



HALF TRUTHS ABOUT HEAVEN

(re)Imagine Heaven | 4.26.26

Jordan Raynor

(The following text is automatically generated and has not been edited)

Jordan Raynor 0:00

Hey, it is truly a joy to be with you guys this morning, especially at the start of this terrific series that Pastor libbin has been leading you through on reimagining heaven. Because in my experience, most Christians have spent more time thinking about a single week long vacation than they have thought about the biblical nature of heaven. That's problem for a lot of reasons, primarily because when we fail to think deeply about our final destination, it inevitably leads us to settle for these wishy washy half truths about heaven that are peddled by culture, and by the way, I'm including in that church culture rather than the whole truths that we see in Scripture, these half truths are not full blown lies, but I'll tell you what they are, incomplete enough to rob us of our purpose in the present, in our work, in our studies at school, whatever it is, and our hope for our eternal future, those are the stakes. And so this morning, I want to open up God's Word together. We're going to read a lot of Scripture to replace four the most deeply pervasive half truths about heaven with four whole truths. And I'm going to warn you on the front end of this sermon, some of these whole truths are going to sound new to some of you, but in reality, I would argue they are ancient and Orthodox. The half truths that I grew up believing are what are new in church history. But please don't take my word for it. You're gonna hear some things that serve me back. I'm not sure that's right. I'm not sure he's got good you know why? You know why that's good? Because I want you to go home and I want you to open up God's word, because he is the final authority on everything. Amen, check my words against God's word, and once you do, I'm confident that you're going to see these whole truths, and they are going to lead you to exponentially greater purpose and exponentially greater hope. Are you with me? Church? Say, Amen, come on. It's an interactive sermon. Let's dive right in to half truth number one, this half truth that Earth is our temporary home, this maxim that is peddled hard by pastors and American Idol winners alike, somebody like this guy's crazy making fun of Carrie Underwood in Texas. What is this guy thinking? Hey, let's start with what Carrie gets right here. Okay, the moment a Christian experiences physical death, their body, of course, stays here on Earth, and their spirit or soul returns to God in the present heaven that Pastor libbin preached on last week. So it is true, in a sense, that we Christians leave this earth and go home to heaven when we die. The lie is that we stay there. Ultimately, it is not we who go to heaven, but heaven and the souls of the redeemed currently with Christ in God's dimension of the present heaven that come to live in physical resurrected bodies, is what all of First Corinthians 15 is about, and we are in the world of those physical resurrected bodies gonna live forever and ever. What a physical earth scriptures. Scripture is abundantly clear at this point, you don't have to be an environmentalist from California to believe this. Guys, look at Revelation. 21 I saw a new heaven and a new what church say it. And I heard a loud voice on the throne saying, Look, God's dwelling place is now here among the people, and He will dwell with them. My mother, Lynette Rainer will be delighted to know that her favorite, Belinda Carlyle was right. After all, ultimately, heaven is a place on Earth. Guys, according to Scripture, nobody, including Jesus, Christ, will spend eternity in heaven, if what you mean by that term is the present heaven, where the souls of the redeemed are currently with Christ. Now, some of you guys are looking at me like, Hold up a second, young man, wait a minute. Heretic, I think you forget about that tricky little verse of the Bible about how the Earth's gonna burn up. In the end, you guys have heard this right, that the Earth's gonna burn up, right? This idea that the earth is going to burn up and be obliterated is rooted in one verse, a very old, borderline heretical translation of a single verse taken wildly out of context. It's Second Peter, chapter three, verse 10. Here's the King James version that your Sunday School teacher may have read to you 40 years ago. Here it is, the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night

Jordan Raynor 4:59

in which the head. Then shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat. The earth also, and the works that are there in shall be burned up. Seems pretty straightforward, right? Earth is our temporary home. The

