

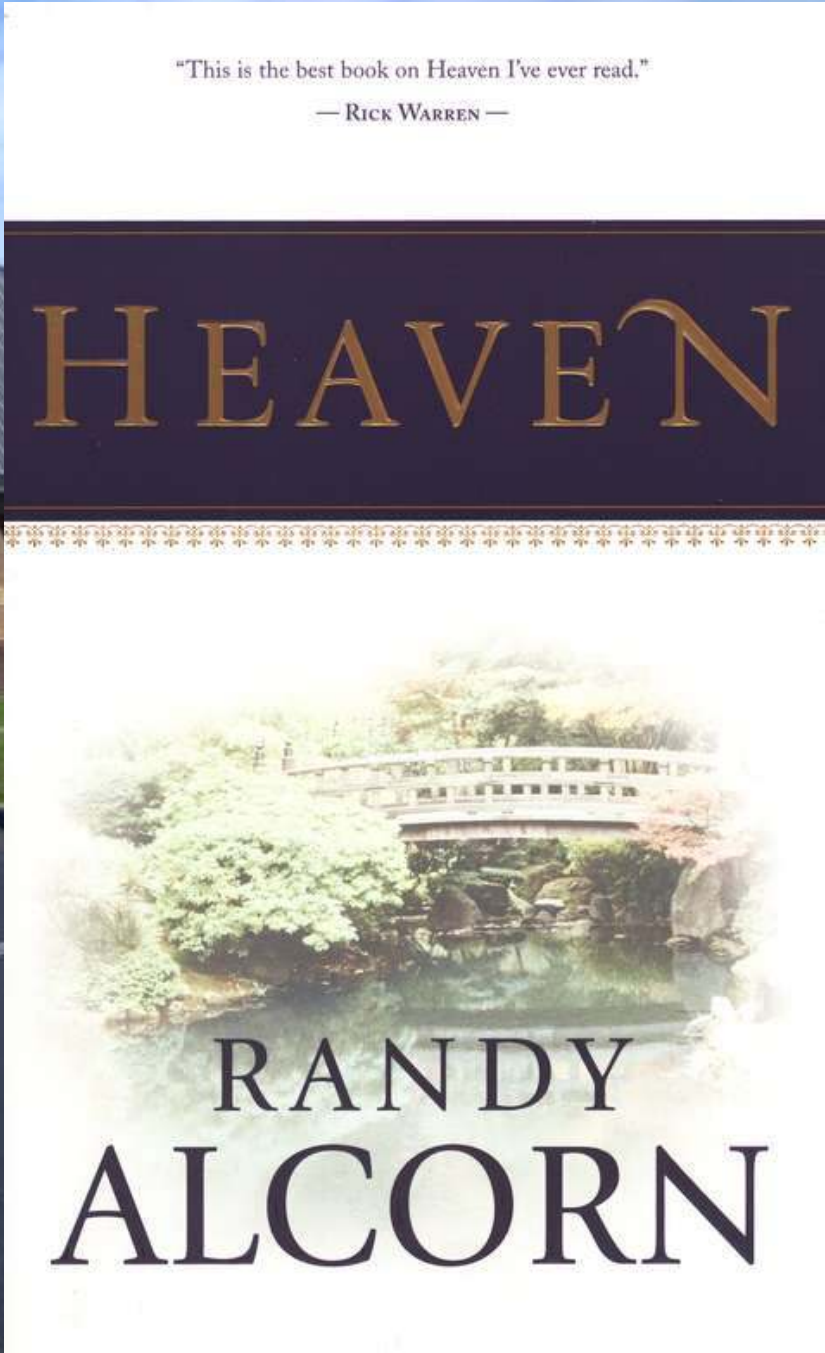


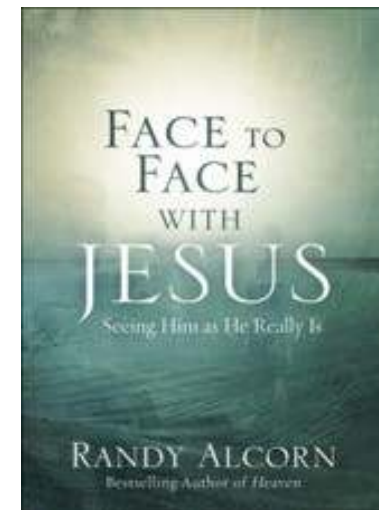
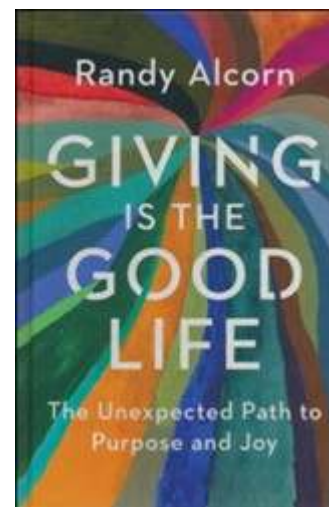
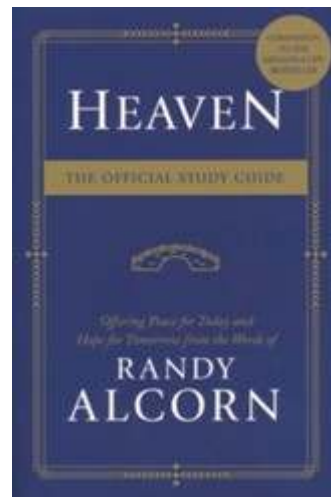
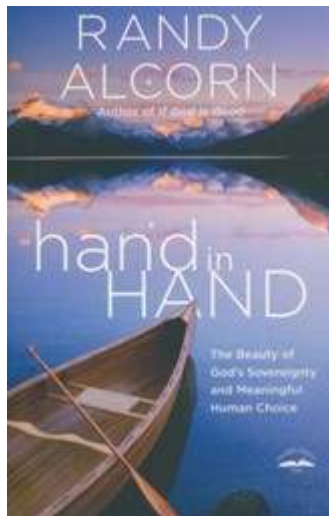


