



PICTURING

# Heaven

40 hope-filled devotions with coloring pages

WRITTEN BY  
**RANDY ALCORN**  
ILLUSTRATED BY LIZZIE PRESTON





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*No eye has seen, no ear has heard,  
and no mind has imagined what  
God has prepared for those who love him.*



*But it was to us that  
God revealed these things  
by his Spirit.*

1 CORINTHIANS 2:9-10







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## INTRODUCTION

**T**HE SUBJECT OF HEAVEN gripped my interest when my mother was dying of cancer in 1981. As I've studied and spoken on this topic over the years, it's become clear that many in the church haven't yet fully grasped what Scripture teaches. Most Christians are familiar with the present Heaven, the place where we as believers in Jesus go to live when our physical bodies die.

Yet when the Bible promises Heaven, it also promises something bigger and everlasting, when God will resurrect our bodies *and* the earth. God Himself will come down to live with us forever—on the New Earth (Revelation 21:3). This is the ultimate Heaven that God's people eagerly anticipate: "We are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth he has promised, a world filled with God's righteousness" (2 Peter 3:13).

People can only look forward to what they can imagine, what they can picture in their mind's eye. Unfortunately, many have vague, dreary, and unbiblical notions that cause them to dread Heaven rather than long for it. The more tangible the New Earth becomes to us, the more we'll look forward to it.

That's perhaps the greatest value of this book: Coloring the imagery—trees, lakes, animals, and people enjoying a redeemed creation—will help you develop a vital view of the magnificent New Earth God is preparing for us! As you ponder these pictures and participate in the art, you'll more fully appreciate Christ's promise—not of a ghostly existence, but of resurrected bodies and minds in a fantastically beautiful, resurrected universe ruled by Jesus, the King of kings, our Savior and Lord.

My prayer is that *Picturing Heaven* will serve as both a creative expression and a spiritual inspiration. My desire is that the art, the Scripture, and my brief devotional thoughts will broaden your perspective, increase your hope, and nourish your faith. Perhaps one day when you're with Jesus, you'll look around and say, "This is what I imagined while coloring *Picturing Heaven*—and it's way better than I dreamed!"

*Randy Alcorn*





FROM BETTER TO BEST—OUR TRUE DESTINATION

*I'm torn between two desires: I long to go and be with Christ, which would be far better for me. But for your sakes, it is better that I continue to live.*

PHILIPPIANS 1:23-24

*"As surely as my new heavens and earth will remain, so will you always be my people, with a name that will never disappear," says the LORD.*

ISAIAH 66:22

**T**HE PRESENT HEAVEN, where believers in Jesus go when their physical bodies die, is where we'll dwell prior to our bodily resurrection. Scripture says that to live there is "far better" than living here on Earth under the Curse, away from the direct presence of God. Still, the present Heaven is not our journey's end. Though it will be a wonderful place, it is not the place we are made for. There's another place God promises to refashion for us to live in forever. God's children are destined for life as resurrected beings on a resurrected Earth. We must not lose sight of our true destination!





EARTH'S END WILL LEAD TO EARTH'S NEW BEGINNING

*The day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief.  
Then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise,  
and the very elements themselves will disappear in fire,  
and the earth and everything on it will be found to deserve judgment.*

2 PETER 3:10

*T*HIS VERSE about the earth's destruction can be misunderstood unless we catch what Peter says three verses later: "We are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth he has promised, a world filled with God's righteousness" (2 Peter 3:13). The same Earth destined for destruction is also destined for renewal. Many have grasped the first teaching but not the second. Therefore, they misinterpret phrases such as "pass away" or "disappear in fire" to mean final destruction rather than what Scripture actually teaches: a temporary destruction that will be reversed through resurrection. As great artists have restored ruined canvases, God will remake the charred Earth into something fresh and vibrant, greater than the original, just as a butterfly is greater than a caterpillar.