Doomsday theorists are right. The end is near right. Not so fast, my friends, we're my Lee Corso fans. Who misses Lee Corso as much as I do? Let's go Knowles. Let's go Knowles. Yeah, hey, listen. Dr NT Wright, who Newsweek is called the world's leading New Testament scholar, does a masterful job of explaining this passage. This is a long quote from Dr Wright, but bear with me through it. I think it'll be helpful. Here's what Dr Wright says. He says in Second Peter 3:10 we have a statement which in older translations of the Bible came out one way, but which, with all the biblical manuscripts we now have, almost certainly needs to be changed. And, oh, by the way, it has been changing your Bibles because, unless you're reading the King James Bible at home, if you're reading NIV, NASB, ESV, NLT, whatever you know what Second Peter 3:10 does not say, it does not say that the earth is going to be burned up. In older versions, this passage ends with the warning that the earth will be burned up a cosmic destruction the end of the physical world. Is that really what Peter wrote? Listen to this. If so, it's the only place in the whole of early Christian literature where such an idea is found. But in some manuscripts of the New Testament, including two of the very best, the word for will being burned up is not there. Instead, there is a word which means will be found, will be discovered or will be disclosed. In other words, apparently, guys, it seems that God's plan for this earth is to use fire to burn up the weeds and the thorns and the thistles of this earth, anything that is contrary to His will, so that the good stuff, the god glorifying stuff, will be found, discovered and disclosed. We just sang about this this morning. God's glory is hidden in all of creation, this fire of judgment is going to reveal it. Contrary to what the American End Time tabloids might have you believe in your Facebook news feed, the Earth is not going to be obliterated like Luke Skywalker obliterated the Death Star. That's not the biblical picture here, if you're looking for a pop culture analogy to understand and grasp this idea of the New Earth, I would argue you'd find a much more accurate one in Moana. Where my Moana bees at where my moanas? There you are. I see you. I see you. I got two young daughters here with me who watch a lot of Moana. Listen, if you haven't watched the movie, no worries. I'm gonna bring you out to speed. So in the movie, one of the main characters is this beautiful personified island named Te Fiti, who's covered with lush green grass and towering trees and these beautiful flowers probably a pretty good picture of what the Earth looked like prior to the fall of Genesis three. But one day, Dwayne The Rock Johnson shows up. He steals the heart of Te Fiti, and her gorgeous exterior begins to crumble. She's now covered with, don't miss it, fire and lava as Te Fiti turns into this monstrous version of her former self. But get this, the movie does not end with Te Fiti being destroyed. It ends with her being renewed. When Moana restores the heart of Te Fiti. The islands harden. The lava exterior begins to break, and this beautiful island emerges from the ash, and the contrast is so stark that this appears to be a brand new island. But of course, it's not. It's the original Te Fiti, but better, one who, through baptism of fire, has been made to look like new. How many of you guys read Dr Randy Alcorn's phenomenal book on heaven a few years ago. Yeah, lots of you, when I shared this with Dr Alcorn, Randy said, Jordan, that is the best picture I have ever seen in pop culture of what Scripture says is God's plan for this earth. Believer, our hope is not for a whole new world, but for a whole renewed world, which, oh, by the way, makes perfect sense given the context of Scripture. In the beginning, God looked around at all that he had created the spiritual realm, spirit filled human beings and the material earth. And he called it what church say.

Jordan Raynor 9:56

It just. Say that this is going to burn up. That's accusing God of needing a plan B. We do not worship a God who needs a plan B. Amen. My friend, Pastor Scott gitani says this God is not a creator who rejects and replaces He reconciles and redeems, and that is true of individual people who repent of their sin and declare Jesus Lord of the life. And it is also true with some components of the material world, friends. It's only half true that Earth is our temporary home. Here's your first whole truth this morning, Earth is our temporary home until it is our perfect and permanent home. Once again, some of you will probably wonder, who cares, right? Well, what in the world does this have to do with my life today that I'm going back to after service? I would argue this means everything for your purpose. In the present, let me try to break down the stakes of this half truth, whole truth combo as clearly as I can listen friends, if Earth is indeed our temporary home, if Carrie Underwood's right, okay, matter doesn't matter. It doesn't matter at all. And so the only thing that you do that has any eternal consequence are spiritual tasks like evangelism and prayer, because, as this argument goes, souls are the only thing that God plans to redeem. Where's Bill? Bill, mechanical engineer, Bill, I'm sorry if Earth is our temporary home, cars do not matter. You're wasting the vast majority of your life. Sorry, buddy Fernando, you're doing marketing at a mortgage company. Marketing doesn't matter. The laptops you're using don't matter. Homes. They don't matter. They're all gonna burn up in the end. Football players. Are you seriously a football player? Are you just dressing up today? Yeah, you, you're a real football player. Sorry, football doesn't matter. Buddy, making an amazing Texas brisket does not matter if Earth is our temporary home. Now you guys are like, All right, that's the heresy, right? Unless, of course, you can leverage mechanical engineering and football and brisket to the instrumental end of sharing the gospel with the people you're serving the brisket to. But these things have zero intrinsic value to God, if this is true, and friends, if that's true. Frankly, the vast majority of us

