

What on

EARTH *is* HEAVEN *Like?*

A Look at God's City: **NEW JERUSALEM**

Bible Study Guide

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Khesed Publications 2018

WHAT ON EARTH IS HEAVEN LIKE?

Introduction

[Watch the 7 minute Youtube video preview of
What on Earth Is Heaven Like?]

1. Have you ever wondered what heaven is like? What are some questions you might have?

2. When Jesus comes back, where do you think you will live? (Galatians 4:22-27; Hebrews 12:22-24; Ezekiel 48:35; Revelation 21:3; I Thessalonians 4:17)

3. When do most people get interested in things about heaven?

4. Why do some people not want to think about heaven?

5. Where do most people get their ideas about heaven?

6. What principles of Bible study guide us as we look into God's Word? (see page 18)
 - (1.) All Scripture is to be understood in its most _____, _____ sense, allowing for figures of speech. (Paying careful attention to content and context. In other words, how would we want to be understood?)
 - (2.) Consider the _____, what he intended to convey to the people of his time.
 - (3.) Compare _____ with _____, including _____ relevant passages.
Let related _____ passages lead in interpreting _____ passages, trusting that God's Word will not contradict itself.
 - (4.) Recognize that prophetic passages sometimes have both _____ and _____ fulfillments, guided by the principles above.
 - (5.) _____ how others have interpreted this passage down through the centuries.

7. What three basic characteristics of the New Jerusalem did the author find to be different than what she first believed?
 - (1.) S _____
 - (2.) S _____
 - (3.) T _____

WHAT ON EARTH IS HEAVEN LIKE?

Chapter 1 - Out of His Great Love

1. Why do some people think heaven is supposed to be a mystery?
Is this correct? (I Corinthians 2:9-10)

2. What was God's original plan for humans?

How do we know that He intends to fulfill that plan?
(Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 45:18; Isaiah 46:9-10)

3. How did the heroes of the faith (i.e., Abraham, Moses, etc.) have the strength to endure trials? (Hebrews 11:13-16)

4. Why did Jesus talk about His Father's house to His disciples just before His death? (John 14:1a)

5. How many times did the author of Hebrews refer to Old Testament people having faith in the promises of God (i.e. the long view of life)?

(Hebrews 11) _____

Hebrews 12:2 tells us that _____ also had the long view of life.

6. What are some specific things about the heavenly Jerusalem that are revealed in Hebrews 12:18-28?

7. Why do you think the city of our God someday be a joy to the whole earth? (Psalm 48:1-2)

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Chapter 1 - Out of His Great Love

8. What are some things the study of God's city tells us about God's character? (Psalm 48:1-14; Revelation 21:2, 22:10)

9. In Christ's first coming, were prophecies fulfilled literally or allegorically (symbolically)? (Isaiah 53:7-9; Psalm 22:16-18)

10. What was Christ's response to those who didn't believe what had been revealed by God? (Luke 24:25)

11. Some say if you are too heavenly minded, you're no earthly good. Is this true? Why or why not? (Colossians 3:1-2)

12. We have been taught by Christ to pray for God's kingdom to come (Matthew 6:10). And we are told by the Psalmist to tell others about that coming kingdom (Psalm 145:11-13). At this point, what do you know about the kingdom that you could talk about to others?

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Chapter 2 - Location, Location, Location

1. What are some other names for Jerusalem? (p. 29)

2. Why is Jerusalem so important? (II Chronicles 6:6, Psalm 132:13-14, Zechariah 2:10-13, Joel 3:20, Jeremiah 30:17b-18)

3. What kind of changes does Jeremiah 31:38-39 and Zechariah 14:10-11 predict will happen before prophecies about Jerusalem can be fulfilled?

4. Ezekiel gives us the following characteristics of God's kingdom capital city. Fill in the blanks by matching the characteristics that John gives in Revelation 21:3; 21:10; 21:16; 21:22; 21:27; 22:3.

