

Throughout history there have been countless failed attempts at creating utopias on earth. Among them were Fruitlands, a vegetarian compound in Massachusetts, where meat eating was strictly prohibited. Then there was Palmanova, in Northern Italy, which relieved prisoners of their sentences and used them to design a utopia where everyone could live in peace together. Equality Colony was formed in Washington State as a socialist utopia where work and rewards were equally shared, also ending in failure. There were multiple socialist utopias attempted, along with environment friendly utopias, animal friendly utopias, women power utopias, and more. Some of the attempted utopian colonies ended up being hotbeds of molestation and pedophilia, while others, like Jonestown, ended in mass suicide.

The one thing that all these attempted utopias have in common is that they all failed. While men and women throughout history have been trying to make some kind of utopian society on this earth, their attempts have continued to fail miserably and sometimes tragically. Still, utopian fantasies continue to inspire people across the world. The pre-fab house movement has hopes of creating a floating city, while others plan to build future cities in space, but just like the utopias of the past, all these human attempted utopias will fail. The Bible says that the kingdoms of the earth will continue to fail until the God of heaven sets up "a kingdom which shall never be destroyed" (Dan. 2:44).

Because our world is plagued by pain, death, divorce, disease, and all forms of tragedy, mankind longs for something better than this world can offer. That is because God "has put eternity in their hearts" (Eccl. 3:11). In spite of the vain pleasures we find in this life, there is something inside us that longs for more than this world has to offer. Something within us knows that there has got to be more to life than this. That reality is a drive put inside us by God which inspires us to search for utopia. Sadly, many people try to create a man-made utopia here on earth instead of searching for the real utopia,

called heaven, which God has promised all those who follow Him.

God promised an eternal home waiting in heaven for those who love God. Speaking of this home Jesus said, "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also" (John 14:2, 3). God longs to bring us to our heavenly home and His people throughout the ages have suffered the cruelest pains because they long to be with their God. They realize that this world is temporary and "desire a better, that is, a heavenly country" (Heb. 11:16). This heavenly utopia is God's promise to humanity.

While we know little about heaven from our earthly perspective, the Bible does give us glimpses of what to look forward to. We are told that at the end of time, this earth and all the wicked within will be destroyed by fire, then after the fire burns everything up, the heavenly city will come "down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband" (Rev. 21:2). It will be surrounded by a beautiful wall "of jasper," with twelve gates made of "pearls," and donned with streets of "pure gold, like transparent glass" (Rev. 21:18, 21). We are told that "there shall be no night there" and "there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles" (Rev. 21:25, 27). Those who inherit this gift will be given eternal life, to live forever with God, and He "will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying; and there shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away" (Rev. 21:4).

For those who have lost loved ones to death, this is a precious promise. The Bible tells us that we can see our dead loved ones again and spend eternity with them in a place where there will be no more pain, sorrow, or death. This alone is enough to long for the promise of a heavenly utopia, but there is so much more. The Bible promises that we will have restored health. We are told that "the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be

unstopped. Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing" (Isa. 35:5, 6). For those who spent their years on this earth maimed or disabled by some terrible accident there is hope on the horizon.

In heaven we will be given a new "glorious body" (Phil. 3:21). This body will be immortal and incorruptible, but it will still be a physical body (See 1 Cor. 15:53). In these bodies we will still be "known" and recognizable, but unlike the old bodies we will not grow tired with age (1 Cor. 13:12). The Bible says "those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint" (Isa. 40:31). These glorious bodies will never wear out because we will daily drink of the "water of life" and eat of "the tree of life" (Rev. 22:1, 2).

While we will live for eternity, heaven is promised to never grow boring. It is full of delights. All will be peace. "Violence shall no longer be heard" and no one will "hurt nor destroy" in heaven (Isa. 60:18; 11:9). The Bible also gives reference to children in heaven, saying that the "streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets" (Zech. 8:5). In addition, work will be a delight. To illustrate, I enjoy writing. While it is work, it is a delightful work. A couple friends of mine enjoy working with wood. What seems like work to some is pleasure to others. The work we are given in heaven will be the things we naturally love to do. We are told that those in heaven "shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit" (Isa. 65:21). Whatever kind of work you love to do, that will be your profession.

Still, anything that could be said of heaven would not be enough to describe its amazing beauty and glory. I have tragically heard some people say things like, "If heaven does not have my favorite sport, I don't want to be there," or "if heaven doesn't have marriage, I don't want to go," but those who say this have no idea what they are saying. What a horrible thing to miss out on the glories of heaven for fear that you won't be

happy there. The Bible assures us that you will like it. I have always told people, “don’t worry about what heaven is like. Just worry about getting there. You’ll be happy you did. Trust me.” The Bible assures us, “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him” (1 Cor. 2:9). That means heaven will be beyond imagination. If you think of the best possible day you could have on this earth, then multiply it times a thousand, you would not even come close to the joys of heaven.

While the “passing pleasures” of this world are short lived (Heb. 11:25), the Bible assures us that in heaven we will experience lasting pleasure. We are told, “In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore” (Ps. 16:11). The temporary pleasures of sin which give us short highs then sink us down into guilt and depression cannot compare to the pleasures that God has in store for us in heaven. While every one of us have individual desires and things we like, the Bible says that God will “give you the desires of your heart” (Ps. 37:4). It will be better than you could possibly imagine and best of all, our heavenly Father will live with His children “and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God” (Rev. 21:3).

While all the attempts to create a utopia on earth will fail, a hope remains of escaping the pain, tragedy, and heartache of this life. God has placed eternity in our hearts in hope that we will search for more than this life has to offer. If you are longing for more than this life has to offer, God’s promise is for you. This amazing promise of eternal life with God in heaven is offered freely to anyone who wants it. Please don’t miss out on this amazing opportunity. Accept Jesus and His gift of eternal life so that you can one day celebrate with the people of God in heaven for eternity. It’s a celebration you don’t want to miss.

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