

# Looking Toward New Jerusalem

✘ The great theme of faith continues as we study the book of Hebrews. We have learned that faith sees the unseen, and we endure in faith and hope when we keep our eyes focused on Jesus Christ, the author and finisher of our faith. Now we turn our eyes heavenward to look into realms of glory in heaven.

I have often wondered why some great men and women of faith die young. Recently a great servant of the Lord named Ruth Heflin died. I personally felt she had many more years of service to offer the Lord here on earth. She wrote a book called *Glory*.

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## Lord, Save My Family

As a Christian, it's difficult to relish in thoughts about heaven when you know your husband, children or other family members are not saved. But if you will commit to earnest prayer for your loved ones, the Holy Spirit will move on the heart of every person and give them an opportunity to come to faith in Christ. But don't take my word for it. Acts 16:31 says, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.'" To receive prayer for your family, [click here to listen to podcast.](#)

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# Be Not Afraid

☒ As I showered in preparation for our last day of sightseeing, I reflected on many of the places we've visited. A list with a one- or two-sentence description would fill the rest of this blog. While each now holds a special place in my heart, and many brought the Bible to life and me to tears, one common thing connects them—fear. Rather, the lack of it.

I've realized how much we live in fear in the United States. With crime, murder and rape rates at mindboggling levels, we're forced to bolt our doors at home, keep our cars locked while in the driveway, and be always mindful of our surroundings. Despite these safety precautions, robbery, theft, murder and rape dominate the nightly news.

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# Draw Near to God

☒ Believing God's promises necessitates first knowing God. Our experience of the Father comes through daily prayer, reading the Word and trust. Jesus taught that unwavering faith would be rewarded with heavenly answers. But when doubt comes our way, the Holy Spirit will help build our faith in the Father.

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# Rebecca St. James' Pro-Life Message



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For years singer and author Rebecca St. James has passionately delivered her True Love Waits message about abstinence and purity. Now she is extending that message with a burden for the unborn via her latest movie, *Sarah's Choice*. In her first leading role, St. James portrays Sarah Collins, a rising single professional who has to make a life-altering decision when she gets pregnant. Sarah struggles with her new reality and also faces her doubts and frustrations with God.

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## Make a Decision

In his first book *Shaken Not Shattered*, author Matthew Hagee challenges readers to “make a decision, and go for it!” in life. But for some Christians, that’s easier said than done. Are you afraid to make choices that require you to abandon your comfort zone for the unknown? Though you are passionate about God and want to advance His kingdom, your decisions will determine your destiny, not chance. To discover why faith not fear must govern the choices we make, listen to podcast below.

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# The Gospel in Surround Sound

Ever wonder how multitudes of people were able to hear Jesus speak even though He had no megaphone to help project His voice? When He delivered His famous Sermon on the Mount, He sat down on the mountainside and taught the people, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God” (Matt. 5:1-5, NKJV). When Jesus spoke, the wind did not whisk away His words. The Holy Spirit carried them from heart to heart, and the listeners were transformed forever. To see one of Israel’s natural outdoor theaters, click below to watch the videos.

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## Israel: More Than a Moment

✘ Israel. The mere mention of the word conjures up a favorite memory for those who’ve been, and a longing for those who haven’t. After being here three days, it’s difficult to pinpoint that one “a-ha” moment. It might be because those enlightening moments have been nearly nonstop since stepping off the plane in Tel Aviv.

Our group of seven has stood in the river bed where David picked his stones to slay Goliath, spent time in the Dead Sea, climbed the hills where David hid from Saul, explored the ruins of Masada (Herod’s palaces) and had a special military escort take us to the Jordan River where we baptized each other at the spot where it is believed John baptized Jesus.

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# The Danger of Looking Back

☒ Perhaps there is no other portion of the Torah so filled with vital stories than the section in Genesis 18:1-22, 24. Called Vayera, it includes the stories of three men who visited Abraham; of God's promising to give him and his wife, Sarah, a son; and of angels visiting Lot and urging him to leave Sodom—fast—since judgment was coming.

Unlike some characters we read about in Scripture, Abraham was a good man. He cared about his nephew. According to the Torah, the future patriarch of the Jews talked with God about His decision to destroy Sodom, pleading with Him to spare the city for the sake of the righteous.

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# Don't Let Fear Stop You

What's holding you back from fulfilling your godly purpose? Have you fallen prey to some sin and now you're afraid God doesn't love you? Do you listen to the enemy's lies about who you are? Whatever the cause, fear is keeping you from your destiny.

When you see fear coming or sense its presence, face it. Fear is rooted in deception. But when you discover the truth of God's Word, you begin to see yourself as God sees you. The Holy Spirit wants to change the way we think.