**church of Christ
Athens, Tennessee**

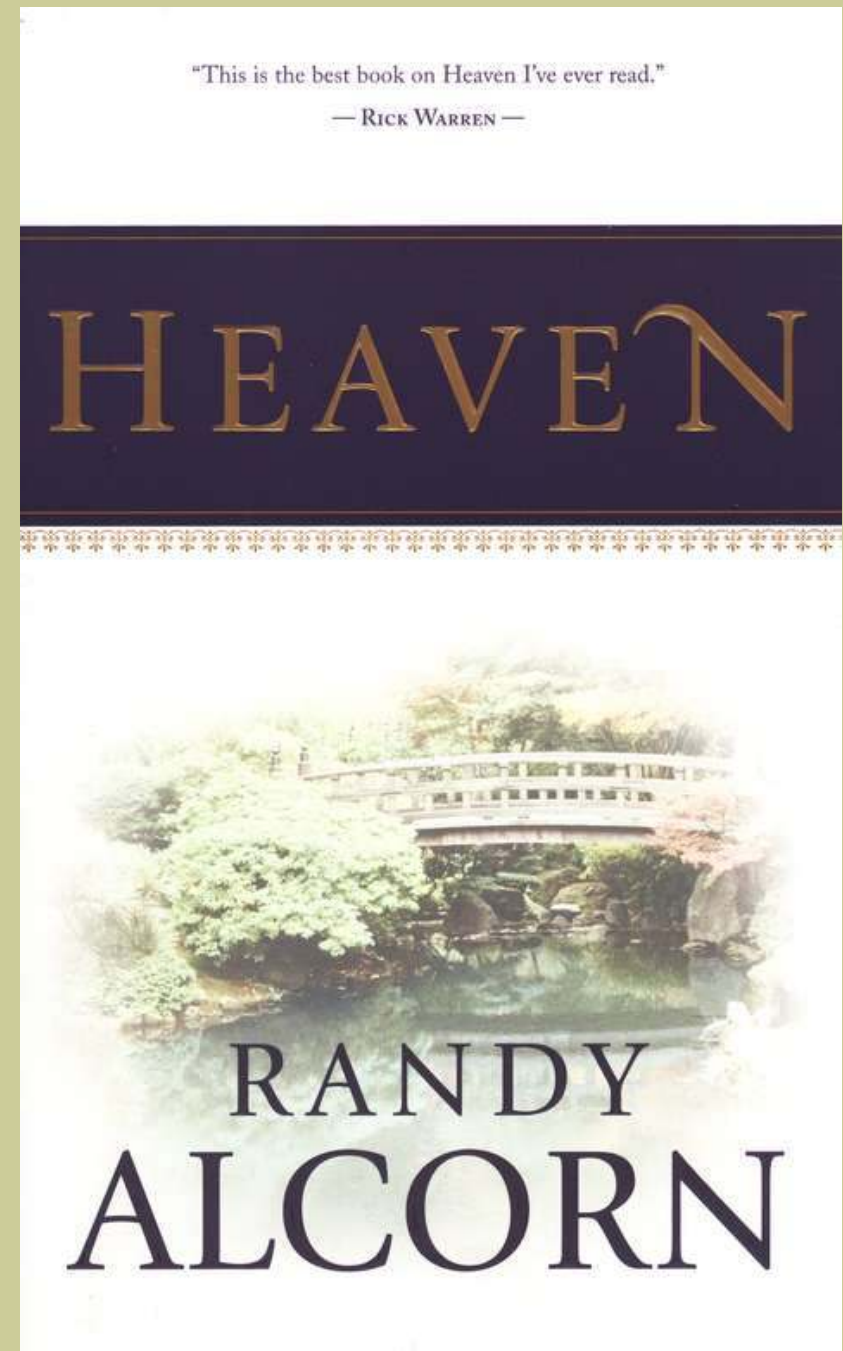


500 pages
46 chapters
363 footnotes
140 references

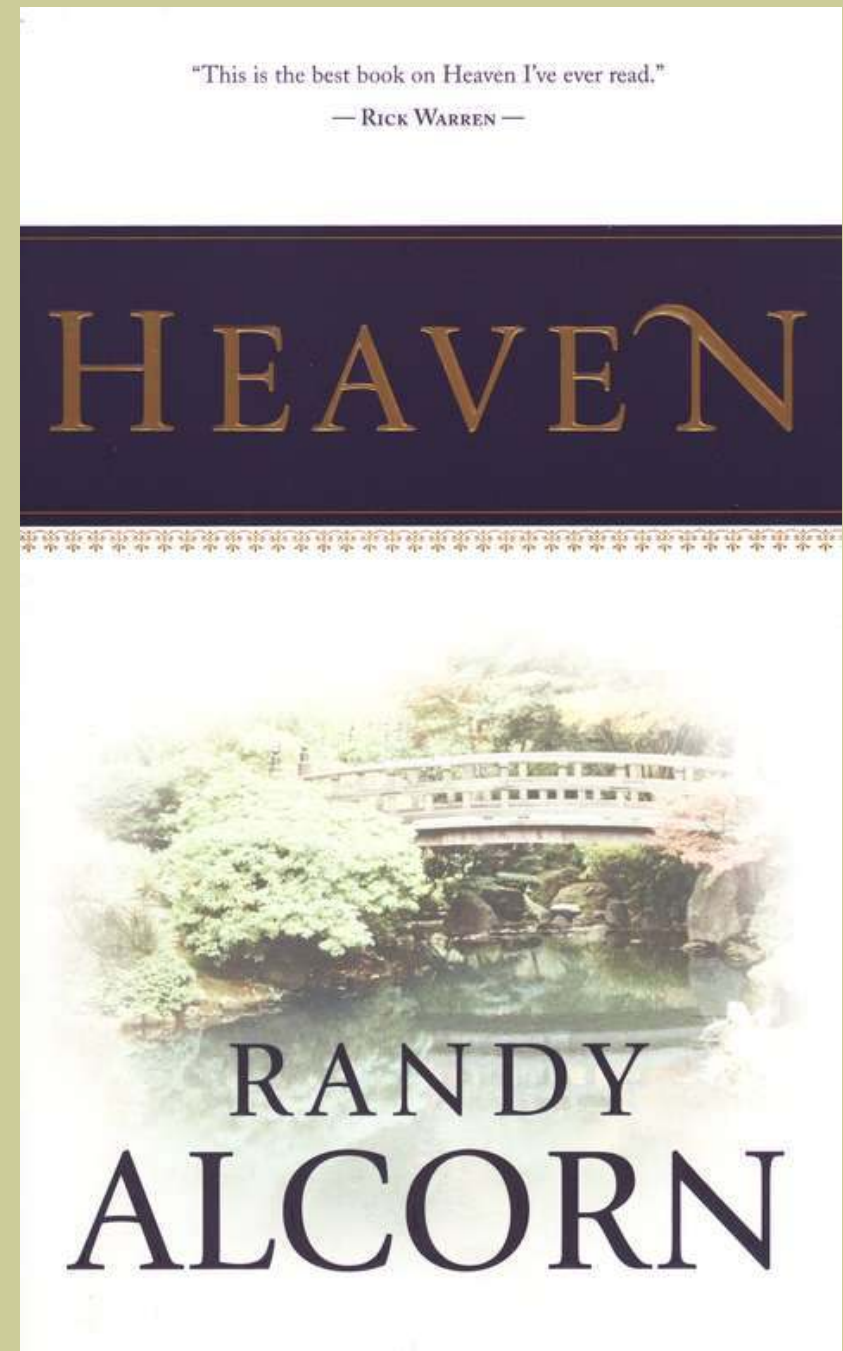




J.C. Ryle
Alister McGrath
C.S. Lewis
D.L. Moody
Amy Carmichael
David Lloyd George
Anthony Hoekema
Albert Wolters
Martyn Loyd-Jones
John Updike
