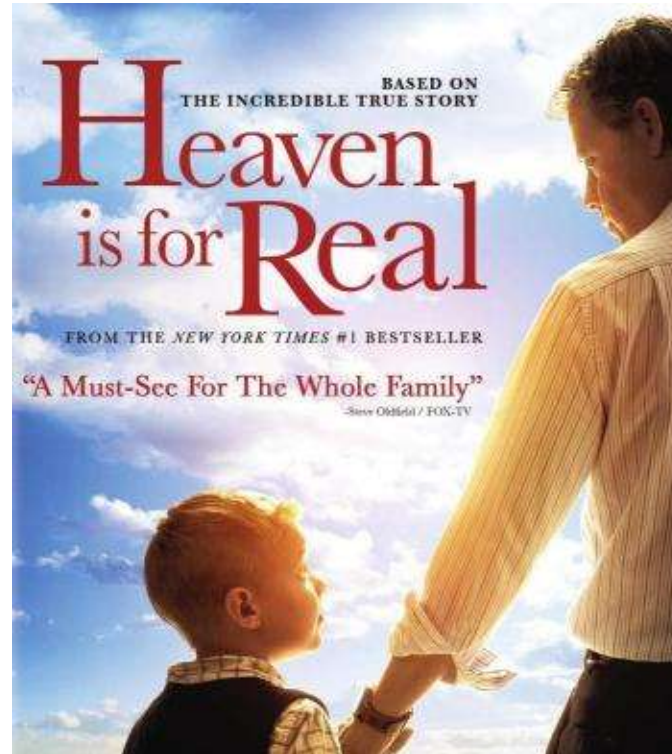


Be Encouraged by Heaven!



John 14:1-7

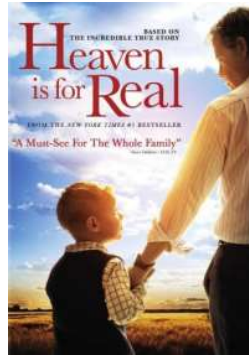
Introduction

- appeal of the movie
- Reality is composed of space, time, place and presence
- the beginning point is all about faith



Stephen gazed intently “into” heaven

- A dying man’s testimony
- narrative of Stephen’s stoning
- Lord Jesus receive my spirit
- he is standing by the right hand of
God



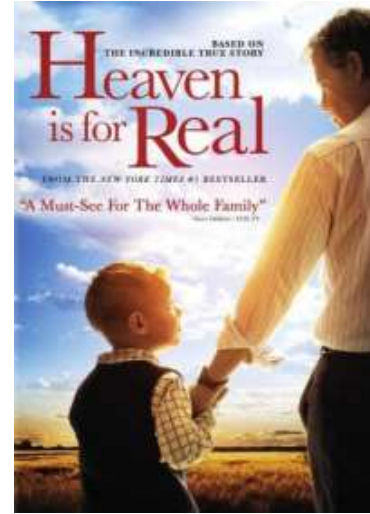
Heaven personified

- Where martyred have gone
- heaven is God's vindication
- There are 278 occurrences of the word "heaven" in the New Testament
- Initial foray into this territory!



Heaven is a prepared place

- John 14:1-7
- Context of John's gospel
- Note of assurance during troubled times
- In my Father's house are many rooms
- Notice the key point of "preparation"!



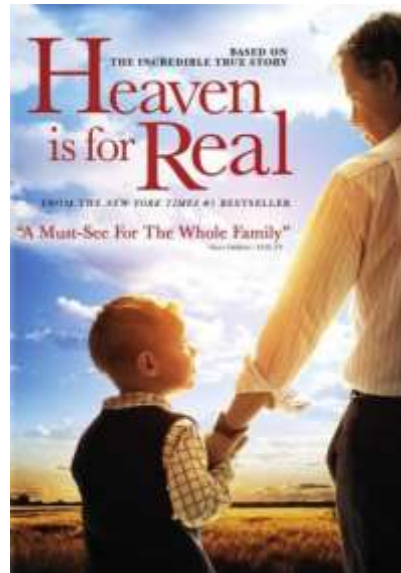
the repository of our inheritance

- **1 Peter 1: 3-9 One of the richest depictions!**
- **Our living hope=inheritance**
- **Fourfold description of this inheritance**
- **Kept**
- **Rejoicing**
- **Outcome of our faith!**



Conclusion

- Heaven is even possible for any one of us because “on the cross Jesus defeated the powers of evil” (N.T.Wright, p. 199).



Conclusion

- ***Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church***
- ***By N.T. Wright***
- ***“What are we waiting for? And what are we going to do about it in the meantime?”***

Conclusion

- **May God encourage us by our trust and belief in the future blessing of heaven!**

