

God Completes: Jesus' return



Review: In God Completes we have been studying a number of biblical truths concerning what the future holds for us and the world: that Jesus will return to judge the world; that evil and death are to be overcome, that hope will be restored.

This week, our attention turns to an aspect of heaven that often escapes the popular conception of it...a new creation. Revelation teaches us that heaven is a surprising place, low on celestial angels and harp playing, but a place of union and joy.



Discuss:

- What is your own personal idea of heaven like? What characteristics does it have? Take a little time to share your perspectives.
- Reread Revelation 21:1-4. What are the features of heaven emphasised here? How is the relationship between God and his people described?
- If creation is to be renewed, why does our care of this world matter to God? You might recall covering 'a fragile earth' under God Creates (see also Genesis 1:26-31)
- The new creation is God's kingdom fully arriving. How might our actions bring it closer? Read the beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12) and reflect on how the small steps we can take might make a difference.
- How might the vision of heaven in Revelation 21:1-4 change how we live now, in other ways? What difference does that vision make to how we feel about God and our future with Him?



Pray: Give thanks that God has not left us without a picture of our eternal future with Him. Give thanks for the grace that is implicit in that vision. Pray that he will guide us in how we can live our lives not just in the 'here and now' but in the 'there and forever'; that the steps we take in front of us may be small and fragile but can, by his Spirit, be bold and eternal; that we may be 'kingdom people' for his sake.