



*A sight for sore
eyes and a space
for sore feet*

PRAYER GUIDE
"RETURN TO ME"

Making the Most of Wednesday, October 7

*"...they shall **see** God" — Matt. 5:8*

*"...they shall **inherit** the earth" — Matt. 5:5*



BETWEEN 6:00—9:00 AM: FROM A CRAMPED PATH TO A SPACIOUS CITY WITH A THRILLING VIEW

For many weeks at Joel Moment, we've been talking about affliction on the narrow road. But eventually, the Long Squeeze on the shadowy path will give way to eternal spaciousness in God's new world. That's what we're celebrating today. Notice Every Pilgrim has made it through the gloomy forest and is about to enter through into the joy of her Master. Read the following and reflect: *"But, as it is written, What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"* (1 Cor. 2:9).

BETWEEN 9:00-12:00 PM: FINALLY, YES, FINALLY, FACE TO FACE

A few years back, Becky and I were on a trip that took us far away from our kids. Using Apple's FaceTime, we talked to our teary, first-grade daughter Rachael who was missing us terribly, especially her mom!

Although this technology is a vast improvement from the days when contact with distant loved ones was mediated through postcards and scratchy telephone calls, [still there was a painful distance](#) that even the most dazzling technology couldn't bridge. After all, to Rachael, her mom was pixilated and shrunken to the size of a two-by-four inch screen.

Here's the punchline of my story: In the beginning of the video call, Rachael settled down as my wife spoke reassuringly in that tender, mom-like way. But after a minute or two, Rachael interrupted, blurting out in frustration: "[I don't want to see the fake you. I want to see the real you.](#)" My pastor's mind was immediately struck with the illustration potential!

Knowing God now on old earth is a reality. Believers are inhabited by the Spirit of Jesus who causes us to cry out "Abba, Father." Thus, we can enter the throne room of our God by faith and talk intimately (Hebrews 4:16). However, there are enormous limitations while we remain in our old bodies and while Jesus sits in the heavenly abode. That's why the Apostle Paul wrote: "[For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known](#)" (1 Cor. 13:12).

One day when King Jesus returns, his friends and followers will savor the experience of his physical presence. And we'll never be deprived of his nearness again. [We'll see, hear, touch and serve our Lord forever](#) in the secure and abundant city that will land on the surface of the renewed earth. Pastor Thomas will talk to us about this later today at our 3:00 PM Prayer Gathering.

BETWEEN 12:00-3:00 PM: THE SEER DESCRIBES WHAT BELIEVERS WILL INHERIT IN THE AGE TO COME

Rev. 21:1 *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.*

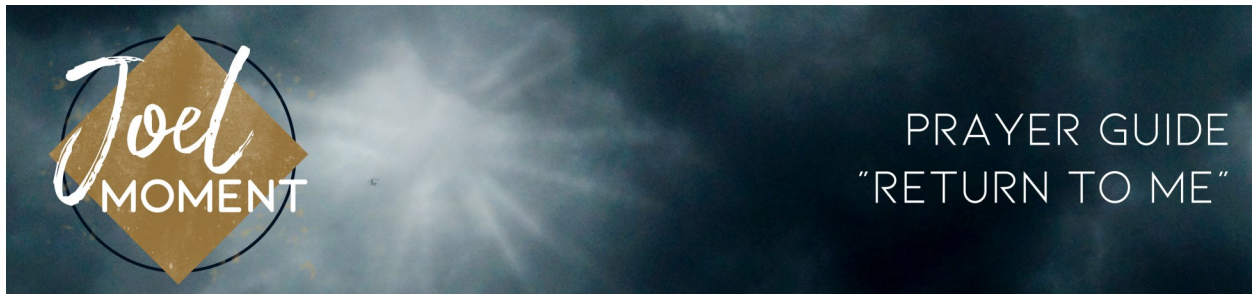
Rev. 21:2 *And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*

Rev. 21:3 *And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.*

Rev. 21:4 *He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."*

Rev. 21:5 *And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."*

Rev. 21:6 *And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.*



BETWEEN 3:00—4:00 PM: Join the **Joel Moment Prayer Gathering**. Go to [Zoom.com](https://zoom.us) and enter Meeting ID and Password.