John Piper
Abraham Kuyper
Dallas Willard
John Donne
Thomas Aquinas
E.J. Fortman
Saint Augustine
Irenaeus
Richard Baxter
Isaac Watts
T.S. Eliot
Ralph Waldo Emerson
John Bunyan
Charles Spurgeon
Richard Mouw
John Wesley
Helen Keller



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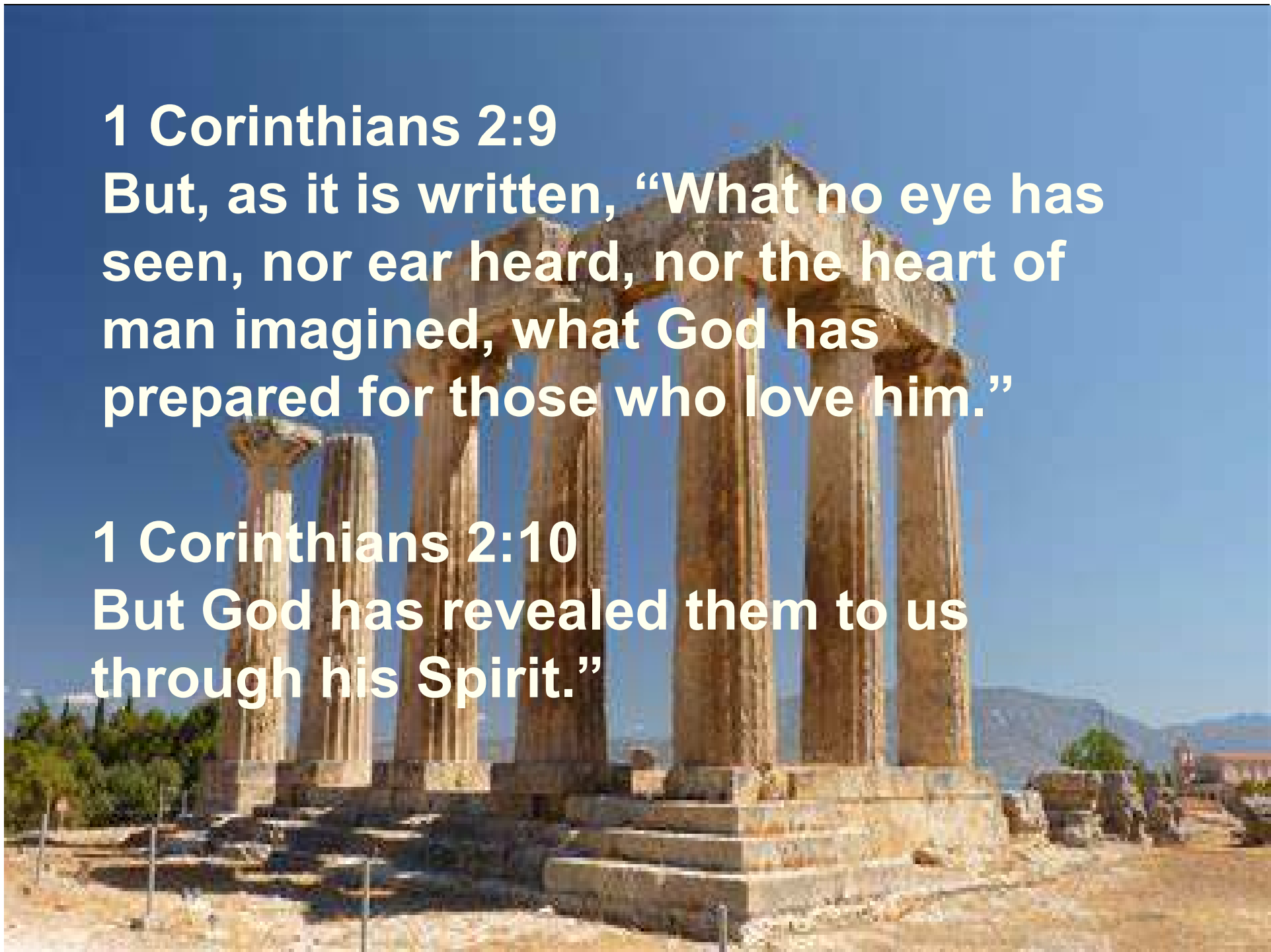


