

THE NEW HEAVEN AND NEW EARTH STUDY MATERIAL

(REV. 21:1-5)

- The repeated question this sermon asks us is “What do you see?” How do different perspectives change the way we see this world (e.g. earth seen from outer space contrasted with earth seen through the lens of the latest scandal or disaster reported in the daily headlines)?
- Writing into a time of mounting persecution when Christian’s lives would have been filled with hardships, John shows them a glorious picture of the new heavens and the new earth of God’s ultimate creation. Is that empty “pie in the sky”; what real difference would it have made to the way the recipients of this letter would have approached daily life?
- The Bible begins in a garden and ends in a city. Cities are dynamic, varied places with lots of human interaction. How does the picture of city life, with its engagement of all our senses, its kaleidoscope of relationships, creativity, friendship, fun, productivity and intimacy – all made pure and glorious – enrich your concept of heavenly life?
- What might the pilgrim-hearted, heaven-seeking life depicted in Hebrews 11:13-16 look like for us as individuals or as a group, when translated into our contemporary context?