


HEAVEN'S IMPACT ON OUR SUFFERING

Knowing in
advance about
heaven comforts
the sufferer with
glimpses of
suffering's
reward



HEAVEN'S IMPACT
ON OUR SUFFERING-
MESSAGE

Joni Eareckson Tada trusted Christ as a teenager and all seemed well until “on a hot July afternoon in 1967, a diving accident crushed my fourth cervical vertebrae and left me without use of my hands and legs. I still have good shoulder muscles and halfway decent biceps, but that’s about it below the neck”

(Joni Eareckson Tada, *Journal of Biblical Counseling*, Fall 2004, p. 24)

“God uses suffering

to purge sin from our hearts;
to strengthen our commitment to Him;
to stretch our hope and discipline our minds;
to bind us together with other believers;
to get us deeper into His Word;
to develop a buoyant, happy-hearted hope of heaven, so that
we end up eagerly awaiting our Savior, our Lord Jesus Christ”

(Joni Eareckson Tada, *Journal of Biblical Counseling*, Fall 2004, p. 27)

GOD'S PURPOSES IN OUR SUFFERING

“Twenty-three seconds of heaven
will make up for everything”

(Joni Eareckson Tada, *Journal of Biblical Counseling*, Fall 2004, p. 43)

“My paralysis is a long, arduous, delightful adventure into intimacy with my Lord Jesus Christ because He permits what He hates in order to accomplish all that He loves”

(Joni Eareckson Tada, *Journal of Biblical Counseling*, Fall 2004, p. 40)

We should
know that...

Heaven is a
matter of faith

Goal

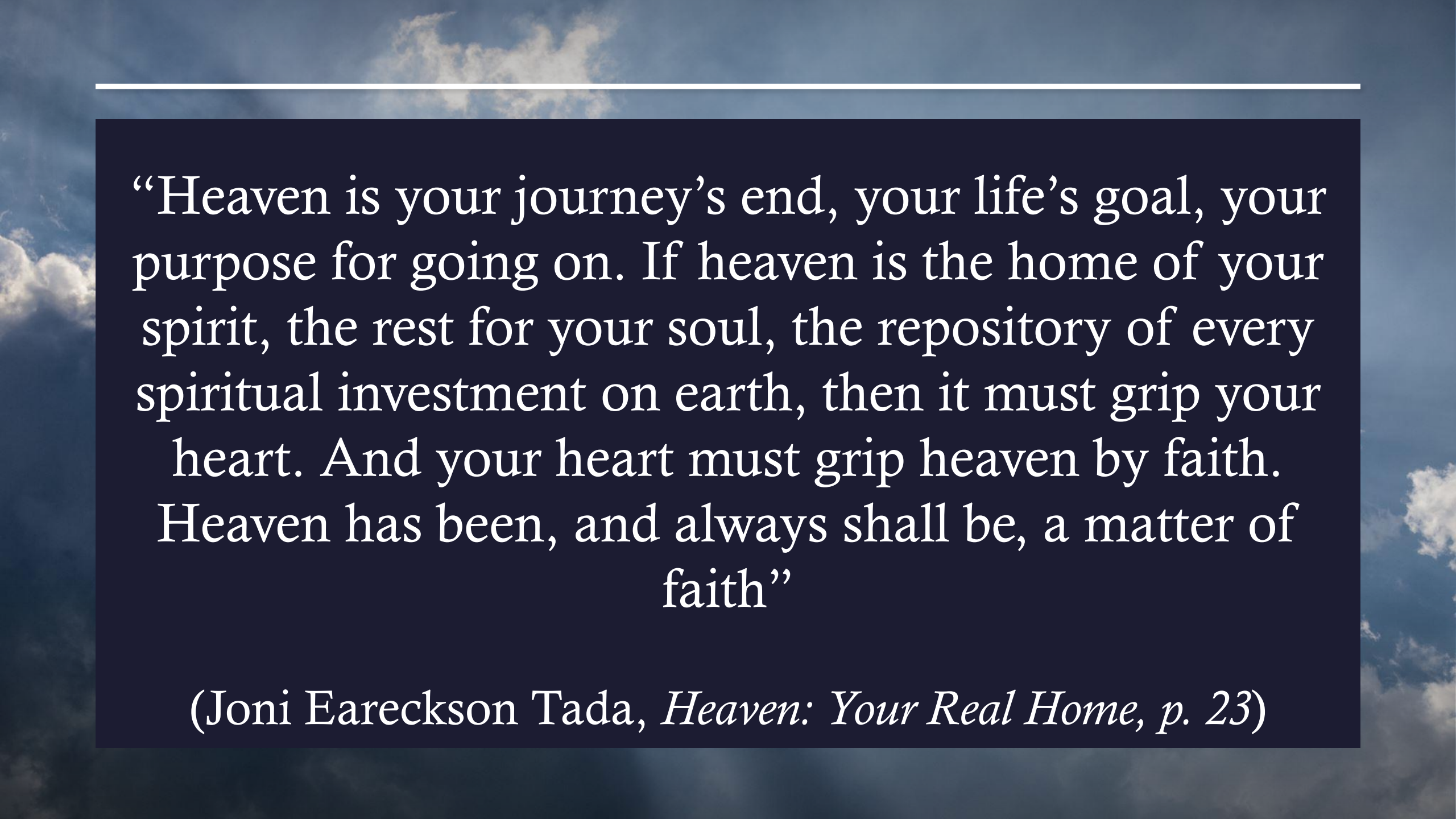
Faith is the assurance of things hoped for (Heb 11:1; Phil 3:20)