BETWEEN 5:00-9:00 PM: A MARRIAGE BETWEEN HEAVEN AND EARTH

Here's a quote from a thoughtful scholar to reflect upon: "On that new earth, therefore, we hope to spend eternity, enjoying its beauties, exploring its resources, and using its treasures to the glory of God. Since God will make the new earth his dwelling place, and since where God dwells there heaven is, we shall then continue to be in heaven while we are on the new earth. For heaven and earth will then no longer be separated, as they are now, but will be one (see Rev. 21:1-3)." Anthony Hoekema, *The Bible and the Future*, p.275.

Fill in the blank. "Lord, I'm thankful tonight for..."



THOMAS SORRENTINO [A devotion about our happy future.]

ESV **2 Peter 3:13** *But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.*

SUSAN SOMES [Excerpts from John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* to whet our appetites for the view to come.]

PRUDENCE: And what is it that makes you so desirous to go to Mount Zion?

CHRISTIAN: Why, [there I hope to see him alive](#), that did hang dead on the Cross; and there I hope to be rid of all those things that to this day are in me an annoyance to me; there they say there is not death, and there I shall dwell with such company as I like best. For to tell you truthy, I love him, because I was by him eased of my burden, and I am weary of my inward sickness; I would fain be where I shall die no more, and with the company that shall continually cry, 'Holy, holy, holy' (P.61).

Towards the end of his journey, the angels say to him:

NARRATOR, quoting the angels, called SHINING ONES: You are going now, said they, to the paradise of God, wherein you shall see the tree of life, and eat of the never-fading fruits thereof; and when you come there...[and your walk and talk shall be every day with the King](#), even all the days of eternity. [There you shall not see again such things as...sorrow, sickness, affliction, and death](#); 'for the former things are passed away' (P.197).

[In that place you \[will\] enjoy the perpetual sight and visions of the Holy One; for there 'you shall see him as he is.'](#) There also you shall serve him continually with praise, with shouting and thanksgiving, whom you desired to serve in the world, though with much difficulty, because of the infirmity of your flesh. [There your eyes shall be delighted with seeing](#), and your ears with hearing the pleasant voice of the Mighty One. There you shall enjoy your friends again that are gone thither before you; and there you shall receive even every one that follows into the holy place after you (P.198).

NARRATOR: Now while they were thus drawing towards the gate, behold, a company of the heavenly host came out to meet them; to whom it was said by the other two Shining Ones, These are the Men that have loved our Lord when they were in the world, and that have left all for his holy name; and he hath sent us to fetch them, and we have brought them thus far on their desired journey, [that they may go in and look their Redeemer in the face with joy](#) (P.199).



ANDY DRAKE [He'll play a worship song on YouTube called "New Heaven & Earth: Epic Song of Revelation" that will raise your pulse and your praise. It's in Russian, but with subtitles. You'll be blessed.]

GROUP PRAYER PROMPT #1 (8 min.):

"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him" — 1 Cor. 2:9.

Start with celebrating, praising God that the best days of believers are always ahead of us in the age to come.

GROUP PRAYER PROMPT #2 (8 min.):

"Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers," — Col. 4:12.

Who needs you to get in the wrestling ring of prayer? Maybe their needs are financial? Maybe someone you know is overwhelmed emotionally? Maybe someone in your network is growing cool in faith? Lift up the people around you.

GROUP PRAYER PROMPT #2 (8 min.):

"Father, I thank you that you have heard me" — John 11:41.

Think about your blessings. Think about what God has done in your life. Tell him how you appreciate his calling, his gifts and his sustaining power.

Record what God shows you in Joel Moment, Part 2 — that is, the time after 4:00 PM — when Pastor Jaime leads our time to discuss Scripture and support each other in prayer.



Please plan on attending *"Hope and a Future,"* a virtual fundraising banquet that Darren is attending on Sunday, October 25. This ministry is one that Valley Church is looking to partner with. To join Darren at the virtual banquet please visit <https://www.bayshore.org/> and click on "Join Us for Our Virtual Event."