

QUESTIONING JESUS

Week 7: Made For Another World

Key idea:

The Gospel is not only rationally true - it addresses our deepest human longings and points us to true joy and rest.

Key text:

Revelation 21:1–5

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” ⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

Key points:

1. In Revelation 21-22 John gives us a grand vision of the new heaven and new earth.
2. In the new heaven and earth everything is made new, God dwells with His people, and everything bad is removed forever!
3. John’s vision of the future for the people of God is glorious - a radiant stunning bride for Jesus, comprised of a vast multitude from every people group.
4. The glorious consummation that awaits us is better than the Garden of Eden, for we will see the very face of God, and we will be fully, unalterably His forever!
5. This is meant to create a longing in us, and to cause us to realize we were made for another world - not this broken, fallen world.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's text and teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. What part of the biblical vision of our future is most exciting to you? What prompts you to say "Come Lord Jesus!"?
3. What did CS Lewis mean when he said: "If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world"?
4. How could these unfulfilled desires and this longing for another world help us point others to Christ?
5. When you think back to your own conversion experience, was it primarily due to rational considerations, the hunger to have unfulfilled longings met, or something else? What did God use to primarily draw you to Christ?
6. What did CS Lewis mean when he said: "All that we call human history—money, poverty, ambition, war, prostitution, classes, empires, slavery—[is] the long terrible story of man trying to find something other than God which will make him happy."?
7. What ways have you been tempted to find joy apart from knowing and loving God? What things are most tempting to you today?
8. What things have created the deepest longing for the new heaven and earth in you? This might be portions of Scripture, songs, books about heaven, works of fiction, etc. If you had to pick a few, what would they be?
9. How can you stir this longing for the new heavens and earth in your own life? How can you encourage it in others?