

A New Heaven and A New Earth

Revelation 21:1-8

Journey Group Discussion Guide

Can you think of a person, event, or outcome you placed your hope in that it impacted the way you lived your life? What was it? Why was it so important to you?

How does the world around us define hope? How is it different from The Scripture's definition?

How do the following passages define hope?

—For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, if indeed by putting it on[a] we may not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

— For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. Titus 2:11-14

—The book of Revelation was written to pastor and encourage God's people. It is the ultimate battle cry of victory as theologian G.K. Beale writes meant to encourage them to remain faithful and persevere in their devotion to Christ. One of the primary ways Revelation does this is by pointing to The Church's great hope of being with God in heaven for all eternity. Take a moment and read read aloud Revelation 21:1-8.

—Does this passage bring you comfort? Why or why not?

—Heaven will be a newly created universe that will include a new earth. Have you conceived of heaven this way? Is this in step with how heaven is typically described?

—In Revelation 21, we are given a description of heaven that primarily tells us what will not be there. What is the common thread that binds them together? Why is this important to understand?

—In our passage, we are told specifically what will be there, God and His people.

—Why is it so important for us to desire to be with God as our greatest hope over and against any other secondary blessing of heaven?

—Why do think so many describe or talk about heaven in a non God-centered way?

—Would you say the hope of heaven is a confident expectation that governs how you live life, see the world, and engage others? Why or why not? If not how can it become so?

—Should this passage compel us to share the Gospel with others? Why or why not?

—How can our group help one-another remember and live in light of the hope of heaven?

—Close in prayer...use Colossians 3:1-4 to guide how you pray.