



# LifeGroup Discussion Questions

## The New Heaven and the New Earth | July 9, 2023

### Summary

This present world brings challenges — but believers have the transformative power of hope! Our hope is based on the resurrection of Christ and the promise of a new heaven and new earth where God will dwell with His people.

### Scripture

Jesus replied, "If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water... Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life." — John 4:10, 13-14 (NLT)

The Jewish leaders were infuriated by Stephen's accusation, and they shook their fists at him in rage. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed steadily into heaven and saw the glory of God, and he saw Jesus standing in the place of honor at God's right hand. And he told them, "Look, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing in the place of honor at God's right hand!" Then they put their hands over their ears and began shouting. They rushed at him and dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. His accusers took off their coats and laid them at the feet of a young man named Saul. As they stoned him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." He fell to his knees, shouting, "Lord, don't charge them with this sin!" And with that, he died. — Acts 7:54-60 (NLT)

And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world. But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died. So you see, just as death came into the world through a man, now the resurrection from the dead has begun through another man. Just as everyone dies because we all belong to Adam, everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life. But there is an order to this resurrection: Christ was raised as the first of the harvest; then all who belong to Christ will be raised when he comes back. After that the end will come, when he will turn the Kingdom over to God the Father, having destroyed every ruler and authority and power. — 1 Corinthians 15:19-24 (NLT)

We always pray for you, and we give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. For we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and your love for all of God's people, which come from your confident hope of what God has reserved for you in heaven. You have had this expectation ever since you first heard the truth of the Good News. — Colossians 1:3-5 (NLT)

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever." And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new!" And then he said to me, "Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true." And he also said, "It is finished! I am the Alpha and the Omega—the Beginning and the End. To all who are thirsty I will give freely from the springs of the water of life. All who are victorious will inherit all these blessings, and I will be their God, and they will be my children. — Revelation 21:1-7 (NLT)

## Let's Start

Pastor Dale began the message by talking about all the reasons people are feeling hopeless. How do you feel about what is happening in our country and our world?

## Gratitude and Prayer

How has God worked in your life since the last time we were together?

## Let's Talk

1. What are some of the reasons people feel hopeless in today's world? How does the hope described in Revelation 21:1-7 counter these feelings?
2. How has the hope of the resurrection and the promise of a new heaven and new earth impacted your perspective and actions?
3. In what ways can the hope of the new heaven and new earth impact our relationships and interactions with others in the present world?
4. How can we maintain and nurture our hope in the face of challenges, persecution and uncertainties? What practical steps can we take to strengthen our hope in Christ and His promises?
5. Share an example of a time when your hope in the future resurrection and the restoration of all things provided comfort and strength in a difficult situation. How did it impact your perspective and actions?
6. Pastor Dale said, "Someone has said that the way we live now is completely shaped by what we believe about the future!" Do you agree? Why or why not?

## Let's Act

Pastor Dale shared an old hymn at the end of the service, which beautifully summarizes our hope for the future. Pray through this hymn this week.

*Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!  
Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!  
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!*

*Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!  
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!  
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!  
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!*

*Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!  
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!  
Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia!  
Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!*

*Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!  
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!  
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!*

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