1 Corinthians 2:9

But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him.”

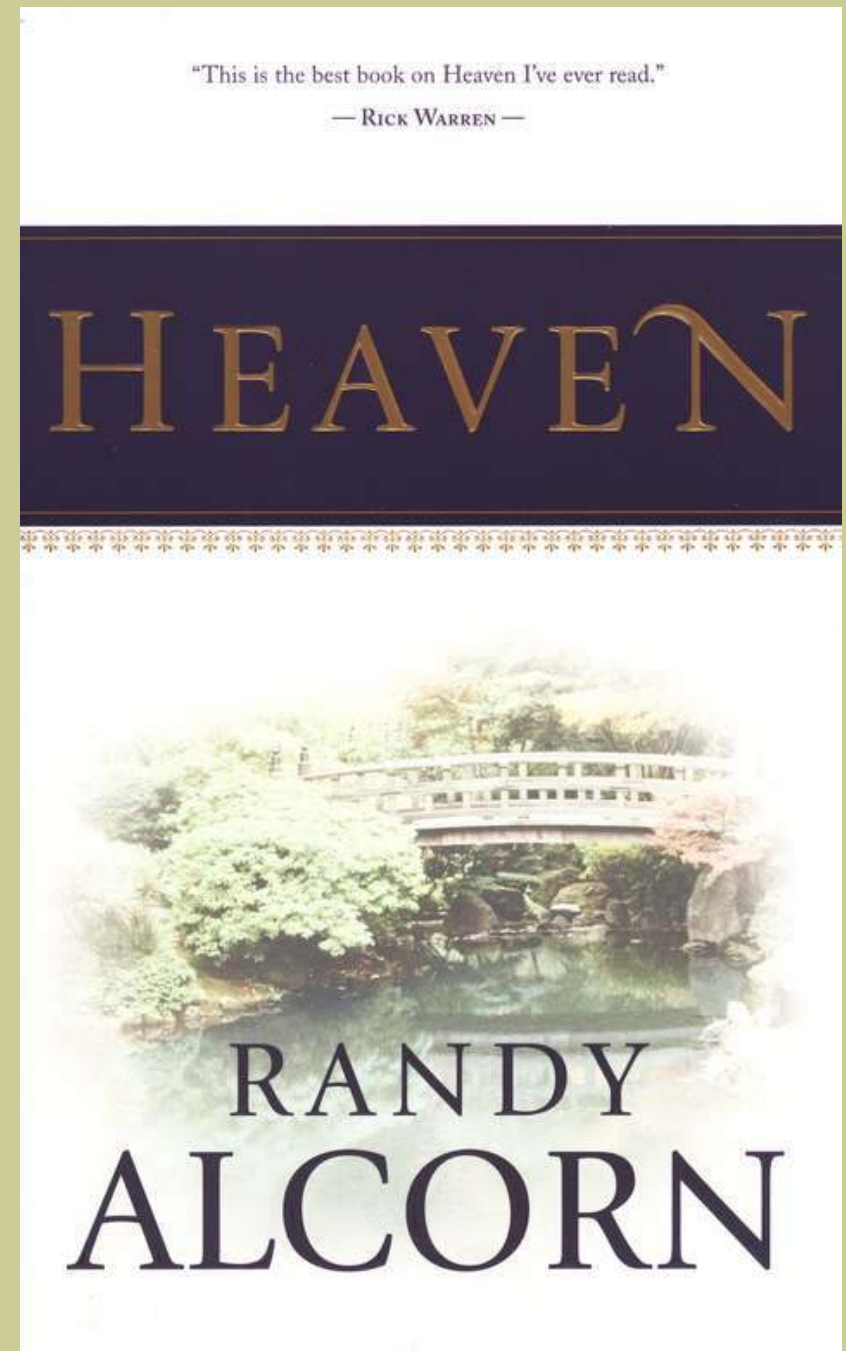
1 Corinthians 2:10

But God has revealed them to us through his Spirit.”



TEST THIS BOOK BY SCRIPTURE

“From the beginning, I want to make clear that it’s vitally important that this book be true to Scripture”





“...it’s certainly appropriate for us to discuss what John saw (in the Book of Revelation), because God chose to reveal (Heaven) to us.”