are wasting 99% of our lives because I don't know about you, but I spend less than 1% of my waking hours walking the lost through the Romans road. Guys, this math is deeply depressing. Seriously, what in the world are we all doing here? Right? But as I hope you're starting to see, it's also deeply unbiblical. Because guys, if, if God's word is right, spoiler alert, it is, and Earth will one day be our perfect and permanent home once again, then matter has to matter deeply to God, because Jesus' precious blood paid to redeem it all spiritual and material. As Colossians, one said he came to reconcile to himself all things. And if that's true, and Jesus was permanently victorious at Calvary, then 100% of your time tomorrow matters for eternity, the spiritual tasks of evangelism and prayer and everything you do with this material world that Christ's blood is redeemed for His glory and the good of others. Here's how one theologian who's way smarter than me put it, Dr Miroslav Volf says this. He says the significance of secular work, and I would add to that, secular things like brisket and barbecue and cars or whatever, depends upon the value of creation. That's what we mean by the word secular, that we're working with the material world. And the value of creation depends upon its final destiny. And because God's Word says that the final destiny of the Earth is redemption rather than destruction, you can be confident that your work with the Earth, repairing cars, typing on aluminum Macbooks, playing a wooden violin, kicking a soccer ball, and yes, barbecue and brisket has to matter to God. Amen church. That's our first whole truth. Here's half truth number two. Half Truth Number two is that we are going back to Eden. In my experience, even people who have some idea, some understanding of this idea of a New Earth still have really anemic views of what all that entails. And one of those

Jordan Raynor 14:36

views is that the New Earth is basically God hitting the reset button, and we're all going back to Genesis one and two in the Garden of Eden. And again, this has got some validity to it. In Revelation 22 we see that everything sin broke in Eden, and Genesis three has been renewed. We see that the Tree of Life is yet again at the center of the earth. But guys, the location of the. Tree of Life is our first clue that this is way more than just Eden 2.0 that's right. I heard that's right. That's right. Unlike the Eden we know from Genesis one, this vision is of the Garden of Eden surrounded by the work of God's hands, God's City, the New Jerusalem, which, according to Revelation, 21 stands 7 million feet tall, deep and wide. If that blows your mind, wake up your neighbor, because this is going to knock your socks off. All right. You. It. This has to be a plan. There's no way this was real, right? Hey, Revelation 21 makes it very clear that it's not just the work of God's hands that would be present on the New Earth. It's also some of the work of human hands. After describing the New Jerusalem, John says this in Revelation 21 the glory and honor of the nations will be brought into the city 800 years earlier. Isaiah, theologians believe, saw the exact same prophetic vision, and he said, the new Jerusalem's gates will always stand open so that people may bring God the wealth of the nations, same language, glory, wealth of the nations. What are these guys talking about? Well, Isaiah, who is apparently a much more detail oriented guy than John, actually documented for us what some of the glory and wealth of the nations are. You know what he says. They include incense, silver and gold, which, of course, would have needed to be dug out of the earth and ships built by the nation of Tarshish. Guys, make no mistake about it, these are all works of human hands, and Isaiah and John are watching Jesus welcome these cultural artifacts into the eternal New Jerusalem as an act of worship. Why? Because, as we sing this morning from him, are all things to him, are all things. And these cultural goods are a reminder that Christ alone deserves all glory in heaven and on earth. Amen. And the implication of this passage is startling. These prophetic visions suggest that some of the literal work of your hands, the car Bill's repairing, the home Fernando is helping to finance and construct the book that you're writing, the brisket you're barbecuing, whatever has the chance of physically lasting for billions and billions of years. I have no idea how that's way above my pay grade. That blows my mind. Does that blow yours? But it's right there in Scripture, guys. It's only half true that we're going back to Eden. The Whole Truth is that we are going back to Eden surrounded by the work of God's hands, as well as well as some of the work of human hands. But again, why is this so important today? What's the relevance to our lives today? Here's why this matters. Not only should this whole truth give us greatest greater purpose in the present, I know about you, I want to be creating things in a godly way that are going to withstand the fire of judgment. Not only should it give us greater hope for the future, right where we're not wiping the slate clean with culture, but we have the very best of culture redeemed. I would argue the most important thing is that this whole truth should help us magnify the power and the glory of Jesus, Christ's resurrection. Listen to Dr Randy Alcorn. He says some may think it's silly or sentimental to suppose that nature, animals, paintings, books or a baseball bat might be resurrected. Some of you guys are thinking right that right now, that sounds ridiculous. Listen Dr Alcorn, and may appear to trivialize the coming resurrection. I would suggest that it does exactly the opposite. It elevates resurrection, emphasizing the power of Christ to radically renew mankind. And far more, Jesus is not just king of my soul and your soul. He is King of everything in this earth and everything is going to be revealed and put under the kingship and lordship of Jesus

