



WEEKLY STUDY

WEEK 8

Rachel Armstrong, Director of Student Ministries, led us in our final week of the Then Sings My Soul series by sharing about Heaven Hymns. The Bible has beautiful imagery of life after death that has inspired faithfulness and kindled hope for thousands of years. I pray that these images and the songs that invoke them for the church will guide you into a greater sense of peace and hope about the future God has in store for us.

Peace of Christ,
Dr. Mark Youngman
Pastor of Discipleship

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected visit prov.church/smallgroups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture and follow the daily prayer prompt.

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: REVELATION 22.16-20

¹⁶ "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star."

¹⁷ The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let the one who hears say, "Come!" Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.

¹⁸ I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll. ¹⁹ And if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll.

²⁰ He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon."

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

- It is fitting that we begin this week with “the end”. These verses are among the very last words of the Bible. For many, the older you get and the more of this world’s brokenness you see, the more the promise of heaven rings like a hope-filled hymn. Even when Jesus’ words contain difficult warnings for those who try to manipulate the promise, the promise itself wins out. When we are following Jesus, the hope of heaven is our highest hope. **When was the last time this hope compelled you to say, “Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.”?**
- *Jesus, I look forward to your return. Sometimes I want to escape the difficulties of this world, but in you, I have the hope of heaven which inspires me to live with joy and anticipation today. Amen.*

TUESDAY: JOHN 14.1-3

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.² My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

- Jesus was not shy about sharing images which would point his disciples to the promise of heaven. In this moment, when he was about to face his arrest and crucifixion, he told his followers about a place that would be prepared for them for all eternity. This group of men and women who were about to lose their friend and teacher, surely clung to his promise that they would one day be where he was going. **Have you ever pictured what that place will look like when Jesus welcomes you to heaven? What does it look like in your imagination?**
- *Father God, my human heart can’t fathom the beauty of heaven, but I know that I will be at home when I am fully in your presence! Amen.*

WEDNESDAY: REVELATION 21.2-5a

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, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell 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!”

- The idea of God making God’s home with us can sound almost scandalous—even today. Those who worshiped other gods in the 1st century would never fathom or even hope for those gods to move into their neighborhood. This vision given to John is consistent with the incarnation in Jesus Christ. God came to dwell with us at Christmas, and He will come back again to restore everything. There will be no more tears and no more death. **In what ways are you practicing and preparing for this promise to come true?**
- *Come, Lord Jesus. Come and make everything new! Amen.*

THURSDAY: ROMANS 8.17-21

Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

¹⁸ *I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.¹⁹ For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed.²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.*

- This passage refers to our present suffering and future glory. There is a perspective shift that Paul invites us to consider. We don't have to pretend that our suffering doesn't exist. Paul is not asking us to gloss over our pain or the pain of others. Instead, we are offered hope in the midst of struggles. The most difficult bouts of suffering will be met with an even greater experience of God's glory. **Who around you seems to be suffering? Pray for them to be encouraged by glimpses of glory today.**
- *God, I offer up those who suffer most in this world. Be near to those who are unaware of the promises in Christ and fill them with the hope of glory. Amen.*

FRIDAY: REVELATION 5.8-10

the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people.⁹ And they sang a new song, saying:

*"You are worthy to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
because you were slain,
and with your blood you purchased for God
persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.*

¹⁰*You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God,
and they will reign on the earth."*

- John had the task of translating into writing the amazing visions of heaven he had received. Even when symbols don't quite connect in our current context, the image of leaders and creation itself proclaiming the power of Jesus' blood to usher in the kingdom of God is something we reflect when we gather as the church for worship. **Is it ever difficult to find words that communicate the goodness of God? How do you overcome that? What words or images do you use to describe the promise of heaven?**
- *Jesus, Lamb of God, you are worthy of all of my praise. Thank you for purchasing my life through your sacrifice and making a way for me to serve God and reign with you. Amen.*

SATURDAY: PHILIPPIANS 3.18b-21

...many live as enemies of the cross of Christ.¹⁹ Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things.²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

- Paul wrote about the contrast between having a mind that is set on earthly things and a mind that is set on heaven. This is meant to be an encouragement for those who long for heaven. While we live and have purpose on earth, we are destined and ultimately belong to heaven. We were designed for the garden where we can walk with God and one another in peace and joy. There, we will have a glorious body that is not prone to decay. **How do you "wear" your heavenly citizenship?**
- *Heavenly Father, I set my heart and mind on things above. Remind me that I belong to heaven and will one day be transformed into the likeness of Jesus. Amen.*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Read through (or listen to) the words of the hymn [When We All Get to Heaven..](#)

1 Sing the wondrous love of Jesus,
Sing His mercy and His grace;
In the mansions bright and blessed
He'll prepare for us a place.

Refrain:

When we all get to heaven,
what a day of rejoicing that will be!
When we all see Jesus,
we'll sing and shout the victory!

2 While we walk the pilgrim pathway
Clouds will overspread the sky;
But when trav'ling days are over
Not a shadow, not a sigh. [Refrain]

3 Let us then be true and faithful,
Trusting, serving ev'ry day;
Just one glimpse of Him in glory
Will the toils of life repay. [Refrain]

4 Onward to the prize before us!
Soon His beauty we'll behold;
Soon the pearly gates will open—
We shall tread the streets of gold. [Refrain]

- What are the core teachings of this hymn?
- What does it tell us about ourselves?
- What does it tell us about God?
- Underline a phrase that particularly stands out to you today. How can you carry it with you as the song of your heart in the days to come?