HEAVEN RELOCATED TO EARTH

Not only will God come to dwell with us on Earth, he will also bring with him the New Jerusalem, an entire city of people, structures, streets, walls, rivers, and trees that is now in the present, intermediate Heaven. If you’ve ever seen a

beings. We shall all be children of God and sex will be no part of our nature.”²¹⁷
The same book says, “Men will no longer be men nor will women be women.”²¹⁸

Similarly, another book says of those in Heaven, “[T]hey have reached that androgynous condition in which sex distinctions are transcended, or rather, in which the qualities of both sexes are blended together.”²¹⁹

Some people try to prove there will be no gender in Heaven by citing Paul’s statement that in Christ there is neither “male nor female” (Galatians 3:28). But Paul refers to something that’s already true on Earth: the equality of men and women in Christ. The issue isn’t the obliteration of sexuality (you don’t lose your gender at conversion).

Was Jesus genderless after his resurrection? Of course not. No one mistook him for a woman—or as androgynous. He’s referred to with male pronouns.

We’ll never be genderless because human bodies aren’t genderless. The point of the resurrection is that we will have real human bodies essentially linked to our original ones. Gender is a God-created aspect of humanity.

In my novel *Deadline*, Finney addresses this matter with the angel Zyor:

“But I am still a man here, and everyone I see is clearly male or female, more distinctly in fact than on earth. I had thought perhaps there would be no gender here. I had read that we would all be . . . like angels, like you.”

for our use. When God evaluated his creation, he found it to be good, along with all else, to be "very good." Many people throughout history have enjoyed coffee—even in a fallen world where neither coffee nor our taste buds are at their best.

God tells us that he "richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment" (1 Timothy 6:17). Does "everything" include coffee? Paul also says, "For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer" (1 Timothy 4:4-5). Again, does "everything" include coffee?

Given these biblical perspectives—and realizing that caffeine addiction or anything else that's unhealthy simply won't exist on the New Earth—can you think of any persuasive reason why coffee trees and coffee drinking wouldn't be part of the resurrected Earth?

Will the New Earth have fewer resources for human enjoyment than Eden did or than the world under the Curse offers? If you're tempted to say, "But in Heaven our minds will be on spiritual things, not coffee," your Christoplatonism detector should go off. It's fine if you don't like coffee, but to suggest that coffee is inherently unspiritual is . . . well, heresy. It directly contradicts the Scriptures just

Isaiah 11:6-9 speaks of a coming glorious era on Earth when the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child put his hand into the viper's nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."

Some interpreters contend that this passage speaks only of the Millennium, but as we've seen, Isaiah anticipates an *eternal* Kingdom of God on Earth. Isaiah 65:17 and 66:22 specifically speak of the New Earth. Sandwiched between them is a reference very similar to that in Isaiah 11: "The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. . . . They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain,' says the Lord" (65:25).

When will there be *no more harm* on the earth? Not on the old Earth or even in the Millennium, which will end in rebellion and warfare, but on the New Earth, where there will be no more sin, death, or suffering (Revelation 21:4). These descriptions of animals peacefully inhabiting the earth *may* have application to a millennial kingdom on the old Earth, but their primary reference appears to be to God's eternal Kingdom, where mankind and animals will enjoy a redeemed Earth.

WILL THERE BE ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, AND SPORTS?

Music, dancing, storytelling, art, entertainment, drama, and books have played major roles in human culture. Will they remain a part of our lives on the New Earth? I'm convinced the answer is yes.

WILL WE SING AND MAKE MUSIC?

Have you ever sat in stunned silence after listening to music beautifully per-



“Shouldn’t we expect the same geological features of the old Earth...the new Earth’s sky to be blue...Might God refashion the rain forests or the Grand Canyon?”

Misinterpretation of Apocalyptic

“..this is highly problematic...The whole idea that there are nations at all outside the holy city after the judgment day is-- an amazing leap!



Misinterpretation of Apocalyptic

Revelation 22:5

And there will no longer be any night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them...



Misinterpretation of Apocalyptic

Revelation 21:27

“And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.”



Misinterpretation of Apocalyptic

Revelation 22:14

“Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.”



Pseudoscience

"Some current earthly phenomena may occur on the New Earth."

Hebrews 12:28

"Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe..."



Theological Confusion

THE MESSIAH'S EARTHLY KINGDOM

God's people were right to expect the Messiah to bring an earthly kingdom. That's exactly what God promised: "All kings shall fall down before Him; All nations shall serve Him" (Psalm 72:11, NKJV). An explicitly messianic passage tells us, "His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth" (Zechariah 9:10).

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"I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great...and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."

Genesis 12:2-3

Inconsistent literalization

“And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

Revelation 5:6



Inconsistent literalization

“...would it contradict known facts to believe that on the New Earth there will be a great city with streets of gold and gates made of pearls and with trees and a river?”