Jordan Raynor 19:21

Christ for His glory alone. Amen. Thank you for that Mic drop. Pastor Randy Alcorn, all right, hey, so we've just seen the heavens, ultimately on Earth, we've seen that it's way more than just a return to Eden. But what on earth will we be doing on Earth for all of eternity? John Eldridge says this is probably the one aspect of our future most shrouded in religious vapors, fogged in by a pea soup of vagueness, emptiness and heavenly foam. Can I get an amen? Why? Because most Christians have settled for half truth. Number three, this half truth. Is that we are going to worship for all of eternity. Nobody articulated the fears associated with this half truth better than Mark Twain and Huckleberry Finn. Check out this passage said the Widow Douglas told me she was going to live so as to go to the good place. She said all a body would have to do there was to go around all day long with a harp and sing forever and ever. Well, I couldn't see no advantage in going where she was going, so I made up my mind I wouldn't try for it. Some of you guys like I've been feeling this way for my whole life. I never said those words out loud, but let me tell you this, I quietly agreed with that sentiment for the first 25 years of my life, by God's grace, I went to a terrific K through 12 Christian school, and many, many blessings from that school, but also, you know, many things I had unlearned. I remember vividly sitting in chapel in elementary school listening to some pastor preach about the present heaven and how we were going to be singing and playing harps on clouds as disembodied souls forever and ever, feeling like the kid from Jurassic Park. This was me in trouble. Okay, I see a lot of heads nodded. You guys are familiar with this feeling. Okay, great. The idea of Heaven did not fill me with hope. It did not fill me with peace. It filled me with dread and guys, over the past few years, I have heard so many adults and kids admit those same fears and hushed whispers laden with shame. They'll never admit to their pastor that they're scared of heaven. They'll never admit to their parent that they're scared by heaven, but I would argue many, maybe most, followers of Jesus today, are silently haunted by the idea of heaven, which is why I'm convinced that peddling this half truth is one of Satan's all time greatest hits. This is it. Dr Randy Alcorn one more time to explain why. Here's what Dr Alcorn says. He says, Satan need not convince us that heaven doesn't exist. He's way smarter than that. He need only convince us that heaven is a place of boring, unearthly existence, because if we believe that lie, we'll be robbed of our joy and anticipation. We'll set our minds on this life and not the next, and we sure as heck aren't going to be motivated to share our faith. Why in the world would I be eager to share my faith with somebody else if I myself am quietly dreading the idea of eternity? Here's what's happening to church today, Satan because of this half truth, is lulling us into this endless recreation. We are spending all of our time, all of our money, chasing our own stupid bucket lists, rather than the lost who are about to kick the bucket because he's convinced us it's now or never, baby, you better do it all. Shame on us. Shame on me, right now. Listen, Scripture does make it abundantly clear that we will worship for eternity. That is the very point of eternity we were created to be worshippers, right? But the reason I call this a half truth is that our understanding of the word worship is on our best days half true, we think of worship. We think almost exclusively of musical worship. And yes, there will certainly be musical worship on the New Earth. Scripture is abundantly clear on that point, right? But God's definition of worship is so much broader than strumming a harp and a lyre. A quick trip back to Genesis two will make this crystal clear. Check out Genesis. 215 it says that God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And guys, the word we translate is work in this verse, it's this Hebrew word Abad, which is the exact same word we translate to mean worship elsewhere in Scripture. What's the point? Adam and Eve were worshiping God, not just when they walked with him in the cool of the garden in the morning, not just when they sang him, Lord, I lift your name on high.