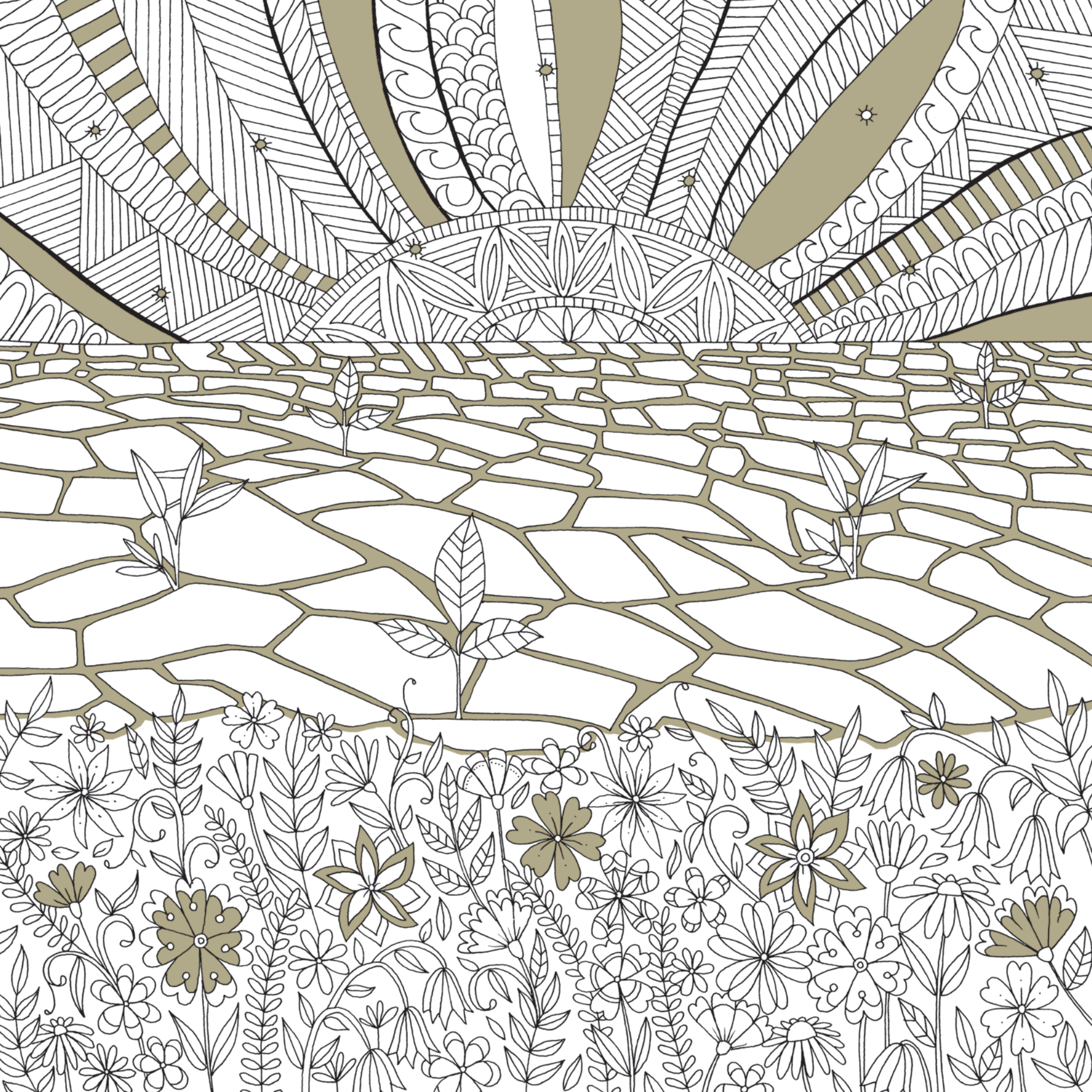
## EARTH WILL BECOME THE PARADISE GOD INTENDED

*God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!*

GENESIS 1:31

*R*ECONCILE. Redeem. Restore. Recover. Return. Renew. Regenerate. Resurrect. Each of these biblical words begins with the *re-* prefix, suggesting a return to an original condition that was ruined or lost. These words emphasize that God always sees us in light of the purpose He envisioned for us, and He always seeks to *restore us* to that design. Likewise, He sees Earth in terms of what He intended it to be, and He will restore it to its original design. Jesus called this the coming “renewal of all things” (Matthew 19:28, NIV).









WELCOME HOME TO GOD'S NEW EARTH!

*My Father's house has many rooms . . .  
I am going there to prepare a place for you.*

JOHN 14:2, NIV

*J*ESUS DELIBERATELY CHOSE common physical terms (*house, rooms, place*) to describe where He was going and what He was preparing. He wanted to give His disciples, and us, something tangible to look forward to—an actual place, a *home*, where we can go to be with Him. Not an ethereal realm of disembodied spirits, because such a place could never be home for us. Rather, this home will be a place that's both physical and spiritual, just as we are. A place that's a renewed version of the original one God made for us: Earth. Your new home, liberated from sin, curse, and suffering, is nearly ready for you. Moving day is coming.





## HEAVEN ON EARTH—GOD WILL MAKE OUR HOME HIS

*I saw a throne in heaven and someone sitting on it.  
The one sitting on the throne was as brilliant as gemstones—like jasper  
and carnelian. And the glow of an emerald circled his throne like a rainbow.*

REVELATION 4:2-3

**T**HE SCENE PORTRAYED in this Scripture takes place in the present Heaven. Some argue that the New Earth shouldn't be called Heaven. But Heaven, by definition, is God's special dwelling place. And in Revelation 21:3, we're told that God's home will be "among his people" on the New Earth. Heaven is where God's throne is, and "the throne of God and of the Lamb will be there" (Revelation 22:3). With God's presence and throne both on the New Earth, it will be the Heaven on Earth we have always dreamed of!