The city

...is on elevated land - Ezekiel 40:2	Revelation_____
...has no temple in it - Ezekiel 48:10	Revelation_____
...has a square base - Ezekiel 48:30-34	Revelation_____
...has 12 gates, 3 on each side - Ezekiel 48:30-34	Revelation 21:12-13
...has gates named for the 12 tribes of Israel (48:30-34)	Revelation 21:12-13
...is characterized by holiness - Ezekiel 43:12	Revelation_____
...will be the capital of the world - Ezekiel 43:7	Revelation_____
...from that day on, will be called 'The LORD is there' (48:35)	Revelation_____

5. What other Old Testament prophet gives us many details about the future of Jerusalem that match up with the details given by John in Revelation? (p. 41-42)

6. Hebrews 12:22-24 indicates that a heavenly Jerusalem exists now. According to this passage, who is there?

7. Paul distinguishes the present earthly Jerusalem from the Jerusalem "above" (Galatians 4:25-26). Who are the two people that give us clues of the possible location of the Jerusalem above? (p. 37-38)

8. Can you name at least three Old Testament prophets besides Ezekiel and Isaiah that give us details about the future of Jerusalem? (p. 39-40)

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Chapter 3 - Majestic Measurements

1. Why did Ezekiel and John each give specific measurements of the city that they saw?
2. Since Ezekiel gave no unit of measurement in certain verses (Ezekiel 45:6; 48:15-19; 30-35), how are we to know what word is implied? (see end note #18)
3. What assumption have most people made about the measurement that John gives in Revelation 21:16? Is there anything in this verse that definitely points towards this assumption?
4. Besides what Ezekiel and John reveal, what other sources give us clues as to the size of the city? (i.e. evidence from other prophets, extra-biblical evidence, etc., p. 47-48)
5. What principles of Bible interpretation help to harmonize the visions of the city that Ezekiel and John saw? (p. 49)
6. Name the prophets who told of massive topographical changes that will occur in the future. List some of the verbs they used to describe the future topographical changes that will occur. (p. 49-50)
7. How do we know these massive changes will even be more catastrophic than the Flood of Noah's day? (Revelation 16:17-18)

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Chapter 4 - God's Holy Mountain

1. Ezekiel says the LORD brought him in a vision to an elevated place in the land of _____ .
(Ezekiel 40:2)

2. God was giving Ezekiel a look into the future. The prophet said he saw a "structure like a city" (Ezekiel 40:2). In his day, no such thing existed, a single structure that was big enough to also be called a city, yet these are the words God directed him to say to us. Give some specific names of modern day equivalents that could be called a structure like a city?

3. List some of the references where God refers to His dwelling place as His "holy mountain"? (see pages 57-59)

4. What mountain does the New Testament compare to the New Jerusalem in Hebrews 12:18-29 (p. 62)?

5. Isaiah gives a prophecy about a canopy over Mount Zion that will look like a _____ by day and a _____ at night similar to what the Israelites saw on Mt. Sinai. (Isaiah 4:5, 6)

6. Can you list five characteristics of the city that Ezekiel saw that are similar to characteristics of Mt. Sinai? (p. 60-61)

_____, _____, _____,

_____, _____.

7. The author of Hebrews says God will shake the earth and "remove those things which can be shaken" and then quotes Haggai 2:6. What is the basic time frame of the context of the passage from Haggai?

8. What is at least one reference from the Old Testament that tells us that the sun and moon will last forever? (p. 66)

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Chapter 4 - God's Holy Mountain

9. Why are there are so many pyramid-type structures all over the earth?
10. The Hebrew word "El Shaddai" is often translated God Almighty. Another translation of the word is
"God of the _____."
11. What kind of home do you think you will need when you have an immortal body?
12. What are some types of jobs you think you might like when you live on the new earth?

WHAT ON EARTH IS HEAVEN LIKE?

Chapter 5 - The Order of Events

1. When God sets up His kingdom, how long will it last? (Daniel 2:44; 7:14; Luke 1:31-33)
2. Where will this Kingdom exist? (Psalm 105:9-11; Joel 3:20; Ezekiel 37:25; Psalm 132:13-14)
3. God's permanent plan is a _____ earth. (Psalm 104:5; 78:68-69; 96:10; 148:3,5-6)
4. Peter compared God's final judgment of the world by fire to what event from the past?
(II Peter 3:6, 7; 10; 12-13)
5. John told us someday there will be the greatest earthquake that ever occurred on the earth. The topographical changes would be greater even than what occurred in relation to the Noahic Flood. When will that occur?
(Revelation 16:18)
6. John sees the timing of the descent of the _____ along with the new heaven and the new earth. (Revelation 21:1-2)
7. Some scholars believe that Revelation 20 gives an overview, then chapters 21-22 back up and give detail. What are some reasons that point to that idea? (see pp. 89-94)
8. Underline all the words that refer to a place in John 14:2-3 (p. 94-95).