Grip

By faith we take hold of God's promises while we suffer (Heb 11:10-16)

Guard

Keeping heaven in view, trials won't overwhelm us



“Heaven is your journey’s end, your life’s goal, your purpose for going on. If heaven is the home of your spirit, the rest for your soul, the repository of every spiritual investment on earth, then it must grip your heart. And your heart must grip heaven by faith. Heaven has been, and always shall be, a matter of faith”

(Joni Eareckson Tada, *Heaven: Your Real Home*, p. 23)

HEAVENLY ART

“This is the noble advantage of faith: it can look on the means and the end together...Could we but clearly see heaven as the end of all God’s dealings with us, surely none of his dealings could be grievous”

(Richard Baxter, *The Saint’s Everlasting Rest*, pp. 292-3)

We should
know that...

Heaven puts
our suffering
in perspective

(2 Cor 4:17-18)

“Everything else—numbing
heartache, deep disappointment,
circumstances that seem topsy-
turvy—everything else, no matter
how real it seems to us on earth, is
treated as inconsequential.
Hardships are hardly worth
noticing”

(Joni, *Heaven*, p. 179)

“Something so superb, so grandiose is going to happen at the world’s finale, that it will suffice for every hurt and atone for every heartache. It also helps to know that the state of suffering we are in here is necessary to reach the state we want (more accurately, God wants!) in heaven”

(Joni Eareckson Tada, *Heaven: Your Real Home*, p. 180)

We should
know that...

Suffering
moves us
toward heaven

(Col 3:1-4)

“Suffering moves our heart
toward heaven...Suffering
hurries the heart homeward”

(Joni Eareckson Tada, *Heaven*, p. 182-3)

We should
know that...

“Suffering
prepares us to
meet God”

(Joni, *Heaven*, p. 184)

Appreciate Jesus' suffering (Rom 8:17)

Happy to see God's face (Mt 5:8; Rev
22:4; 2 Cor 3:18; 1 Jn 3:2; Job 29:26-27)

“The weaker I felt in this [wheel]chair,
the harder I leaned on You. And the
harder I leaned, the more I discovered
how strong You are”

(Joni, *Heaven*, p. 184)

We should
know that...

Heaven is our
reward for
suffering

Hell assures us that
God's justice will right
every wrong

Heaven assures us that
God's goodness and
faithfulness will reward
our suffering

We should
know that...