Jordan Raynor 24:16

Right, they were worshiping God as they carried out the first commission that God gave humanity and never retracted, to work fill, subdue and rule this earth for His glory and the good of others, and in what may come as the greatest shock of this sermon so far, the same will be true for every follower of Jesus for billions and billions of years. God's Word does not say that we will strum a harp and sing, celebrate Jesus, celebrate forever and ever. Psalm one says it does not say that we're going to recline in a hammock in an endless vacation forever and ever. You know what it says? Revelation 22 five says that we will. Reign forever and ever, which means a lot of things that we don't have time to unpack, but one of the things that it means is that we will work forever and ever free from the curse of sin. Where you getting that? Jordan? I'm getting it from Isaiah 65 listen to this passage, starting in verse 17. God says through the prophet Isaiah, see, I will create a new heavens and a new earth. My people will build houses and dwell in them. They will plant vineyards and eat their fruit. No longer will they build houses and others live in them or plant and others eat. Oh, my word is that good news for the poor. For as the days of a tree, so will be the days of my people, my chosen ones, will long enjoy the work of their hands, and they will not labor in vain. Bill, you love your job, not every day. Some days are there moments when you love it. Raise your hand if you like Bill. Love your job. Not every day can we come up students. You guys love playing football. You guys love your Actually, your sports, your actual curricular activities. Raise your hand. Hey, believers, listen this promise should fire you up. We

should look like this kid when we think about heaven on earth.

Jordan Raynor 26:27

Why? Because, just as the paradise of Eden was a perfect vocation rather than a vacation, so it will be forever more, only now, for the first time in millennia, our work, our sport, whatever will be perfect and painless. Once again, it'll be work that is rigorous but rewarding, strenuous but sinless and all blissful worship to Christ, our King, it's kind of true that we'll worship for eternity. Here's the whole truth. The whole truth is that you and I will worship Christ for eternity by singing yes and by filling subduing and ruling the New Earth with the risen Christ. But again, that could be tomorrow. It could be 1000 years from now. That could be 100,000 years from now. What does that mean for me? Tomorrow? I see you, Stanley eyes in the back. I got you. Here's what it means, guys, hey, if we will be working with Christ forever, if that's God's plan for us for eternity, then the work you do with Christ today, powered by the Holy Spirit, is anything but secular and temporary. You're rehearsing something that is deeply sacred and eternal, and so you don't have to give a reason for why you love it. You are free to joyfully and enthusiastically lean into your sport, lean into that work, lean into your instrument, whatever it is as the good, eternal gift from God that it is. Here's our final half truth this morning, this half truth that in the meantime, while we're waiting between now and Isaiah 65 we are called to keep watch for Christ's return. You and I live in the already and the not yet of the kingdom of God, meaning that on Easter Sunday, Jesus inaugurated the eternal kingdom here on earth, but we're still waiting for his return right to fully consummate God's dimension of heaven and our dimension of Earth. What are you and I supposed to do while we wait? Yeah, in a sense, we're called to keep watch for Christ's return. He gives us that command very explicit here in Matthew 25:13 The reason I say this is half true, though, is found in our interpretation of our king's commands. The American End Times industry has interpreted this command as a very passive Bill Belichick with binoculars. Type of keeping watch, where? Okay, keep it. I know what keep and watch means. It means sitting on Facebook and endlessly speculating about when and where this might happen, about whether or not, Oh, you guys, have you guys have seen these posts? Okay, about whether or not the latest election, the latest war, the latest storm, and tornadoes here in Dallas are the latest sign that his return is imminent, guys, this ain't even close to the kind of keeping watch that Jesus called us to. You know how I know? Because the very next thing that comes out of Jesus' mouth, the very next passage of scripture right after Jesus calls it to keep watch. You know what it is? It's the Parable of the Talents about a Master who puts his servants to work while they wait for His return, guys, Jesus is putting the cookies on the bottom shelf for us here, he could not be any clearer about his meaning. Saying, you and I are called to keep watch for Christ's return, not by sitting on our hands and our social media feeds, but by working with our hands until the day that we die. It's only half true that we're called to keep watch for his return. Here's the whole truth, you and I are called to keep watch for Christ's return by giving ourselves fully to the work of the Lord. First, Corinthians 15:58 see that you are steadfast and immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord until our dying day retirement. Listen, God may call you to retire from the work that you're doing for pay. That's a very real reality for a lot of people. That may be a reality for me. Here's what I can guarantee you, based on God's Word, He will never, ever call you to retire from the work of the Lord, because you and I are called to image Jesus Christ, who gave the Lord's work his all until he rose from that grave. Amen. Guys in the work of the Lord. We got to stop thinking this as of this exclusively, as evangelism, as important and non optional as that is. We've got to think, why? Because the kingdom of heaven, as we just seen, is way more than save souls. So how can we think about the work of the Lord more biblically, more broadly? I can't answer that question more beautifully than my buddy John Mark Comer has. So I won't even try. Here's what Pastor John Mark says, you and I are called to a very specific kind of work,