In my Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.

WHAT ON EARTH IS HEAVEN LIKE?

Chapter 5 - The Order of Events

9. Fill in the boxes to show how the words Jesus chose harmonize with the words Ezekiel said (p. 56).

In **My Father's House** *are* **many dwelling places** (John 14:2)

I saw a *like a* (Ezekiel 40:2)

10. Thus Jesus is saying that when He comes back, He's bringing His _____

_____ with Him. (John 14:1, 3)

11. The Scriptures link together in time the New Jerusalem's descent with what two other events? (p. 96)

12. During the first 1000 years of the Kingdom, who will come and worship at God's Temple on the Holy Allotment?
(Isaiah 2:2-3, Ezekiel 46:3 (p. 104)

13. Someday God's city will be the capital of the world and will be the _____ of the whole earth" (Psalm 48:2)

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Chapter 6 - Delighting in the Details

1. Name at least four different prophets that give us details about how God will provide a water supply in and around Israel in the future. (pages 115-118)

2. Looking carefully at the context, the following verses promise agricultural prosperity for what specific locations? (Isaiah 35:1-2; Isaiah 51:3-4; Amos 9:13-15; Ezekiel 34:29; Isaiah 30:23; Jeremiah 31:23-24)

3. In the future, what two of Israel's neighboring nations will be connected by highways? (Isaiah 19:23)

4. Jesus demonstrated what it might be like when an immortal person dwells here on earth with people still in their mortal bodies. Although, not all of these qualities might be available to us, match the following references with characteristics of the resurrected Jesus

John 20:19	Jesus looked like a normal man.
John 21:1-14	Even though the door was shut, Jesus could appear in a room.
Luke 24:13-32	Jesus ate breakfast with His disciples on the beach.

5. When will the wolf dwell peacefully with the Lamb? Where specifically will this be true? (Isaiah 11:6-9; 65:25)(p.127, 128)

6. God gave us many specific details about His future capital city. What is one detail from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament that seems especially precious to you that you can tell "the next generation"? (Psalm 48:12-14; Psalm 145:11-13)

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Chapter 7 - Picturing Paradise

1. John said he saw “a throne standing in heaven, and One sitting on the throne” (Revelation 4:2) Who are the other prophets who saw a similar manifestation of God? (p. 142)

2. What is the meaning of the word “paradise”?

3. According to Revelation 22:14 and 19, where is the tree of life?

4. Use your Bible to find the characteristics that seem to imply that God’s throne room is outdoors?
(Revelation 1:12, 20; 4:1-11; 5:8-11; 22:1-2)

There was a _____ around the throne, a _____ of glass like crystal, and a _____ of the water of life. On either side of the river was the _____ of life.

5. Cherubim are unique creatures made by God and in the Bible are never called angels. Can you list some characteristics of cherubim that are different than the descriptions the Bible gives about angels? (Ezekiel 1 and 10 and Revelation 4:5-8)

6. Bonus question: Who is the cherub in Ezekiel 28:11-19? (especially v. 16)

7. John says he saw one like a son of man and “fell at His feet as a dead man”. The Son of Man placed His right hand on John and said,

“_____.” (Revelation 1:18)

8. When we believers gather together for worship, sometimes it’s a little taste of heaven. We can feel a sweet solidarity, a oneness with one another and with God just like the early church.

We can feel “a sense of _____ ... (and continue) with _____ mind

...together with gladness and _____ of heart, praising _____.” (Acts 2:43-47)

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Conclusion

1. Studying the many characteristics of the New Jerusalem helps us to appreciate the unity and precision of the entire _____ . And most important it helps us get to know _____ better.
2. Some people say that the God of the Old Testament is harsh and judgmental. But there is a word that is used over 250 times in the Old Testament. It is usually referring to God's character and is often translated as "tendermercies" or "lovingkindness". What is that word? (p. 164)
3. God has shown His tendermercies in what He plans to do with the nation of _____ .
(Romans 11:23:26; Jeremiah 2:41; Isaiah 46:11,13b)
4. God says Israel is the "cultivated olive _____" and Gentiles who believe in God's Messiah are the wild olive _____ being grafted in. Natural branches have been broken off because of unbelief, but will be grafted again into their "own olive _____" (Romans 11:11-27).
5. God demonstrated His love for us by giving His only begotten Son to _____ for our _____
(Romans 5:8), so that we can live together forever with Him.
6. God took on flesh and lived among His rebellious creatures for approximately 33 years. But in His kindness He will

someday come to earth to live with us _____.
(Ezekiel 48:35, Revelation 21:3-4)
7. Movies, plays, and novels always have a conflict and then a rescue. They are mere tastes of God's true epic. When King Jesus comes back to rescue us and establish His Kingdom, His capital city will be

