



Sermon-Based Discussion Guide

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Gospel: A New Beginning

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SCRIPTURE

Revelation 21:1-8

¹ Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,”^[a] for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’^[b] or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

⁶ He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. ⁷ Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children. ⁸ But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”

ENGAGE

If you could choose, what will be the first thing you do when you get to heaven? If you could ask God one question when you get there, what would it be?

DISCUSS

1. If you could help design the new heaven and new earth, what elements would you include? If you could change the current earth, what would you change?
2. There will be no tears, fears or anxieties in heaven. Why does God allow suffering and tears in this world?
3. There is a list of those who will not be in heaven in Rev. 21:8. Why will these be excluded? Doesn't God forgive all sin?
4. How can we experience God's presence? What does it mean to live the abundant life?

YOUR NEXT STEP

We spend much time and money preparing for worst case scenarios such as car wrecks, heart attacks, etc. by making wills and buying life insurance. How do/are we preparing for heaven? How are we helping those around us to be prepared?