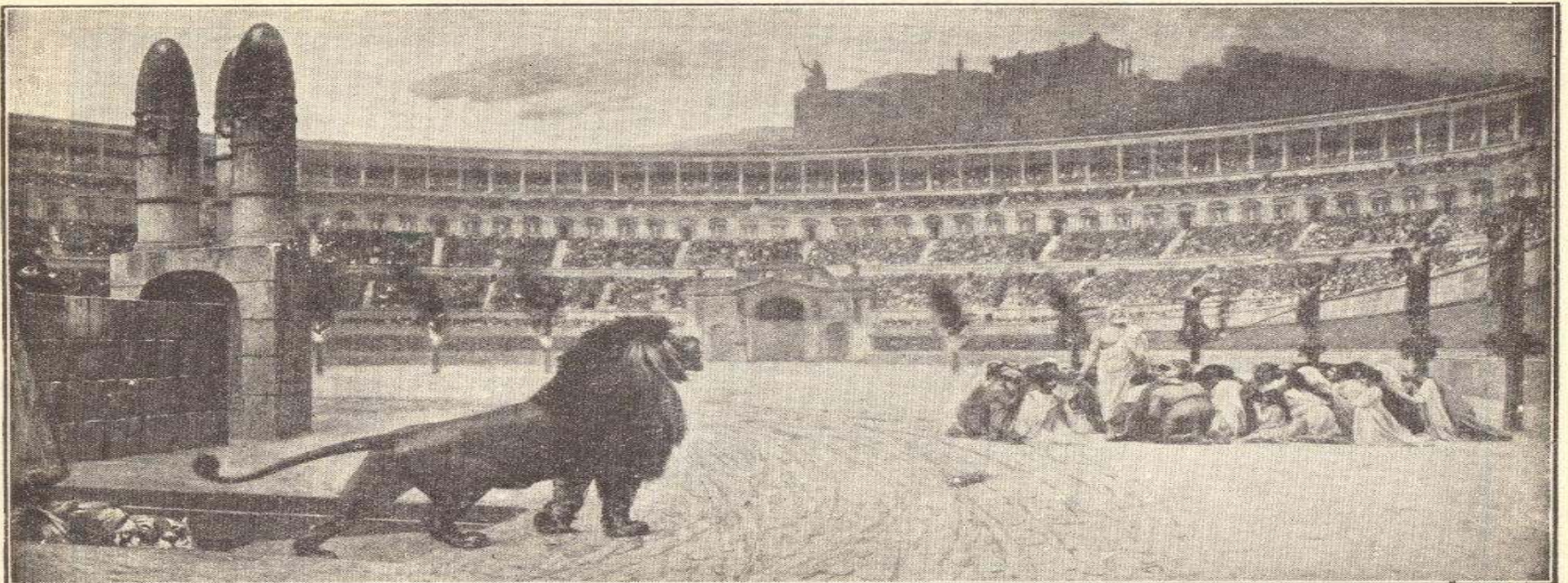
Inconsistent literalization

"Common sense is simply not enough if we are going to correctly interpret apocalyptic. Interpreting it as feels reasonable is one reason why we have so much confusion about the afterlife."



Disregard for Content

“The entire book of Revelation applies most directly to the persecuted church during the time of the Roman Empire. We may extrapolate some of its principles, but we cannot lift passages from their context and then reinterpret them according to our enlightened common sense.”



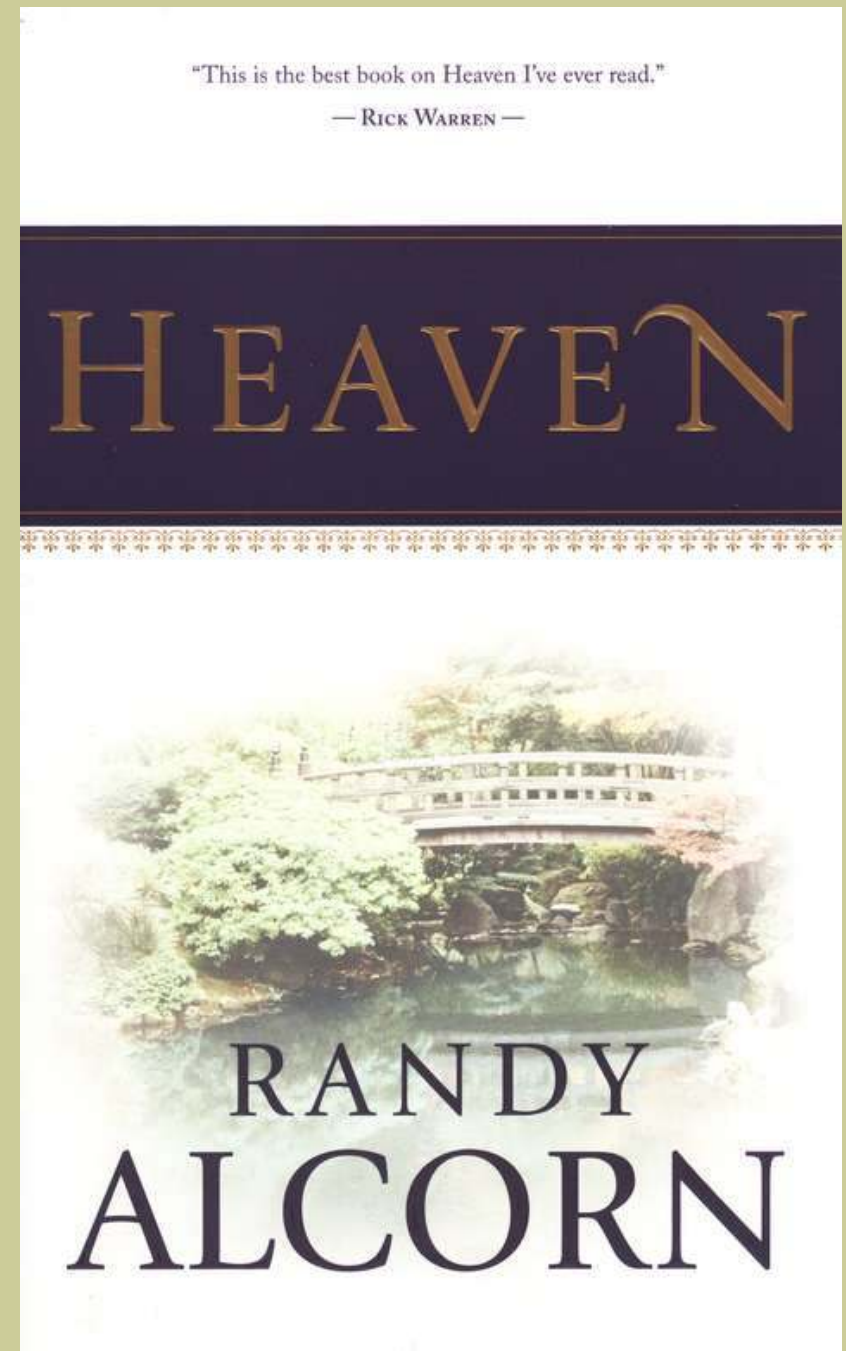
CHRISTIAN MARTYRS IN THE ARENA — PAINTING BY GÉROME

Sentimentality

“While the idea has great sentimental appeal—and there are plenty of things I wish I could receive back (documents, toys, pets)—it has nothing in scripture to support it.”



