana), **Daniel Jezonski** (Wycliffe), **Andrew & Sara Williams** (New Tribes), **Brad and Christa Babjack** (InterVarsity), **Salomon and Megan Guzman** (Tijuana), **Alvaro and Rachel Garriga** (Interserve USA), **William and Salma Garcia** (Tijuana church plant)

The Good Book

40 Chapters That Reveal the
Bible's Biggest Ideas

Spiritual Disciplines

- *Invite the Holy Spirit to guide your reading each day.*
- *Read the chapters and underline any meaningful verses and take note of specific advice or wisdom gleaned from your reading.*
- *Note any unclear passages or teaching and seek insight, answers or help.*
- *Think about what you're reading. Ask:*
 1. *How does this apply to me?*
 2. *Are there any temptations to avoid, sins to confess, commands to obey or promises to claim?*
 3. *What insight do I gain on God, myself, others, or life?*
- *Ask God to show you any specific action you need to take as you read.*

Monday, March 19 Read [Acts 1](#)

Our theme for this week is Following Jesus. Acts one helps us to understand Where Jesus Is Now. He has risen and interacts with his disciples over the kingdom work before them. Then, after 40 days, he is taken up out of their sight. Where? To the very presence of God, where he sits down to rule. He's in a real place, as a real, live person! Heaven, God's abode, receives Jesus in glorified human form. And it will receive us someday as well. The angels remind his followers that he will return someday, just as Jesus had told them. We are to remain faithful and watchful until that time arrives.

Notes:

Pray for: My relationship with God
My life roles
My personal needs/weak areas
My goals and objectives

Tuesday, March 20: Read [Acts 2](#)

The author's title for Acts 2 is Happy Birthday to Us. Jesus has promised his disciples that in his absence the Spirit would come to carry on his work through them. Pentecost is the day he arrives, it's the birthday of Jesus' church on earth. As a present, God blows into them his Spirit life and his power for service. They were all enabled to speak new languages that communicated the gospel to the broad group of foreign Jews worshiping in Jerusalem during the Pentecost holiday. Peter explains to them the significance of this happening and several thousand convert to Christ on the spot. The newborn church begins to grow and expand all the way up to our day and age. We, like them, are devoted to the same principles of the disciples' doctrines, fellowship, worship and service.

Notes:

Pray for family and friends by name.

Wednesday March 21: Read [Acts 9](#)

Saul of Tarsus discovered big time what can happen When Jesus Interrupts Your Life. Everything changes. For the better for sure, but not necessarily for the easier way. All new challenges awaited this persecutor-turned-pastor. Jesus audibly calls Saul to serve in his cause. Then he calls a disciple named Ananias to go and pray for Paul's conversion. At once, Saul goes to the synagogue and calls out for Jews to accept Jesus as Savior. And, at once, he is not well received as the tables turn on him and he now become the persecuted. And so Acts records the start of one of its prime apostles, known for the Greek translation of his name, Paul.

Does Jesus have permission to interrupt your life and plans? And, if he should call you to something specific, would you follow, regardless of what changes might occur?

Notes:

Wednesday: Pray for Bethel Gilead Community Church

- Pastors: Pray for God's grace and guidance in Pastor Jim and Pastor David's ministries and families. Pray for Linda Penn in her work at BGCC.
- Worship: Ask God to strengthen our devotion to Him, in prayer, praise, and thanksgiving. Pray for this coming Sunday's service.
- Fellowship: Ask God to deepen our love and commitment to one another as a family of believers.
- Discipleship: ask God to develop the faith, dedication, and leadership of our people. Pray for the children and youth ministries here at BGCC. Pray for our various small groups that meet each week.

- Outreach: Pray that God will use Bethel Gilead to make a positive impact on our community so that many would come to Christ. As God to help us to incorporate new people into our fellowship.
- Future Faith Goals: Ask God to give our congregation a united vision for the future. Pray for God's clear leading in 2018 and beyond.

Thursday, March 22: Read [Acts 10](#)

God Loves the People You Can't Stand. The Jews in Jesus' time were God's "chosen people". Any other people groups were lumped together as "Gentiles", the people God didn't choose. And in some cases, it was easy to suspect why they weren't chosen. However, God originally chose Israel to be the people he would reach out through to ultimately encompass all peoples. They failed to get that part straight. Enter the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and the early Christian Jews began to cross cultural boundaries and witness to "unclean" Gentiles -- Samaritans, Greeks and Romans. And a church is formed out of what was once enemies from two different camps.

Is there a group of people you dislike? Don't be fooled into thinking that God joins in your sentiment. He loves them as much as he loves you. And as part of his people, he wants to use you to pray for and reach out to even your enemies. Like the early church, you'll need the Holy Spirit's help. But it can be done.

Notes:

Thursday Pray for "My World"

- Neighbors • People who live around me.
- People at work or out in the community • Others God brings into my life. Take note of specific needs around you and ask God what he wants you to do to help. Who can you invite to church this Sunday?
- Ask God to bring revival and a spiritual awakening to Branch County. Pray for the area churches and a greater spirit of unity and cooperation.
- Continue to pray for the nation, our national leaders and a revival in America.