

## Session 4: Hope Prepared in Heaven

*In this final session we look at how God prepares in heaven what He reveals on earth. And we will unpack John's vision in Revelation 21-22, considering how it fulfils God's original purposes for creation and His image bearers.*

# Hope Prepared in Heaven

## The Apocalyptic Pattern

Passage	What	Verb	For Whom	Where	Future Expectation
Matt 25:34	Kingdom	Prepared	For you		To be inherited at the judgment
1 Pet 1:3-5					
Col 1:5					
2 Cor 5:1-5					
John 14:1-3					
Phil 3:20-21					
Heb 11:13-16					
Rev 21:1-2					

Adapted from *A New Heaven and A New Earth* by J. Richard Middleton

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## The Expanding Eden (Revelation 21-22)

Eden	Tabernacle	Nation	Temple	New Creation
God's dwelling place, with expanding borders to fill the earth	'Let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst.' (Ex 25:8)	God dwells with his people, leads Moses by his presence (Ex 13:21-22) which was carried in the Ark (Ex 25:10-16; Num 35:5)	God's presence filled Solomon's Temple (1 Kings 8:10-11). But Solomon knew that nothing could contain God's presence, not even heaven (v27)	Ezekiel prophesied about a third Temple (Ezek 47), but in the New Creation there is no Temple 'its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb' (Rev 21:22)

God dwelt there	
Priests	
Guarding cherubim	
Arboreal Lampstand	
Garden imagery	
Source of water	
Precious stones	
Mountain	
Eastern Facing Entrance	

## Hope Prepared in Heaven

How should we live, as citizens of Heaven?

*In the light of all we have learnt, how would you now answer these questions? How different are your answers?*

*What does the Bible mean by  
'heaven'?*

*What does the Bible mean by  
'salvation'?*

*Where will followers of Jesus  
spend eternity?*

*When Jesus returns, what will  
happen to the Earth?*

*List all the ways that this view of New Creation should affect the way we think, worship, preach, and live?*

# Theology Matters: New Creation

## Recommended resources

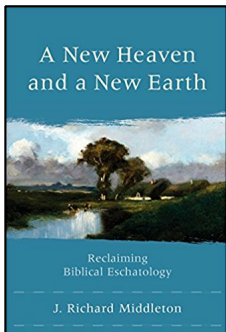
### Audio Resources

For more on these subjects, see our previous Theology Matters:

- Jesus Wins: An Introduction to Revelation
- Resurrection
- The Gospels

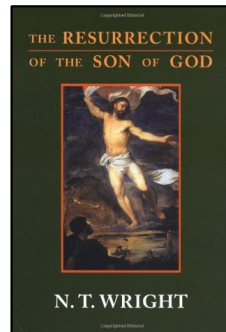
These are available at [christchurchlondon.org](http://christchurchlondon.org)

### Books



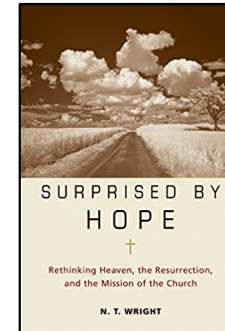
[\*A New Heaven and a New Earth\*](#)  
J. Richard Middleton

The most comprehensive, accessible book I have read on the themes of New Creation and Resurrection



[\*The Resurrection of the Son of God\*](#)  
N.T. Wright

A brilliant (but very academic) book on resurrection. Not for the faint hearted!



[\*Surprised by Hope\*](#)  
N.T. Wright

A popularised version of his bigger book.



[\*Culture Making\*](#)  
Andy Crouch

A great book on the implications of new creation theology for our approach to culture