“But despite my best efforts, some errors undoubtedly have slipped through”





**International
Bible Teaching
Ministry**
with Douglas Jacoby

The handling of biblical texts is inconsistent, and major problems are glossed over...the errors in this book may well outweigh the truth. As Paul wrote, "Examine everything carefully" (1 Thessalonians 5:21 NAS).

When we do so, we are led to reject much of Alcorn's smash bestseller.



AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA

Serving as the hands and feet of Christ

In summary it seems fair to say that Alcorn's presentation of the gospel is laced with misquoted texts, peppered with unbiblical qualifications, and it does not belong in the hands of the undiscerning.

1 Corinthians 14:37

If anyone thinks they are a prophet or otherwise gifted by the Spirit, let them acknowledge that what I am writing to you is the Lord's command.



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I'M STILL HERE
BLACK IDENTITY
DIGNITY
A WOMAN'S VOICE

designer
to last
50th Anniversary
The History of Fashion in
America
National Book Award
and Pritzker Prize in Architecture
DINO PETRONE

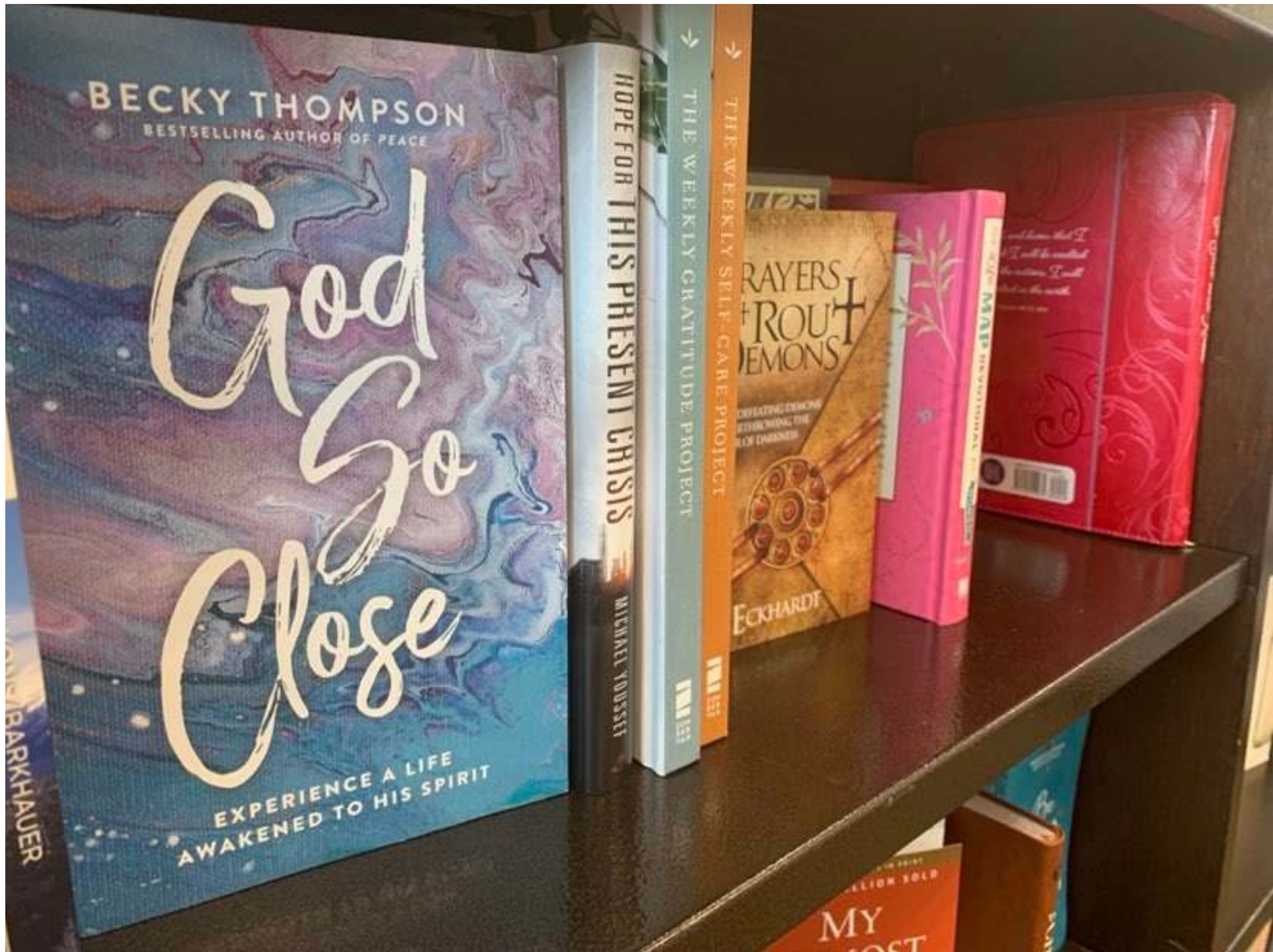
LOLO JONES
OVER IT
AN INSIDE
LOOK AT THE
LIFE OF THE
LATE SUPERMODEL
Lolo Jones
with
Thompson
Pitts

