

==== *The* ====

100

BEST

BIBLE VERSES

==== *on* ====

HEAVEN

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For Santini

Who went to heaven way too soon,
but whose influence is still felt on earth today

INTRODUCTION

As a pastor, I've done my share of funerals. And you can tell the difference between believers and non-believers.

The Christians who died and were saved by faith in Jesus Christ have way better funerals. Family and friends come together to grieve, but yet they also have hope. They know that person is in the presence of God and rejoice in their transition into heaven. They are happy for the departed and sad for themselves. They know God will heal all wounds, but it will take time. In the meantime, they celebrate their loved one's life and lasting legacy.

The funerals of the unsaved or the unsure are depressing. Nobody really understands or knows what to believe. Because they don't have faith in God, they can't be sure where the departed is at the moment or whether they will see them again.

Sad, sad, sad.

The Bible wants us to know about heaven. It's not a mystery that we'll one day discover. All the information we need to know about heaven is in the Bible. We know enough to believe, but not too much that we won't be eternally surprised.

So many times people look at heaven as a place, a paradise, a playground where we'll be free of illness and enjoying an eternal party.

Not entirely. Heaven is a relationship. That relationship happens in a place. We are there to be with God. Imagine going to Grandma's house and loving her basement and her yard and all the fun things to do there, but you ignore her.

God is what heaven will be all about. Will we enjoy the place and the people and the things to do? Sure, but none of it would be possible without the relationship with God!

Finding the one hundred best Bible verses about heaven was surprisingly easy. The information is clear and the truth refreshing. It was a joy to discover each truth; my anticipation to be there grew with each passage.

This book will explore verses about death, the afterlife, heaven, hell, and the return of Jesus Christ. Yes, it will look at the good and the bad, but to appreciate the best we need to understand the worst.

If you're like me, you'll be thinking about your loved ones who have died—some with old age, others tragically, many way too soon—but hopefully after reading these verses you'll be at peace, knowing they are truly in a better place, face-to-face with God in a wonderful relationship called heaven.

Troy Schmidt
Windermere, FL
January 2016

1

GENESIS 3:19

By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread,
till you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
for you are dust,
and to dust you shall return. (ESV)

Life is hard and then you die.
That saying seems cruel, but it's how the Bible first introduces us to death and dying in Genesis 3.

We were not meant to have a hard life, but a fulfilling, eternal life. Life should come easily and naturally. Instead we have to work hours and hours every day to put food on our tables. Sin messed everything up.

And what reward do we get for all that hard work? Bodies that wear out and die.

God's pre-sin intention for our life here on earth gives us an indication about life over there in heaven, where we will no longer sweat or be exhausted and unfulfilled, but easily find what we need when we need it. No longer will we deteriorate and dissolve into dust. We will forever be eternally strong.

The Bible begins with bad news about death. It ends with good news about eternal life.

GENESIS 3:22

And the LORD God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.”

The Tree of Life symbolized eternal life given to us by God. The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil became a symbol of our pride to be like God.

Two fruits. One is ripe and sweet. The other makes us spoiled and rotten.

In the Garden, man had the choice to either hold on to eternal life or go after a selfish God-like status. Arrogantly, we turned our backs on living forever as mere humans. We wanted to attain God’s knowledge of good and evil and be more like Him. For some reason, that seemed better than eternal life. We thought it would bring a richer life. We were wrong.

Before we die, we must repent of our desire to be like God (the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil) and accept the gift of eternal life (the Tree of Life) given to us by God. It’s a decision of our will and an acknowledgment of our selfishness.

If we want to be God and run things our way, there is no room for us in heaven. There is only room for one God.

Eternal life or selfish pride? Which fruit looks tastiest to you?

3

GENESIS 5:24

Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more,
because God took him away.

Enoch got a pretty sweet deal.

After hundreds of years of faithful service, he received a private escort into the arms of God. God just took him away to heaven, to be with Him.

Today, we don't live as long as Enoch did, and though we may have been faithful our whole lives, we could still die a long, exhausting death. But it's not how you die—quick or slow—it's where you go after you die that matters.

No matter how a Christian dies, it never compares to life on the other side. A slow death with years of medical treatment on earth seems like seconds on eternity's time schedule.

Walk faithfully now and prepare for that moment when God escorts you to Him. Accept any delays as bonus time to spend with those you love.

GENESIS 25:8

Then Abraham breathed his last and died at a good old age, an old man and full of years; and he was gathered to his people.

The best way to die would be like Abraham—at a good old age and full of years.

Not just a lot of years, but years that were full of activity, blessing, and relationships.

Abraham's faithful life still impacts people today. The faces of those in this verse called "his people" grows every day.

What a perfect way to be gathered to our own people, a family reunion in heaven to talk about the past and discuss how God so richly blessed us.

Abraham lived a full life here on earth and then an even fuller life in heaven with his loved ones by his side—faces he knew and faces he continues to meet today.

Our lives on earth are counted in years. In heaven it's counted by relationships.

Make your years now be fulfilling, enriching, and impactful for your family and generations to come.

GENESIS 28:12

He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

There's a real stairway to heaven.

Jacob saw a stairway between heaven and earth that indicated a connection between the two very diverse places.

It's important to know those were angels, not human souls who traveled across the gap. Angels enter and exit heaven to come to earth, to perform their tasks assigned by God.

People don't.

When our loved ones leave, they are securely in a place on the other side and have no need to travel back to us.

But be comforted to know that angels are on the job surrounding us and protecting us during difficult times.