

**Sing to Me of Heaven  
A Sermon in Song**

**Call to worship: 1 Pet. 1:3-9**

**Prayer:**

**Intro: Since today is the 5th Sunday, we're using our time once more for another sermon in song. I hope it will be an edifying time of worship for all of us.**

**As before, I will be reading and commenting from the Scriptures and Mark will be leading us in the songs. They'll be posted on the screen & in the bulletin for those who might not be able to see the screen so that you will be able to know them in advance and what verses we'll be singing. (That way we'll not have to announce numbers; but go from song to song after our readings).**

**As Christians it is important for us reflect often on the goal we are striving to achieve, that is, to be with the Lord forever. Our theme today is "Sing to me of heaven."**

**#716 Sing to me of heaven (1,2)**

**The Scriptures give us many images of heaven to instruct and increase our longing to be there.**

**It is our eternal home (#874, v. 1,3)**

**As Christians we are strangers in a foreign land; but one day will at last be home with the Lord. Paul wrote:**

*Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord—for we walk by faith, not by sight—we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord. (2 Cor. 5:6-9)*

**#874 Walking alone at eve (v. 1,3)**

**Heaven is not only the home for which we long;**

**It is our Promised Land (#886, v. 1,4)**

**Perceptive Bible students have observed that God's redemptive history with Israel foreshadows the hope of the church. Just as Israel crossed the Jordan River to enter the land of promise, so one day each of us will "cross Jordan" in order reach our promised land:**

**#886 On Jordan's story banks (v. 1,4) Alt. 889**

**Later in God's redemptive history another event in Israel would foreshadow our experience. After Israel was sent away from their homeland to captivity, God through the prophet Isaiah looked forward to their return to Zion, the symbolic dwelling place of God.**

**It is our spiritual Zion (#860, v. 1,2,3,4)**

*And the ransomed of the Lord will return, and come with joyful shouting to Zion, with everlasting joy upon their heads. They will find gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing will flee away. (Isaiah 35:10)*

**#860 There is a habitation (v. 1,2,3,4)**

**Every picture of heaven is intended to describe a place of unimaginable beauty and glory. One of the biblical word for this place is Paradise.**

**It is our Paradise (#898, v. 2,3)**

**Jesus in the Revelation encouraged the faithful as they endured persecution to think about their destination:**

*'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.'* (Revelation 2:7)

**#898 Paradise Valley (2,3)**

**Even the images of a beautiful garden could not exhaust the glory of heaven. The NT tells us that there is a city for those who know that this world is not their home.**

**It is our heavenly city (#882, v. 1,2,3)**

**Going to that city unites the faithful of both the old and new testaments. The Hebrew writer wrote of the patriarchs:**

*All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own. And indeed if they had been thinking of that country from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them. (Hebrews 11:13-16)*

**Likewise John sought to encourage the suffering people of God with a vision of that great city to come:**

*And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them, and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away." (Revelation 21:2-4)*

**#882 No tears in heaven (1,2)**

**John would later write of the heavenly city:**

*And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper. It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; and names were written on them, which are those of the twelve tribes of the sons*

*of Israel. ...And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. ...And the city is laid out as a square, and its length is as great as the width; and he measured the city with the rod, fifteen hundred miles; its length and width and height are equal. ...And the material of the wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. The foundation stones of the city wall were adorned with every kind of precious stone. ...And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; each one of the gates was a single pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass. And I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God, the Almighty, and the Lamb, are its temple. And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine upon it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb. And the nations shall walk by its light, and the kings of the earth shall bring their glory into it. And in the daytime (for there shall be no night there) its gates shall never be closed; and they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it; and nothing unclean and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life. (Revelation 21:10-27)*

**#890 In the land of fadeless day (1,2,3,4)**

### **Lord's Supper**

**We might ask the question, "What is it that open up the possibility of heaven for us?" And the answer is clear. It is the sacrifice that Jesus made for us, dying on the cross and then as our great high priest entering into the presence of God with His blood to make atonement for our sins. For Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a mere copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; nor was it that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the holy place year by year with blood not his own. Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment, so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, shall appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him. (Hebrews 9:24-28)**

**Some day Jesus will return once more for His church; but now while we await his coming, we remember what He has done for us and look forward to that day when we will celebrate that great marriage supper of the Lamb described in Revelation 19. Today as we observe the Lord's Supper let us remember what it is that makes heaven possible.**

### **Heaven's attraction #863 (1,2,3)**

**All of these pictures we have sung about today instill within us a place of wonderful beauty, safety, glory like no city we've ever seen on earth.**

**But the attraction of heaven is not merely its beautiful scenes or its freedom from earthly suffering. It is the many spiritual blessings of God's eternal city. What is it that makes heaven most attractive to believers?**

*And he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, in the middle of its street. And on either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His bond-servants shall serve Him; and they shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. And there shall no longer be any night; and they shall not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God shall illumine them; and they shall reign forever and ever. (Revelation 22:1-5)*

**It is the experience of seeing the one who made it all; and the one who came and died for us.**

**#863 Oh, that will be glory for me (1,2,3)**

**What makes heaven attractive to believers is the opportunity to praise and thank God for all that He has done for us.**

**#878 Sweet by and by (2,3)**

**When we think of all that God has promised us we can see that no earthly sacrifice is too great to make to inherit such wonderful things. What is your attitude toward heaven? Can you truly say these words?**

**#884 Earth Holds no treasure (1,3)**

**It is not surprising that the next grouping of songs in our song book after "heaven" is "heaven's call." God invites each of us to come and share His glory forever. This may be an unusual invitation song; but surely we must feel the tension between the words of this song and where with are in our spiritual life. Can you honestly sing, "When we all get to heaven?" If not, please come and obey the gospel.**

**#853 When we all get to heaven (1,3)**