GOOD
AND
RACE
A Guide to
Black Fists & White
John Siebeling
& Wayne Francis

THE
ROAD
TO SELF-DISCOVERY
AN MORGAN CRON
LIZANNE STABILE

SHO BARAKA
THE
SAW
THAT IT
WAS GOOD
REIMAGINING YOUR CREATIVE LIFE
TO REPAIR A BROKEN WORLD

HOW
TO LEAD
IN A
WORLD
OF
DISTRACTION
FOUR SIMPLE
WAYS TO
FOCUS



BECKY THOMPSON
BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF PEACE

God So Close

EXPERIENCE A LIFE AWAKENED TO HIS SPIRIT

DAVID BARKHAUSER

HOPE FOR THIS PRESENT CRISIS

MICHAEL YOUSSEF

THE WEEKLY GRATITUDE PROJECT

IVY LEE

THE WEEKLY SELF-CARE PROJECT

IVY LEE

PRAYERS FOR ROUT DEMONS

ECKHARDT

MY MOST



Bibles

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NIV STUDY BIBLE

PERSONAL SIZE BIBLE

NIV WOMEN'S BIBLE

life APPLICATION Study Bible

NIV The WOMAN'S STUDY BIBLE

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NIV Celebrate Recovery Study Bible

NIV BIBLE

SHIRT POCKET NEW TESTAMENT

LARGE PRINT PERSONAL SIZE BIBLE

The Jesus Bible

life APPLICATION Study Bible

life APPLICATION Study Bible

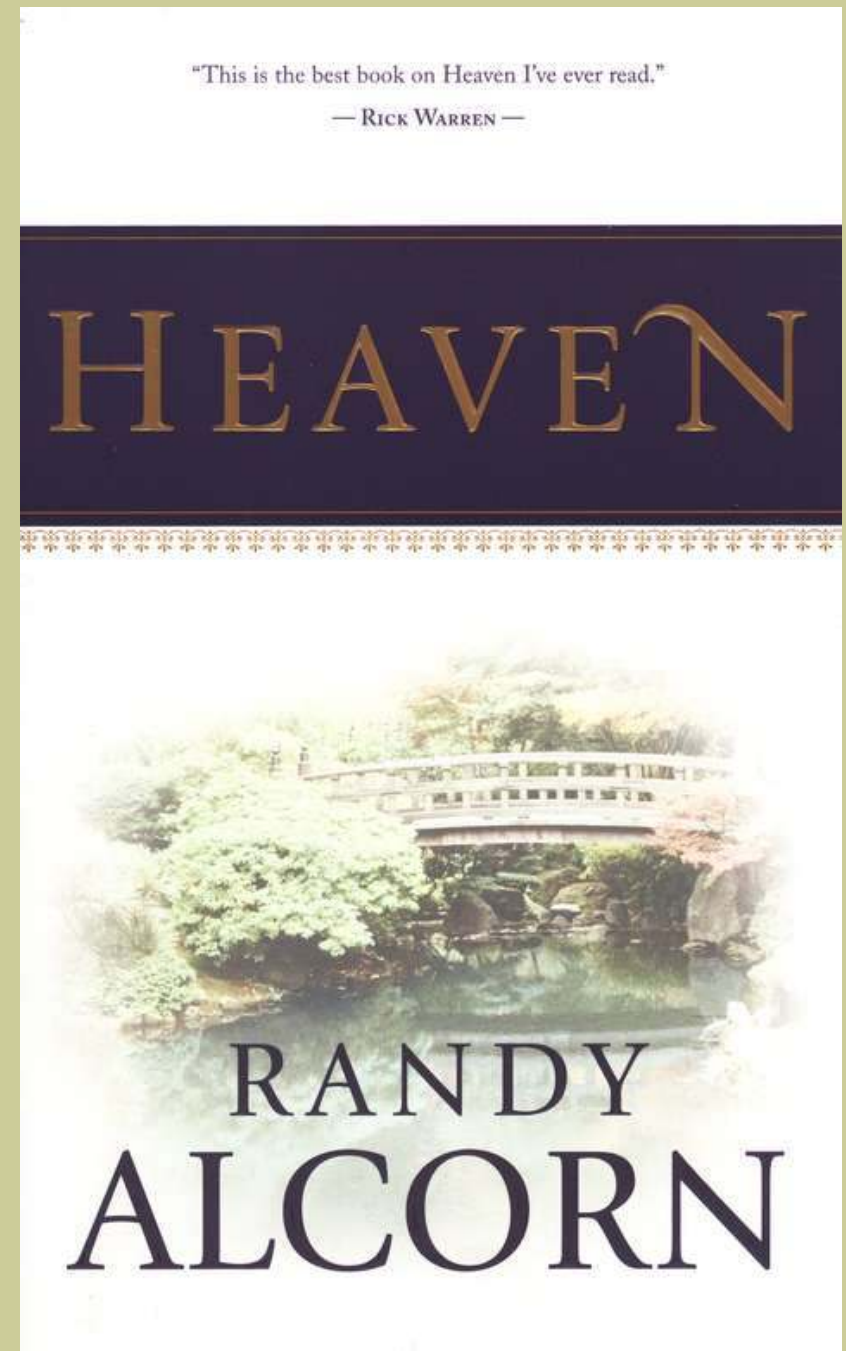
ONE YEAR BIBLE

PERSONAL REFERENCE BIBLE

LARGE PRINT BIBLE

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

“But despite my best efforts, some errors undoubtedly have slipped through”



“But despite my best efforts, some errors undoubtedly have slipped through”

The Life that is to Come



*Compiled for the Trilacoochee church of Christ
Adult Bible Class, May 2023*

