



Heaven Is beyond Imagination: The Music, Beauty, Waters, Flowers, Joy, Peace, Love, Relationships, and More, Described by Fifty Published Eyewitnesses

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Heaven Is beyond Imagination gathers varied testimonial accounts about the existence and splendor of heaven.

Drawing from a bevy of testimonials, Jacques LaFrance's uplifting Christian book *Heaven Is beyond Imagination* describes heaven and answers common questions regarding life after death.

Incorporating the descriptions of people who claim to have visited heaven, this book muses on subjects like the particulars of meeting Jesus, the appearance of heavenly bodies, activities in heaven, and heaven's topography. The descriptions are multisensory: people comment on the radiance and color of heavenly settings (one person describes the wall surrounding a heavenly city as one containing amber-colored precious stones with light that shines through them) and on the emotions of other encountered spirits. There are also familiar depictions of lush greenery, beautiful music, and lakes.

These eyewitness accounts are divided up according to subject; there are sections concerning heavenly landscapes and the sky, meetings with friends and family members, and encounters with the divine. As such, some differing perspectives appear alongside one another: while one witness recalls that towering mountains made them feel reverent, another remembers mountaintops with snow on them. Some say that their family members appeared younger than when they were last seen; others call their encounters joyous.

To lend credence to its various anecdotes, the book quotes the Bible on the subject of heaven. Thus, one witness's story about meeting a group of human spirits who were waiting for her is linked to Hebrews 12:1, which says, "We are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses," and a man's account of the gates of heaven, which he calls magnificent, is connected to a reference in Revelation. However, people's descriptions also lean into familiar language: they recycle terms like *peaceful*, *beautiful*, and *majestic* quite often. More unique is the book's coverage of the actual journey to heaven, though these accounts also make use of straightforward, sometimes unsurprising language: in one, the pathway to heaven is described as a tunnel leading toward a pinpoint of light.

While the book is careful to assign credit to each eyewitness, its citations appear at the end of each paragraph, and they are so numerous that they become disruptive to the reading process rather than building credibility. Further, its illustrations are few and familiar; they depict features like the path toward heaven, heavenly encounters with pets and children, and heavenly archives that are maintained by angels, but these black-and-white sketches are limited in quality and scope. They also come sans explanations, and questions remain about what is happening in some of the scenes that they represent. Witness accounts of hell are held off until the appendix, and information about the witnesses' lives after they returned from heaven is kept brief.

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EDITH WAIRIMU (June 28, 2023)

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