



01.26.14

Final Destination

Life is a Journey - Eternity is the Destination

In the end, we don't fly to heaven, heaven _____

Ultimately heaven is _____

What makes heaven, heaven, is _____

All those longings for beauty, truth, & love will be

Heaven _____

New Heaven, Heaven Now

Revelation 21:1-22:5

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study questions

Use these questions in your community group time to dig deeper and discover how you can apply today's message to everyday life.

INTRODUCTION

We have a sense that our *final destination* should be, at the very least, a "dream come true" type of experience. Maybe that's why we get so bored with the idea of heaven as it is often portrayed.

But the Bible's portrayal of a new heaven and a new earth is so vast that we can hardly take it all in! We've got to stretch our imaginations, guided by the Bible, to even get a small taste of what it will ultimately be like. So today, using our God-given imaginations, under the guidance of reasonable interpretation of Scripture, we'll see if we can open our eyes a bit more and get a glimpse of what the Bible says is in store for us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did you hear in the message on Sunday that surprised you, or encouraged you? Are those ideas about heaven unnerving or hope-giving? Do you agree or disagree with them and why?
2. In Sunday's message, Dwain quoted Francis Schaeffer when he wrote: *The Christian is the really free man—he is free to have imagination. This too is our heritage. The Christian is the one who imagination should fly beyond the stars.* What do you think he was saying? Does his approach help you in your approach to understanding heaven?
3. **Read together Revelation 21:1-22:5 all at one time.** It's breath-taking, isn't it? What here resonates with you as the way you wish things could be? What not so much?
4. **Read together Ephesians 1:9-11.** What does Paul's point (that when the end of time is fulfilled heaven and earth come together) do for your understanding of Revelation 21 & 22? How about for your view of what is ultimately in store for you in heaven?
5. In T.S. Eliot's quote from Sunday...
*We shall not cease from exploration
 And the end of all our exploring
 Will be to arrive where we began
 And know the place for the first time.*
 What strikes you? What do you think you will be doing in heaven with a perfectly restored, peace-filled, yet exciting world?
6. **Read Philippians 3:20-21 together.** Do your relationships with Jesus' people ever cause you to feel like you are "entering heaven" even now? Does it seem like your citizenship is in heaven? Why or why not?

MOVING FORWARD

It's a big deal to realize that we are already on the way to heaven together, and that the end of earth as we know it isn't going to be a total wipe-out. If the end is a new beginning, and a restoration of everything we've always longed for, that truly can inspire us to start living heaven's life now.

Pray for your sisters and brothers in Jesus' community, that we would be able to live like we've "been with Jesus" (Acts 4:13) because that is actually our destiny.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

"They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God." Revelation 21:3