

Gazing Into Heaven



DISCOVERING GOD'S WORD BIBLE STUDY SERIES

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When was the last time you really gazed into heaven? To “gaze” is more than a casual observance. It is to look intently into something. In Acts 1:11, the apostles of Jesus were left “gazing up into heaven” whenever Jesus ascended into Heaven. While we do not watch Jesus ascend into Heaven, there are some real benefits of gazing into the sky today.

1) To know God's glory. When you gaze up into heaven, you will look intently at things which should cause you to reflect upon the glory of God. Psalm 19:1 says, “The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.” Psalm 97:6 says, “The heavens declare His righteousness, And all the peoples see His glory.” As you gaze into the heavens, observe the beauty God has created, and consider the great power required of God to create it all, it really should cause you to stand in awe of this Almighty God! If you allow yourself to listen to what God is telling you through these things, you will surely be able to know that He is God (Romans 1:19-21)!

2) To know your own insignificance. When you gaze up into heaven, you will look intently at things which should cause you to reflect upon your own insignificance. Psalm 8:3-4 says, “When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained, What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him?” When you look into the heavens and recognize the glory of the Almighty God, you should also consider that you are just a small part of God's entire creation. The universe has absolutely no dependence upon your existence – while it entirely depends upon God! Then, as you recognize this, you should be truly thankful that the Almighty God has created you in His image – and that He is mindful of you (He cares for you)! In fact, He cares for you so much that He sent His only begotten Son to die for you so you could be saved from your sins and live eternally with Him some day (John 3:16). Therefore, gazing into heaven should cause you to truly be thankful to God and devote your life in His service!

3) To know that Jesus will come again. When you gaze up into heaven, you will look intently at things which should cause you to reflect on Jesus' return. As the apostles accompanied

Jesus to the Mount called Olivet, they watched as Jesus was taken up into Heaven in the clouds out of their sight. As they gazed into heaven and watched Jesus vanish from view, two men (likely two angels) said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven” (Acts 1:11). Jesus Christ is coming again – and coming in the clouds (see 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). When He comes, life on this earth will end and we will all stand before Him in Judgment. Therefore, Jesus taught the need to be ready at all times – since we do not know when He will come (Matthew 24:36-44). Therefore, gazing into heaven should cause you to remember that Jesus is coming again – and cause you to reflect upon whether or not you are ready to meet Him in Judgment!

Gazing into the sky is not just for children who are looking for shapes in the clouds or for people who are interested in astronomy. We all need to spend time gazing up into heaven! So often, we waste our time by gazing at things that will not help us spiritually. Make sure that your life is not so busy that you fail to gaze up into the heavens! Psalm 46:10 says, “Be still and know that I am God.”

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