Heaven is our
reward for
suffering

Salvation	Salvation, inheritance, sharing in Jesus' glory (1 Pet 1:3-9)
Comfort	Eternal comfort (Isa 35:10; Rev 21:4-5; Lk 16:25)
Joy	Boundless joy (Mt 5:10-12; Isa 26:19)
Reign	Reign with Christ (2 Tim 2:3, 10-12)



HEAVENLY PICTURES & CORDIALS

Ed Welch advises “searching Scripture for awesome pictures of God” like in Isa 6, Ezek 1, and Revelation

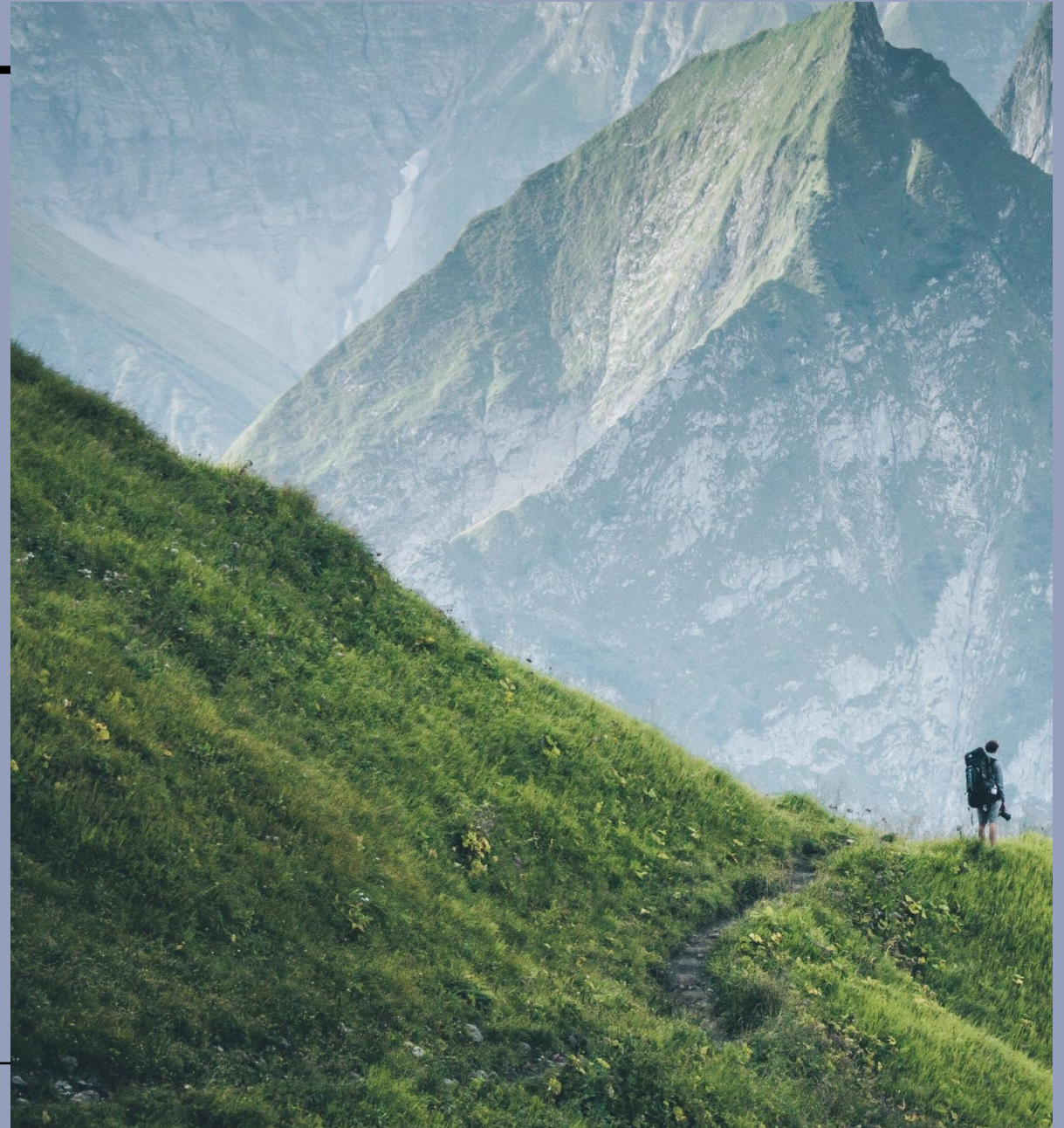
(When People Are Big and God Is Small, p. 204)

“Frequent believing views of glory are the most precious cordials [medicine that warms the heart] in all afflictions”

(Richard Baxter, The Saint’s Everlasting Rest, p. 290)

HEAVENLY ART, HEAVENLY CORDIAL

Suffering, pains, troubles, trials,
griefs, disappointments, shame
and guilt can become pictures
of overwhelming mountains in
our minds

