

Thursday

- Read Revelation 21:1-7

QUESTIONS

1. Jesus is the centre of God's new creation-- a new heavens and a new earth.

What similarities do you notice between the description of Jesus in this passage and the passage you read yesterday?

2. What is the relationship between 'the Bride' and 'the new Jerusalem'? Where does the church fit in this picture language?

PONDER

Reflect on Ephesians 5:21-32. How do you feel about being part of 'the bride of Christ'?

PRAYER IDEAS

Give God thanks for his love towards you expressed in Jesus Christ.

Friday

- Read Revelation 21:9 - 22:5

PONDER

The 'bride' and 'the city' are one and the same: they represent the church. Therefore, you are part of the city described here.

That is to say, the city described here is not so much the location and the setting where you will dwell in eternity, as it is a representation of the church where God dwells for eternity. Collectively, the church *is* the city.

QUESTIONS

1. What parts of this word picture illustrate the beauty and the value of the city?
2. What is life like as the city of God?

PRAYER IDEA

Give God thanks for all that he has shown you of himself and his purpose in creation throughout this series.



15 Steps through the Bible

New Creation

After Jesus' return, God will make a new

heavens and a new earth that will last forever.

This can be thought of as the ultimate 'Promised Land'. Death and pain will be destroyed. God will dwell with his people in perfect fellowship in the kingdom he has made.

God's plan for the world began with Creation and ends with the New Creation. Once again, God will rule as King, with his people ruling the New Creation under him.

Revelation 21:3-4

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live 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 or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

More detail

The last part of God's plan for the world, as revealed to us in the Bible, takes us back to the beginning. God will bring about a "new heaven and a new earth".

Revelation 21:1

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

Revelation 21:22-23

And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. 23 And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.

1 Corinthians 15:24-26

Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. 25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

The picture language of the Book of Revelation tells us of Jesus, "the lamb who was slain", who will be enthroned alongside God the Father and worshipped by the great multitude of people that he has gathered around him.

Having completed all that he was called to accomplish, he will hand the kingdom over to his Father.

QUESTIONS

1. What in the new creation sounds good to you?
2. What sense do you get of the power of God from the readings in this unit ?

- How does this promise of a new creation connect with some of the previous stages we've seen?

- In what ways is the prophecy of Zechariah 12:10-14 being fulfilled here?

PONDER

In the new creation God will dwell with his people. How is that different to how he dwells with us by his Holy Spirit now?

PRAYER IDEAS

Praise God for keeping his promises. Thank him for defeating death. Ask him to work in you so that you will live your new life in Christ in a way that gives him glory.

POINTER

The “seven spirits” is a way of describing the power of God’s Spirit. It doesn’t mean seven gods or seven angels.

See Zechariah 4:1-6 for background details. Also look at how the seven spirits flow from the Lamb in Revelation 3:1, 4:5 and 5:6.

PONDER

Why would the tribes of earth wait at Jesus’ coming?

Will you wait or will you worship him?

PRAYER IDEAS

Think back through the passage and thank God for what he has achieved for you in Christ.

Daily Readings

Monday

- Read Revelation 1:1-8

QUESTIONS

- What does this passage reveal to you about the nature of God?
- What does it reveal to you about who Jesus is?
- Why is Jesus the ‘first and last’ (the meaning of “Alpha and Omega”)?

Tuesday

- Read Revelation 1:9-16

QUESTIONS

- What does John say it means to be a “brother and partner” in Jesus?
- What does John have to do?
- How would you summarize the son of man’s appearance?
- Where is the son of man standing?

PONDER

How does this passage change your understanding of Jesus? How will it feel to share God’s new creation with Jesus?

PRAYER IDEAS

Ask God to increase your understanding of the power and glory of his Son.

Wednesday

- Read Revelation 1:9-16 (again!)

QUESTIONS

- Read the following Old Testament passages and think about how they help you understand the images used in Revelation 1:
 - lampstands*
 - Exod 25:37;
 - Zech 4:1-2.
 - the son of man’s appearance*
 - Dan 7:9-10, 10:4-6;
 - Ezek 8:2.
 - voice*
 - Ezek 43:2
 - sword in the mouth*
 - Isa 11:4;
 - also see Rev 19:15.
- What overall effect does all of this Old Testament imagery add up to?

PONDER

Consider how well the writer of Revelation knew God’s word in the Old Testament.

Is your Old Testament knowledge sufficient to really grasp who Jesus is? If not, what can you do to improve it?

PRAYER IDEAS

Thank God that he revealed his plans through the words of the Old Testament.

Ask that he help you to understand it well and thereby know Jesus better.