_____ .
8. Choose and write out one verse that was special to you as you focus on the future God has planned for you.

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Invitation

1. God's desire is to save sinners so we might dwell with Him forever. The Old Testament as well as the New Testament give the same message. Draw connecting lines and match the following verses from each Testament to show that unity.

Old Testament
<i>The soul who sins will die.</i> Ezekiel 18:4b
<i>I will...set my sanctuary in their midst forever. My dwelling place also will be with them; and I will be their God, and they will be My people.</i> Ezekiel 37:26- 27
<i>They pierced My hands and My feet.</i> Psalm 22:16c <i>They divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.</i> Psalm 22:18
<i>Whoever calls on the name of the LORD will be delivered.</i> Joel 2:32a

New Testament
<i>For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; for 'whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved.'</i> Romans 10:12-13
<i>When they had crucified Him, they divided up His garments among themselves by casting lots.</i> Matthew 27:35
<i>The wages of sin is death.</i> Romans 6:23a
<i>Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people.</i> Revelation 21:3

2. "Whoever" means the invitation to accept God's provision for salvation is open to _____ nation and _____ tribes and peoples and tongues. (Revelation 7:9)



**If you have asked for Christ's sacrifice to apply to your account, then praise the Lord,
you will inherit the Kingdom God has graciously promised!**

If you have never done this, you can pray today and He will save you.

Bible Study Guide Answers

(Fill in the blank answers are taken from the New American Standard Bible. Other translations might vary)

Introduction

6. (1.) natural, normal (2.) author's culture (3.) Scripture/Scripture/all/clear/difficult (4.) near/far (5.) Consult
7. (1.) Size (2.) Shape (3.) Timing

Chapter 1 - Out of His Great Love

1. They often quote I Corinthians 2:9/No, the next verse completes the thought. God has revealed things to come through the Spirit (through the Bible).
2. To live with them on this earth. Scripture tells us He will finish what He started and accomplish His purposes.
3. They had a long view of life. They were looking for a city whose builder and maker is God.
4. He did not want them to be afraid, or worry. He was giving them comfort and assurance to trust in God's plan.
5. 18 are named: Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses' parents (2), Moses, Rahab, Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel / those who crossed the Red Sea, those who circled Jericho and the prophets
6. It is a city. It is in heaven now and includes myriads of angels, the general assembly and church of the firstborn, God, the spirits of the righteous, and Jesus.
7. Because the city of our God will be on earth.
8. He creates beauty. He is strong. He gives joy. He is worthy to be praised. He is everlasting. He is our guide and protector. He is righteous, loving, kind, just, and sovereign.
9. Literally
10. He rebuked them.
11. No. The Bible encourages us to set our mind on the things above.

Chapter 2 - Location, Location, Location

1. The City of God/the Mountain of the Lord/the Holy City/Zion. Also, many others, such as: The LORD is There (Ezekiel 48:35)
2. God has chosen Jerusalem to be the place where He will come and dwell forever.
3. Topographical changes
4. Ezekiel 40:2/Revelation 21:10
Ezekiel 48:10/Revelation 21:22
(square base) Ezekiel 48:30-34/Revelation 21:16
Ezekiel 43:12/Revelation 21:27
Ezekiel 43:7/Revelation 22:3
Ezekiel 48:35/Revelation 21:3
5. Isaiah
6. God, Jesus, angels, the general assembly and church of the firstborn, the spirits of the righteous made perfect
7. Jacob, Stephen
8. Jeremiah, Zechariah, Micah, Joel

Chapter 3 - Majestic Measurements

1. The measurements help us harmonize the two visions.
2. We can check the context and related verses where the unit of measurement is given. If the city measurement is cubits, the city would be one and a half miles square. That would be only slightly larger than the Temple complex, which doesn't make sense.
3. Most have assumed that it is a linear measurement. No, nothing in this verse points definitely to that interpretation.
4. Zechariah 14:10 gives the approximate size of the Holy Allotment plateau. Historians of first century Greek show the probability of a culture well versed in geometry. The Dead Sea scrolls have a reference to New Jerusalem being a similar size (11 by 18 miles).