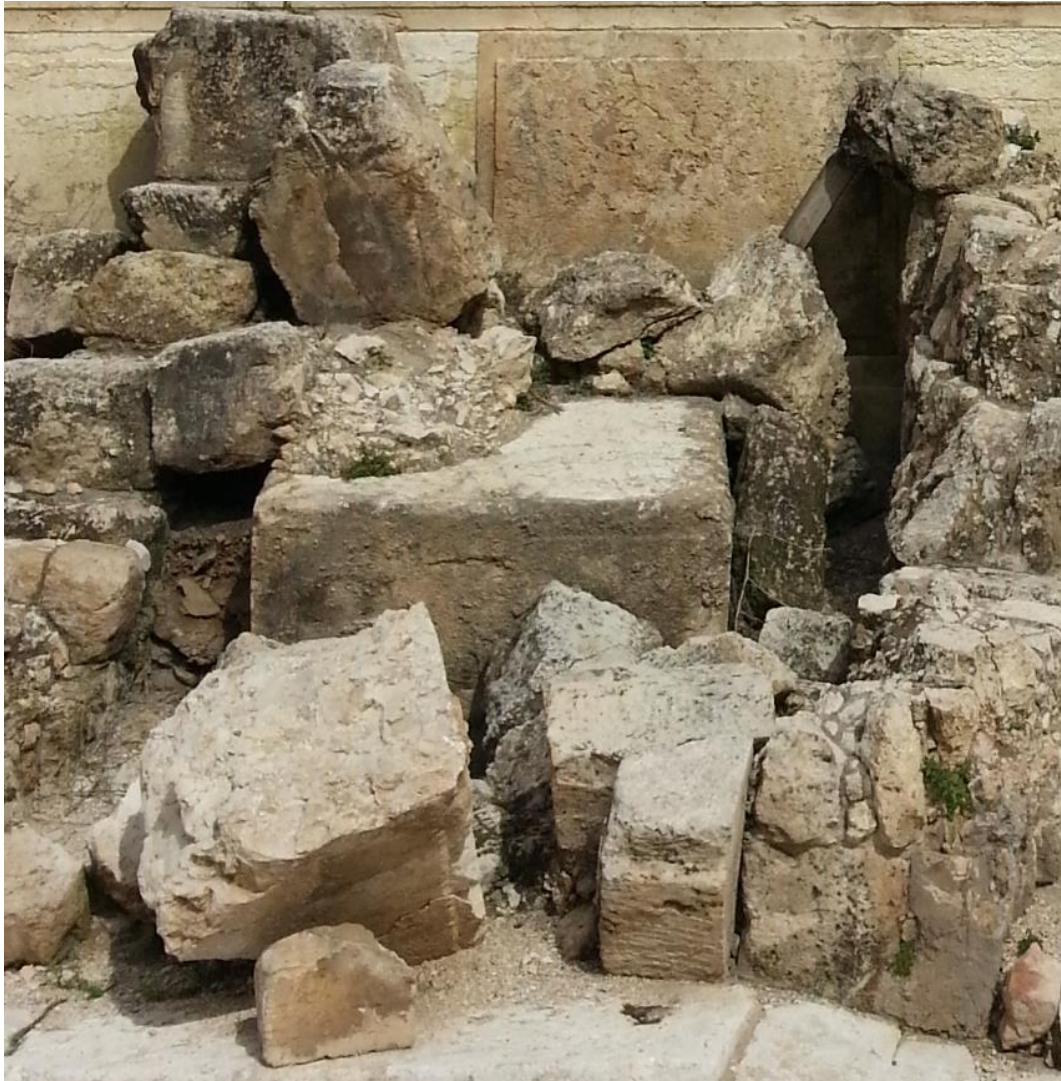




HEAVENLY ART,
HEAVENLY
CORDIAL

“Bigger Mountain” Pictures

1. Seek big pictures of heaven
2. Ponder heaven’s wonders
until they’re bigger!



“STONE-TO-MOUNTAIN” PICTURES

(DAN 2:34-35)

1. Watch for heaven “tucked into” other passages
2. Use heaven the way the author does

Examples: Heb 11:10-16; Phil 3:20; 2 Cor 4:17-18; 2 Tim 2:3, 10-12
