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How Many Minutes in Heaven? The Celestial Travels of Don Piper

by G. Richard Fisher

It appears that to achieve celebrity status in the Christian literary world or be a successful televangelist, it helps to have at least one trip to heaven.

Don Piper's book *90 Minutes in Heaven: A True Story of Death and Life*¹ is far from the first of its kind. With dozens of books in this genre, one would think that these adventures would now fall into the category of "uneventful events." Over the past four decades, there have been so many of these heavenly reports — some bogus, some cultic, some explainable in medical terms — that one should not get overly excited with yet another testimony.

Piper may genuinely believe he went to heaven, but his story is just another book covering a well-worn theme.

The Bible already tells us all we need to know about heaven. Jesus, Ezekiel, the apostles Paul and John, and other biblical writers have given



us enormous amounts of information.

The title of Piper's book, *90 Minutes in Heaven*, is a paradox. Heaven is an eternal place where believers go permanently at death, not a place people enter and leave.

It must also be asked if a "trip to heaven" could have an explanation other than supernatural. Christians can't be expected to accept everyone's claim of going to heaven for brief periods when so many of these reports contain contradictory details and unbiblical teachings such as Universalism. We must ask where the Bible says short visits to heaven are a possibility.

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