

NEW HEAVEN AND NEW EARTH

Here are some suggestions for group and personal study:

- 1 Read the passage, and also John 14. 1-6. These two passages, which speak of the life of heaven, are often read at funerals. How have they comforted you at various times? What promises do you particularly cling to? How can we be sure that these promises are for us? See Isaiah 53. 4-6, John 4. 13-14, 14.6, Revelation 21. 6-8. How should this fire our prayers for and witness to those who don't know Jesus as their Saviour? Turn these thoughts into prayer.
- 2 Watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zy2AQLK6C5k> How does this video help you to gain insight into the big picture, the overarching story of God's relationship with people and the world he created for them to live in, from Genesis to Revelation?
What light does this video throw on the difference between Jesus' promise of heaven for those who die during this present age (see also Luke 23.43), and the vision in Revelation of something completely new at a future time when sin and death and the Devil have finally been destroyed?
- 3 Look at John 1.14, and Revelation 21.3. The same verb is used about Jesus taking human flesh and living among us, and God himself coming to dwell among his people in a new earth.
Why would God want to renew and live on the earth, rather than getting rid of it and taking all his people to heaven? Look at Genesis 3.8, Psalm 36. 5-7 and Romans 8.20-22.
- 4 In the video, it described Adam and Eve before the Fall, partnering with God in building a flourishing and beautiful world. It described Jesus running around, hanging out with sinners, healing people of their sicknesses and forgiving their sins, and creating little pockets of heaven where people could be in God's presence. While we live in this fallen world, how are we as followers of Jesus called to live? See our church logo and mission statement:



St Andrew's & All Saints
Partnering with God in the flourishing of our communities

- 5 Given that the vision in Revelation 21 is mind-bogglingly hard to grasp, and that we don't know when or how it will happen, how important to you are the words in verse 5? Can you live as a Christian without believing in 'the life of the world to come'? See 1 Corinthians 15. 12-26
- 6 Listen to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PBSYV5Z8cl4>

PS You may like to reflect more generally on the series on Promises of God: Promises of blessing, rest, healing, the Holy Spirit, the water of life and a new heaven and earth. How have these promises enriched and encouraged you?