



A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH
UNIT 36 • SESSION 3

WORSHIPING OUR GLORIOUS GOD

MAIN POINT

ESSENTIAL DOCTRINE SESSION

When Jesus returns, He will make all things new and live with His people forever.



ESSENTIAL DOCTRINE

NEW HEAVEN AND NEW EARTH

When Christ returns and the children of God are revealed, the creation itself will be made new. Like the resurrected bodies Christians will one day receive, the physical world itself will undergo a similar transformation, so much so that the Scriptures describe it as a new heaven and a new earth (2 Pet. 3:13). Scripture describes the new earth as a city (Rev. 21:10-11,21-26) and as a physical place that will include eating and drinking (Luke 22:18; Rev. 19:9). Best of all, Christ will be all and in all, and we shall see Him face to face.

SCRIPTURE **PASSAGES**

REVELATION 21:1-5 • THE LORD IS COMING AGAIN TO RENEW HIS CREATION

REVELATION 21:22-27 • THE LORD IS COMING AGAIN TO REVEAL HIS GLORY

REVELATION 22:1-5 • THE LORD IS COMING AGAIN TO RESIDE WITH HIS PEOPLE

DOCTRINE **VIDEO**

WHAT DO YOU THINK MOVIES MAY HAVE GOTTEN WRONG ABOUT HEAVEN?

HOW DOES THE THOUGHT OF BEING IN HEAVEN FOREVER EXCITE YOU OR CONCERN YOU?

WHAT DO YOU THINK IT WILL BE LIKE TO SEE GOD'S FACE AND HIS FULL GLORY?

1. THE LORD IS COMING AGAIN TO RENEW HIS CREATION

READ REVELATION 21:1-5

HOW WILL GOD DWELLING WITH US IN HEAVEN BE ENTIRELY DIFFERENT FROM THE WAY HE DWELLED AMONG HUMANS IN THE PAST?

WHAT ATTRIBUTES OF GOD ARE REVEALED TO YOU IN VERSE 4?

2. THE LORD IS COMING AGAIN TO REVEAL HIS GLORY

READ REVELATION 21:22-27

WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS OF THERE BEING NO TEMPLE IN THIS CITY?

WHAT IS IMPLIED BY THE GATES OF THE CITY REMAINING OPEN AT ALL TIMES?

READ REVELATION 22:1-5

WHERE HAS THE TREE OF LIFE APPEARED BEFORE? WHY IS IT IMPORTANT THAT IT'S IN THE NEW CITY?

WHAT DOES IT TELL YOU THAT WE'LL SEE GOD'S FACE IN THE NEW CITY?



BIG QUESTION

WHY CAN'T WE SEE GOD'S FACE NOW?

God is holy, and this means He is perfect and sinless and pure. Many people make the assumption that a holy God can't be in the presence of sin. But Jesus walked among us, and He was fully God while being fully man. God's presence has dwelt among humans to some degree since we were created, and we've pretty much been sinful from the start. So maybe a better way to explain things is that we are the ones who can't look on God because of our sin. It would destroy us because He is wrapped in perfect goodness (Ex. 33:19-20). Looking at God's physical state while in our sinful state would kill us because of the sin living in our hearts. So, God kindly takes measures to protect us and still be with us by sending His Spirit to dwell in our hearts until we are perfectly restored in heaven.



HEAD

HOW DOES KNOWING YOU'LL ONE DAY SEE GOD'S FACE AFFECT YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF HIM?

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HEART

HOW DOES KNOWING GOD WILL ONE DAY WIPE YOUR TEARS GIVE YOU HOPE IN THE STRUGGLES YOU'RE FACING?

[Empty white box for response]



HANDS

HOW CAN THESE PASSAGES HELP YOU LIVE WITH JOY AND ANTICIPATION?

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CHRIST CONNECTION

This present age will come to an end when Christ returns to fulfill His promises and reign with His people for all eternity. The relationship lost in the garden when Adam sinned will be gloriously restored when the Garden City is unveiled and God wipes away every tear from every eye. The way to be part of God's new world is to be cleansed by the blood of the Lamb, shed for our redemption.