Bible Study Guide Answers

(Fill in the blank answers are taken from the New American Standard Bible. Other translations might vary)

5. Looking carefully at the content and the context, comparing Scripture with Scripture, and studying the culture.
6. At least 6: John, Ezekiel, Jeremiah, Nahum, Isaiah, and Micah. Verbs: Thrown down, fall, quaking, moved to and fro, quake, dissolve, upheaved, lays, devastates, distorts, shake, broken asunder, split through, shaken violently, reels to and fro, lifted up, be made low, melt, split.
7. Revelation 16:17-18 says it will be the greatest earthquake that ever was since man came to be on the earth.

Chapter 4 - God's Holy Mountain

1. Israel
2. A skyscraper, a cruise ship, a space station
3. Psalm 3:4, Psalm 15:1, Psalm 87:1-3, Psalm 2:6, Psalm 48:1-2, Isaiah 57:13, Isaiah 65:9-12a, Psalm 68:15-16
4. Mount Sinai
5. Cloud/fire
6. Place of worship near the base of the mountain, priests living nearby, restricted access to the mountain, cloud and fire at top, presence of God at top.
7. Setting up the Millennial Temple. This is after the final shaking (or changing) of the earth and heaven.
8. Psalm 148:3, 5b-6 or Psalm 89:35-37
9. The ancients were possibly attempting to copy the appearance of God's city (His holy mountain, the New Jerusalem)
10. mountain

Chapter 5 - The Order of Events

1. Forever
2. On this earth
3. permanent
4. The Flood in Noah's Day
5. At the last bowl judgment
6. New Jerusalem
7. People who sin are outside the city/ the angel who showed John the New Jerusalem is the one who had the bowls of God's wrath/ there will only be one last shaking of the earth and heaven before the city lands/ "no more death" is in the context of the New Jerusalem/ the new heavens and the new earth in Isaiah 65 and 66 include the mention of death occurring/ the wolf not harming the lamb is in the context of "my holy mountain"
8. house/dwelling places/place/place/where/there
9. structure/city
10. Father's house
11. Christ's return along with the new heaven and the new earth
12. the mortals
13. joy

Chapter 6 - Delighting in the Details

1. John in Revelation 22:1, Zechariah 14:8, Isaiah 33:20-21, Ezekiel 47:1-12, Joel 3:17-18, Psalm 46:4
2. (the Arabah) Isaiah 35:1-2; (Zion's waste places) Isaiah 51:3-4; (Israel's land) Amos 9:13-15; (Israel) Ezekiel 34:29; (Israel) Isaiah 30:23; (Judah and all its cities) Jeremiah 31:23-24
3. Assyria and Egypt
4. Jesus looked like a normal man - Luke 24:13-43
Jesus ate breakfast with His disciples on the beach - John 21:1-14
Even though the door was shut, Jesus could appear in a room - John 20:19
5. During the Millennium and beyond/In the New Jerusalem

Bible Study Guide Answers

(Fill in the blank answers are taken from the New American Standard Bible. Other translations might vary)

Chapter 7 - Picturing Paradise

1. Isaiah, Daniel, and Ezekiel
2. A park or orchard
3. In the New Jerusalem
4. Rainbow/ sea/river/tree
5. Cherubim have wings as well as hands, unique faces that appear different from four directions, feet like calves feet, and they usually have fire around them.
6. Satan
7. "Do not be afraid."
8. awe/ one/ sincerity/ God

Conclusion

1. Bible/ God
2. Khesed
3. Israel
4. tree/ branches/tree
5. die/ sins
6. permanently
7. New Jerusalem

Invitation

1. Ezekiel 18:4b - Romans 6:23a
Ezekiel 37:26-27 - Revelation 21:3
Psalm 22:18 - Matthew 27:35
Joel 2:32a - Romans 10:12-13
2. every/ all

also available in print and on Youtube by **Janet Willis**

God's Got a House and It's Coming to Earth, A Primer in Pictures on the New Jerusalem

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