Jordan Raynor 31:31

to make a garden like world where image bearers can flourish and thrive, where people can experience and enjoy God's generous love, a kingdom where God's will is done on earth as it is in heaven. I love this last part, where the glass wall between earth and heaven is so thin, so clear and so translucent that you don't even remember it's there. In other words, friends, the good news of the gospel is not just that I get to go to heaven when I die. The Good News of the Gospel is that I get to partner with King Jesus in cultivating heaven on earth until I die. You

Jordan Raynor 32:25

all right, that was a lot of scripture in 25 minutes. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. Let's pull the camera back and land this plane at the beginning of this talk, I promised that replacing these half truths with whole truths would lead to greater purpose in the present, hope for the future. Do you see it? Church? Hey, I'm sure when you walked in this morning, I morning, I'm sure you saw how 1% let's be honest, point, 1% of your life matters for eternity, those rare and beautiful moments where we get to explicitly share the good news of Jesus Christ with the Lost bae. Here's what I hope you now see, because this earth is

eternal, because your vocation, your sport, is likely eternal, and because God promises to carry some of the literal work of human hands into eternity, I pray that you feel exponentially greater sense of purpose as you go to work tomorrow, 100% of your time in this life matters for eternity, the obviously spiritual and the super mundane, immaterial, I pray that leaves you with a greater sense of purpose. But also pray you guys have a whole lot more hope for our eternal future that compels you to share the gospel more right, a future where Christ gets greater glory because we worship Him, not just as King of heaven, but as King of heaven and earth and a future where we experience deeper joy by worshiping Christ, yes, with our songs, but also with the work of our hands reigning alongside of him. Forevermore. A couple of years ago, I published a picture book to help my kids and grandkids experience this purpose and hope decades before you and I did. These are my daughters here, by the way, Kate Nelson stand real quick. I got my two eldest with me right here, Kate and Ellison, Anne, Marie's Emory's back home with my bride. I'll let you take a guess as to which one's adopted. I can make that joke. It's okay, but I honestly wrote this picture book more for you than I did for my kids. I told Random House when we started working on this project, it was actually I was here for a conference in this building. I was in that hallway right out there some four or five years ago, whatever I told them, I said, Hey, I want this book to make five year olds smile and 55 year olds weep. I want it to feel like an episode of bluey where my bluey fans at Come on, come on. That's right. Because, man, so listen, I'd be surprised if you've ever heard a sermon close here reading a bedtime story. But that's exactly how we're going to close this, because this is simply a more. Poetic and artistic summary of the whole truths about heaven that we just explored. Here we go on a day coming soon, though nobody knows when we'll look up at the sky and see heaven descend. Jesus said he won't stay in the clouds way up there. He'll bring heaven to earth, and he'll live with us here. When heaven comes down, we'll all rush to meet Jesus, bringing paintings, inventions and gifts for him with us. When we long at last reach our final destination, we'll hug long lost loved ones from every nation. Then we'll all turn and stare at God's epic new world in the city he made out of gold, gems and pearls. As we step through the gates, we will all be in awe that a city can stand 7 million feet tall. There will be no more sin,

