

Heaven & Hell

Small Group Series & Study Guide

Small Group Guide: Heaven & Hell, Week 5

Key Takeaways:

1. **God has a specific plan for human history** that unfolds through different dispensations, each revealing more of His character and redemptive purposes.
2. **The Millennium will restore creation** to its pre-Fall condition, demonstrating what God originally intended for humanity.
3. **Even perfect conditions don't guarantee obedience** - people still need to personally choose to follow God.
4. **Sin is powerful and deceptive** - even after 1,000 years of Christ's perfect reign, people will still rebel when given the opportunity.
5. **God's judgment is just** - the final rebellion proves that eternal punishment is necessary for those who refuse to submit to God.

Discussion Questions:

1. **What is a dispensation, and why does God change "the rules" throughout history?** How does this compare to how parents change rules as children grow?
2. **Read Ephesians 1:10. What does "gather together in one all things in Christ" mean for the Millennium?**
3. **Which characteristic of the Millennium surprised you most? Why?**
 - a. Consider: Animals becoming herbivores again, no sickness or disease, deformities healed instantly, everyone speaking the same language, economic prosperity without poverty...
4. **Read Isaiah 11:6-9. What does this passage reveal about God's original design for creation?** What does this tell us about the effects of sin on all creation?
5. **Why will salvation still be necessary during the Millennium for those born during that time?** What does this teach us about human nature?
6. **Read Revelation 20:3, 7-10. Why is it "necessary" for Satan to be released at the end of the Millennium?** What does this prove about the nature of sin? What does this demonstrate about God's justice?
7. **What does Satan's final rebellion teach us about:**
 - a. The power of sin and deception?
 - b. The human heart apart from God?
 - c. The necessity of eternal punishment?

Practical Application:

1. **Study Creation** Read Genesis 1-3 and make a list of everything that was "very good" before the Fall. Then read Isaiah 11, 35, and 65 to see how the Millennium restores these things. Journal about what this reveals about God's heart.
2. **Examine Your Submission** The Millennium is about everything being brought under submission to Christ. Honestly assess areas of your life where you're not fully submitted to Him. Pray specifically about surrendering these areas.
3. **Practice Gratitude** Make a list of things that will be different in the Millennium (no sickness, no death, no poverty, etc.). Thank God daily this week for His promise to restore all things.

Closing Prayer:

- **Readiness** - That we would be ready for Christ's return and not miss the rapture.
 - **Submission** - That every area of our lives would be fully submitted to Christ's lordship now.
 - **Perspective** - That we would live with eternity in mind, making decisions based on God's ultimate plan.
 - **Evangelism** - For boldness to share the hope of Christ's return with others.
 - **Perseverance** - For those facing trials, remembering that God will ultimately restore all things.
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5-Day Devotion: The Millennium

Day 1: The Promise of Restoration

Reading: Ephesians 1:7-10; Genesis 1:26-31

Devotional: God's ultimate plan has always been restoration. Before sin entered the world, humanity enjoyed perfect fellowship with God, walking in innocence and peace. The millennium represents God gathering all things back under Christ's headship—a return to Eden's harmony. This Greek word *anakephalaiōmai* means "to bring together again," reminding us that God never abandoned His original design. Just as a parent adjusts rules as children mature, God works through different dispensations, always moving toward redemption's completion. Today, reflect on areas of brokenness in your life. God's promise isn't just future restoration; He's working now to bring wholeness. What broken places need His healing touch today?

Day 2: Freedom From the Curse

Reading: Isaiah 11:6-9; Romans 8:18-23

Devotional: Creation groans under sin's curse, waiting for liberation. During the millennium, even animals will return to their original herbivorous nature—the wolf dwelling with the lamb, the lion eating hay. This isn't poetic imagery; it's literal restoration of God's design. Sin corrupted everything, introducing death, disease, and destruction. But Christ's reign will reverse the curse completely. No sickness, no deformity, no premature death. The deaf will hear, the blind will see, the lame will leap. This future reality should transform how we view our present struggles. Our suffering isn't permanent. Consider: if God promises such complete physical restoration, how much more will He restore our souls? Let this hope anchor you through today's trials.

Day 3: The Test of the Heart

Reading: Revelation 20:1-10; Jeremiah 17:9-10

Devotional: Why must Satan be released after a thousand years of Christ's perfect rule? This reveals a sobering truth: external circumstances don't change the human heart. Even after experiencing Jesus' direct reign, peace, prosperity, and blessing, many will still rebel when given opportunity. This proves sin's devastating power and humanity's desperate need for internal transformation. Salvation isn't about better conditions—it's about new hearts. Those born during the millennium with Adamic nature must personally choose Christ, just as we must today. Your parents' faith cannot save you. Your church attendance cannot save you. Only personal surrender to Jesus transforms the heart. Have you truly submitted to Christ, or are you relying on external religion? Genuine faith endures testing.

Day 4: Speaking One Language Again

Reading: Zephaniah 3:9; Acts 2:1-11; Genesis 11:1-9

Devotional: At Babel, God confused languages because unified humanity pursued evil. In the millennium, He'll restore one pure language, enabling perfect communication and unity under Christ's lordship. This reversal demonstrates God's redemptive pattern: what sin destroys, grace restores. At

Pentecost, we glimpsed this restoration when the Spirit enabled people from every nation to understand the Gospel. Language barriers symbolize deeper divisions—cultural, racial, theological. Yet in Christ, we're being prepared for that day when all barriers fall. Today, the Church should model this unity. Are you building bridges or walls? Do you pursue understanding with those different from you? Practice kingdom unity now by extending grace across divides, anticipating that glorious day when we'll speak with one voice.

Day 5: Abundant Life Now and Forever

Reading: Isaiah 65:17-25; John 10:10

Devotional: The millennium reveals God's heart: abundant provision, meaningful work, lasting fruit, answered prayers, and multi-generational blessing. People will build houses and inhabit them, plant vineyards and eat their fruit, enjoying their labor without fear of loss. Children won't suffer for parents' sins; each person will live righteously or face consequences personally. This isn't laziness or idleness—it's purposeful productivity under perfect leadership. But here's the key: Jesus said He came to give abundant life NOW. While the millennium's fullness awaits, kingdom principles apply today. God desires you to experience purpose, provision, and His presence now. Don't merely survive—thrive in Christ. What dreams has God planted in your heart? What gifts lie dormant? Begin living abundantly today, anticipating that eternal day when every tear is wiped away and righteousness reigns forever.