

So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus."

John 12:21

Store In My Heart

1Samuel 8:7

The Lord said to Samuel, "Listen to the voice of the people in regard to all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them."

This book begins with the story of Samuel, Israel's last judge. While Samuel walked in the ways of God, his sons did not and Israel sought to be ruled by a king like the nations around them. They were not satisfied with being different from others.

The main topic of the two books of Samuel is the story of the first two kings God gave to Israel. Saul, who looked like a king but was not faithful to God, and David, who is described as "a man after God's own heart." This is the story of the rise of Israel as a great nation and it also reveals the cause of her fall from God's care and protection.



The Joy In Seeing Jesus

R.J. Stevens

Victory in Jesus is consummated in the joy Christians experience when they see Jesus in their heavenly home.

In the fall of 1945 my older brother Hulan returned home from World War II after spending nearly three years in Europe. I was fifteen years of age when he left and eighteen when he returned. He was one of my older brothers who was always ready to help me when I need him. I was fortunate to have two older brothers who were special to me and good role models. I was away in college when he came home. When I got the letter from my mother about "Bubba" being home, I had a desire come into my heart that the most important thing to me was to see my brother again. After hearing about him being home, nothing except death could have kept me from going home to see him. I will never forget the anticipation I had in my heart the closer I got to our home in Houston, Texas. I will never forget the joy I felt in my heart when I saw him. He picked me up and almost threw me to the ceiling. What a joy it was to see him again and to be with him.

I obeyed the gospel of Christ about the time my brother left for Europe. When I became a Christian, Jesus Christ became one of my elder brothers. My three brothers and my sister and I were all taught by our parents to love the Lord more than we love each other. This made our love for one another even greater. I have not seen Jesus face to face in this life, but God has promised in His Word that I will see Him face to face some day. *"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is" (1John 3:2)*. I confessed my faith in Jesus when I was baptized, I have prayed to God the Father through Jesus, I have remembered the Lord each first day of the week in partaking of the Lord's supper, I have sung songs about Him all of my adult life and I have preached sermons about Jesus for nearly fifty-nine years. I believe in Jesus and love Him, but I have not seen Him face to face. *"Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see Him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory" (1Peter 1:8)*. John

recorded the words of Jesus when he spoke to Thomas, *"Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen Me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed"* (**John 20:29**).

The apostle Paul looked forward to being with Christ after this life. It was his hope of being with Christ some day that kept him faithful in serving the Lord. Paul wrote to the Corinthian brethren and said: *"We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord"* (**2Corinthians 5:8**). He also wrote to the Philippian brethren and said: *"For I am hard pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better"* (**Philippians 1:8**, NKJV).

These passages show that the goal of every Christian should be to go to heaven and be with Jesus. In this life we have enjoyed the victory over sin and the world because of the faith we have in Jesus Christ. Paul wrote, *"Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us"* (**Romans 8:37**). The apostle John penned these words, *"For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?"* (**1John 5:4-5**). After Paul wrote about the resurrection from the dead he asked, *"O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? ..."* *"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ"* (**1Corinthians 15:55,57**). In Christ there is victorious joy in the life, victorious joy in death (**Revelation 14:13**) victorious joy in the resurrection, victorious joy in having eternal life in heaven. But the most victorious joy of all to those who are Christians is seeing Jesus in that home that is called heaven.

There are several songs that express the joy of seeing Jesus. "After foes are conquered, after battle won, We shall see the King some day; After strife is over, after set of sun, We shall see the King some day. We shall see the King some day, We shall shout and sing some day. Gathered 'round His throne when He shall call His own, We shall see the King some day" (L.E. Jones). "Face to face! O blissful moment! Face to face to see and know; Face to face with my Redeemer Jesus Christ, who loves me so. Face to face shall I behold Him, Far beyond the starry sky; Face to face in all His glory, I shall see Him by and by" (Carrie E. Breck). Yes, it will truly be a victorious joy when we see Jesus in heaven.

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

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For Our Information

Paula Laubach will have Single Level ACDF surgery this week.
Sue Soliday had an appointment with Bone and Joint Doctor. Her A1C needs to be lowered before she can have knee surgery.
Barbara Atwood will have surgery this month for her cancer.
Keep those extended family members and friends with health issues in your daily prayers. Also pray for our upcoming meeting. Sunday Evening - **Ezra 4** Wednesday - **Jude 8** (considering the examples used to describe these false teachers.)

Our meeting with Reuben Prevost is scheduled for April 21-25.

We seek only to serve God according to His Will!