

Session 6: Ruling with Christ in the New Earth

Review

Heaven is the _____ place of God. The _____ heaven is wonderful, though not the believer's ultimate hope. God's eternal plan is to fully _____ earth, not abandon it. The most satisfying aspect of heaven will be seeing the face of _____. Life with God in heaven will NOT be _____: we will walk with him, learn from him, feast with him, worship him, and, as we will see tonight, rule for him.

The Kingdom of God on Earth

One of the Bible's most common descriptions of the future is the _____ of God. For just a few examples, see Daniel 7:13–14; Matthew 6:33; Revelation 5:1–10. What do you think that this "Kingdom" means?

When Jesus said "my Kingdom is not ____ this world" (John 18:36–37), he meant that his Kingdom did not *come from* this world, and it did not operate according to the sinful principles of this world. But Jesus *does* plan to rule a Kingdom ____ *this world!*

Think about how Jesus teaches his disciples to pray: "Your _____ come, your will be done, on _____ as it is in heaven (6:10)." What do you think this means? When is this prayer going to be answered?

One of the Bible's best summaries of God's goal for history is Rev 11:5: "The kingdom of this world is _____ the kingdom of our Lord, and of his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever."

When we picture the ultimate heaven, we should not picture a spirit world or a bright light. We should picture a beautiful, thrilling, kingdom, with Christ ruling over all! (Think of some of the happiest pictures we receive of David and Solomon's kingdoms)

Now, where do we fit into the picture of this Kingdom?

We will rule with Christ

If it's a stretch for you to think about Heaven as a perfect earthly Kingdom, it may shock you to learn that God wants us to help Jesus _____ it all (Rev 22:1–5)!

We can grasp our future hope better if we go back to God's original blueprint for human life on earth. What did God design Adam and Eve to do (Gen 1:26–31)?

God intends to _____ every aspect of human life all that was lost through sin, and this includes human beings, made in his _____, _____ over his world for his _____! Think about a few of these many references in Scripture:

Matthew 20:20–28

Luke 22:29–30

2 Timothy 2:12
1 Corinthians 6:2–3
Revelation 21:24–26

Jesus constantly brings up the idea of our ruling with him in the early chapters of Revelation, especially with the images of “crowns” and “thrones:” 2:10; 2:26; 3:11; 3:21; 4:10; 5:9–10

Inheriting the World with Christ

The idea of our ruling the new earth with Jesus completes the long biblical theme of the _____ of God’s people. We will share in Jesus’ inheritance!

Matthew 5:5
Romans 4:13
Romans 8:16–17
Colossians 3:22–25

Responsibilities and Rewards

Many of Jesus’ parables about his coming kingdom revolve around a returning master who portions out rewards and _____ to his awaiting servants. Let’s read Luke 19:11–27 and Matthew 25:14–30.

This is the picture that the New Testament has in mind when it speaks of the believer’s heavenly “_____.” What have you heard or thought about these?

As we have already seen, Jesus wants to assign a variety of ruling responsibilities in his Kingdom to his believing people. While we all gain entrance into his Kingdom by _____ alone, these rewards and responsibilities differ according to _____ (Luke 14:11; Luke 16:10; 2 Corinthians 5:10, etc).

Responsibility here on the present earth under the curse involves stress and struggle; on the new earth, we will “enter into the _____ of our master (Matt 25:23).”

Jesus often uses the promised rewards of the coming kingdom as _____ for faithfulness now (see especially Matthew 5–6).

Some Applications

We should remember that our faithfulness in the day-to-day _____!

We should live by the _____ of Jesus’ Kingdom, not this world’s!

We should view people in light of the great _____ that is coming!

We should serve the Lord with the _____ view in mind (1 Cor 15:58)!