

BEYOND

What the Bible says about about life after death

— The New World —

Genesis 6, 9, 2 Peter 3, Revelation 21
Small Group Plan

— Genesis 1:31 —

*God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.
And there was evening, and there was morning the sixth day.*

OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...

- What did God see in creation that was “very good?” Remember, this is before the creation of humanity.
- How was the creation of man and woman the crown of his creation?
- What was God’s intention for humanity? What was the original garden plan??

LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

— PURIFIED OR ANNIHILATED —

Genesis 6:13

*So God said to Noah, “I am going to put an end to all **people**, for the **earth** is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth.*

- How had the violence of **the people** filled **the earth** with violence?
- Did God really put an end to all people? Explain the wording in the text.
- What is God actually threatening?

Genesis 9:8-11

⁸ Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: ⁹ “I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you ¹⁰ and with every living creature that was with you — the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you — every living creature on earth. ¹¹ I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth.”

- What is God actually promising (and not promising)?
- If the flood was used “to destroy the earth” and yet the earth remained, how should we define the word “destroy?”
- What is the difference between purifying and annihilating?
- Why would God want to cleanse rather than eliminate?

— REBOOTED OR DEMOLISHED —

2 Peter 3:6-7

⁶ By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. ⁷ By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

- How does Peter compare Noah’s time (v. 6) and the end of time (v. 7)?
- The term “destruction” is used twice. How does the destruction in Noah’s time inform our understanding of the destruction at the end of time?

— NEW-EARTH OR NON-EARTH —

Revelation 21:2-4

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.”

- The New Jerusalem “coming down” (v. 2) is explained three times as God living and being “with men” (v. 3).
- What would have to happen for God to come “down” and live “with” us?

USE IT / APPLY IT ...

- The Garden of Eden was here on planet earth. Adam and Eve walked with God in the garden and enjoyed the relationship.
- Imagine aloud what the garden would look like, how it would smell and sound, how the animals would live and move, and what a daily relationship with God would be like.
- How does God’s plan for the garden help us understand His plan for heaven?
- Close by thanking God for remaining patient and true to us, even while we have been arrogant and stubborn. Praise Him for His amazing grace and mercy.