Jordan Raynor 36:00

no more sickness or sadness, just the best things made perfect, bringing God in us gladness. The sun will stay set and the moon will be gone as God's radiant light blurs the dusk into dawn. But the best part, by far, is King Jesus will be there, making everything new with his peace, love and care. And now you might think that our story is ending, but in fact, this is just the beginning, because Jesus wants you to rule with Him, to explore and fill the Kingdom of Heaven with Him. Because kingdoms have more than just people and kings. They have art and bakeries, campfires and swings. God says he won't rule this world all on his own. He'll send princes and princesses out from his throne to ride without fear on the backs of great lions and blaze brand new trails to the middle of Zion to master the flute, piano or timpani as Jesus applauds your brilliant symphony. Perhaps you will bulldoze roads for new cities, or help lead the Jesus welcome committee or create a new sport with no need to worry about getting hurt or needing to hurry. You might spend time learning new subjects and skills with no fear of testing or loud fire drills. Maybe you'll explore galaxies far far away and marvel at what God once made in a day. So Don't think for one second that heaven is boring because we'll be reigning, creating and exploring, not just for our joy and surely not for our glory, but to love and to worship the one who is worthy. It'll be so much better than your wildest dreams ruling heaven on earth next to Jesus, our king.

Jordan Raynor 38:13

But Hey, friends, we don't have to wait for the new Jerusalem to drop down from the sky to rule heaven. On Earth, next to Jesus, our King, Jesus is King of heaven and earth, present tense, amen, his kingdom is at hand here in DFW, amen, in part, now in full soon, what are we supposed to do in the meantime, here's what we're supposed to do in your school, in your neighborhood, in your place of work. Work to make the glass wall between heaven and earth so thin, so clear and so translucent. You don't even remember it's there every time I read this quote, about half of the congregation is looking up at me like, that's that's beautiful man, right? The other half of you and I would be in this latter camp if I were in the congregation, want to stand up and scream at me the speaker and say, Tell me how. Tell me how what in the world does that look like? Practically, listen, if I had another hour, and I don't, we got to jet out of here and get back to Tampa, that's exactly what I would talk about. So here's what I'm going to do. I'm going to leave you with something. This whole sermon came from chapter two of my book called the sacredness of secular work. I'm going to send you scan this QR code. I want to send you the most practical chapter in the entire book that breaks down exactly how we can do this, Monday through Saturday. I'm going to show you 15 things that we know for sure are true, of the New Earth, 15 marks, core values, if you will, of the kingdom of God, things like beauty, things like. Abundance things like peace and a lack of anxiety, then I'm not only going to tell you what we need to reveal. I'm going to show you how we can reveal them using case studies from CS

Lewis to a call center employee to Joan of Arc. I'm also going to send you a video of the Royal Indian picture book. Some of you guys, I know you guys have got young kids in children's church right now, I got a private YouTube link so you can watch it with them tonight at home or your grandkids. I'm gonna send that to you for free. You don't have to buy anything. I'm also gonna send you the slides from this talk. Why? Because some of you still have very, very raised eyebrows right now you're looking at me like, Man, that sounds great. I'm not sure that's right, good, because if that drives you to your knees in prayer and into God's word, blessed be the name of the Lord. Check every single word I said here today against God's word, and I'm confident you're going to come to the same conclusions that we are here not to wait around for eternity with God. Eternity is now in session, and you and I are called to cultivate heaven on earth together for God's glory and the good of others. Pray with me as we close father, God, Lord, thank you, first and foremost, for the miracle of our salvation. But God, thank you for not just saving us from something namely sin and death. Thank you for saving us for something. The good works that you prepared in advance for us to do, Lord, fill us with more of your Spirit, so that we may leave this place and go into our workplaces, into our schools, into our communities, and do that work exceptionally well, cultivating heaven on earth, powered by your Holy Spirit, help us to do that with excellence and love and in accordance with your commands. Tomorrow, amen.