DAILY DEVOTIONS

THE 7 ARROWS OF BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What does this passage tell us about man?



What does this passage demand of me?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?

DAY 01

PSALM 103:1-5

This psalm seems to echo what we'll experience in eternity. Yet David wrote it from his this side of heaven. We get to experience these things here and now. Because God has redeemed us and delivered us from the pit of sin and death, our mouths should sing His praise. God has shown us love and compassion, and He satisfies us with good things. Our God cares for us here—now. And one day, we'll see and experience His perfect care in all its fullness. Until then, we can lift up our worship to the King who so rightfully deserves our gratitude.

WHAT "BENEFIT" OF THE LORD DO YOU NEED TO REMEMBER (V. 2)?

HOW HAS GOD "[SATISFIED] YOU WITH GOOD" (V. 5)?

Pray: Thank God for loving you and for caring for you. Praise Him for how He's redeemed you.

DAY 02

PSALM 103:7-12

WHAT SIN DO YOU STRUGGLE TO TAKE TO THE LORD?

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO KNOW GOD REMOVES YOUR SIN? HOW IS THIS DIFFERENT FROM OUR CONSEQUENCES?

Have you ever struggled to forgive someone? He or she may even apologize and make things right with you, but you still struggle to forget what happened. Maybe you've even struggled to forgive yourself for something you've done. When God forgives us of our sin, He removes it from us as "far as the east is from the west" (v. 12). This means that when we take our sin to God and repent of it, He blots it out entirely. Christ's sacrifice was our payment for our sin debt. When we reach eternity, we will be able to enter into God's presence because we're already forgiven. We can walk in that forgiveness here and now as well.

Pray: Confess any sin in your life, and ask God for the faith to believe He'll remove it.

DAY 03

PSALM 103:13-19

Have you ever picked up a picture frame that was covered in dust? To better see the photo, maybe you blew the dust off or wiped it away with your hand. This psalm is a reminder that Adam was formed from the dust of the earth (Gen. 2:7). And our lives are much like dust—fragile, vulnerable, easily blown away. But what remains is God's love and compassion toward us. In fact, God remembers what we're made of. He remembers that we're fallen and instead of feeling disappointment, He feels compassion. He extends kindness.

HOW DOES IT COMFORT YOU TO KNOW THAT GOD REMEMBERS WHAT WE'RE MADE OF?

HOW DOES KNOWING LIFE IS LIKE GRASS OR A FLOWER MOTIVATE YOU TO LIVE WITH PURPOSE EACH DAY?

Pray: Thank God for showing you compassion. Ask Him to help you live each day with purpose.

JOHN 1:18

HOW IS SEEING JESUS ALSO SHOWING US THE FATHER?

HOW IS US NOT SEEING GOD'S FULLNESS RIGHT NOW A FORM OF PROTECTION OVER US?

Have you ever tried to look directly into the sun? It's difficult to stare too long because your eyes simply can't take it. Even after looking at the sun for a moment, you'll probably be left with those disorienting spots in your vision. In a more profound way, we can't look on God's fullness. He's wrapped in perfection, holiness, and piercing light. And we're simply not prepared to see Him in our fallen state. But, we get to look on the Son—Jesus Christ. He is the perfect image of the Father. We'll see His full glory one day in heaven, but we get to see Him now—His character and His sacrificial love toward us.

Pray: Thank God for making a way for us to see Him even in our imperfect state.

PHILIPPIANS 3:20-21

Where do you live? Think about how you'd describe it to someone who's never been to your city. Maybe you love it there, or maybe you'd describe it as a place you're ready to leave. In a sense, we must be ready to leave our earthly home at all times. This isn't home. As God's children, our home is with Him. Our true home is better in every way. And we're already citizens there. We get to live here for a time; we get to show others and tell others what home is like. We get to wait with anticipation for the day we'll go there for eternity—for the day we'll finally be home.

WHAT FEELINGS DO YOU ASSOCIATE WITH "HOME"?

WHAT IS MOST EXCITING TO YOU ABOUT HEAVEN—YOUR TRUE HOME?

Pray: Thank God for making a permanent home for you. Ask Him to help you wait well.

