

Living in Heaven

²¹ Then all your people will be righteous, and they will possess the land forever. They are the shoot I have planted, the work of my hands, for the display of my splendor. (Isaiah 60:21)

- Spend a few moments envisioning what it will be like to live in Heaven...
- ¹“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. ²See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. ³Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴“Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the hip. ⁵ Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come. ⁶ Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense, and proclaiming the praise of the LORD.
- What do you believe this passage is saying?
- Does it cause you some discomfort? How and why?
- List the nouns and verbs in this passage. What role(s) will we have in Heaven?

READ a Bible verse or story

1 Corinthians 15:51-58 (NIV)

⁵⁰ What I am saying, dear brothers and sisters, is that our physical bodies cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. These dying bodies cannot inherit what will last forever. ⁵¹ But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed!

TALK about the Bible reading(s)...

- What do you believe this passage is saying?
- Does it cause you some discomfort? How and why?

Growing in faith and understanding...Imagination work!!
Genesis 3:14-24 (The Message)

GOD told the serpent: “Because you’ve done this, you’re cursed, cursed beyond all cattle and wild animals. Cursed to slink on your belly and eat dirt all your life. I’m declaring war between you and the Woman, between your offspring and hers. He’ll wound your head, you’ll wound his heel.” ¹⁶ He told the Woman: “I’ll multiply your pains in childbirth; you’ll give birth to your babies in pain. You’ll want to please your husband, but he’ll lord it over you.” ¹⁷⁻¹⁹ He told the Man: “Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from, ‘Don’t eat from this tree,’ the very ground is cursed because of you; getting food from the ground will be as painful as having babies is for your wife; you’ll be working in pain all your life long. The ground will sprout thorns and weeds, you’ll get your food the hard way, planting and tilling and harvesting, sweating in the fields from dawn to dusk, until you return to that ground yourself, dead and buried; you started out as dirt, you’ll end up dirt.” ²⁰ The Man, known as Adam, named his wife Eve because she was the mother of all the living. ²¹ GOD made leather clothing for Adam and his wife and dressed them. ²² GOD said, “The Man has become like one of us, capable of knowing everything, ranging from good to evil. What if he now should reach out and take fruit from the Tree-of-Life and eat, and live forever? Never—this cannot happen!” ²³⁻²⁴ So GOD expelled them from the Garden of Eden and sent them to work the ground, the same dirt out of which they’d been made. He threw them out of the garden and stationed angel-cherubim and a revolving sword of fire east of it, guarding the path to the Tree-of-Life.

- What if the curse could be reversed, what would it mean for our lives now?
- How would your life be different?
- ❖ Read 1 Corinthians 15:35-58 & then Romans 8:9-11.
 - Name some of the differences between our current bodies and our resurrected bodies?
 - What are some common perceptions of Heaven that you are noticing are not backed up by scripture?
- ❖ Reflection Questions:
 - What do you imagine your daily routine to be like in Heaven? What would be different?

Sunday Message reflection:

(1 Cor. 15:54-55)⁵⁴ Then, when our dying bodies have been transformed into bodies that will never die, this Scripture will be fulfilled: “Death is swallowed up in victory. ⁵⁵ O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”

- How is this our inheritance?

Recap final discussion about this session...

- ❖ How has this session challenged or deepened your understanding of Heaven?

Prayer

Individual Home Study these passages are for your continued reflection until the next session. Use a journal to keep your answers to the passage prompts.

What are these scripture readings telling us about Living in Heaven?

- ❖ Isaiah 60; Genesis 1:27-28; Matthew 25:34; Revelation 22:1-5; Genesis 3:14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:35-58; Roman 8:9-11
- How would your life be different in Heaven? Be sure to take the time needed to envision this. Perhaps journal what comes to mind so you can share with the group next week.

Share / Read / Talk / Grow / Check-In / Pray / Study



HEAVEN₅

Week **Five** Study Guide

Series Inspired by Writings From:
"Heaven" by Randy Alcorn

SHALOM
LUTHERAN church

LOVE GOD ♥ LOVE OTHERS ♥ SERVE *the* WORLD