

This guide is designed to give helpful hints in preparing for your group discussion.

### Quick Review

Look back from your sermon notes – Was there anything that particularly challenged you from this sermon? Anything you didn't understand, agree with or connect with?

### Introduction

What comes to your mind when you think of heaven? Does a certain image or idea come to mind? What do you think has helped shape that point of view for you?

### Digging In

**Question 1: Read Ps. 104:12, Is. 13:10, 2 Cor. 12:2.** Pastor Jeff asked the question, “what is heaven?” He gave three different “ideas” or “categories” that the Bible uses to describe heaven.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Heaven = sky or firmament (Ps. 104:12)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Heaven = outer space (Is. 13:10)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> heaven = dwelling place of God (2 Cor. 12:2)

The 3<sup>rd</sup> definition is what most people think of when they talk about the idea of heaven. This is the idea that Jesus gives us in **Luke 23:43** when speaking to the other thief on the cross. Why is having a proper definition of heaven important to the life of a Christian?

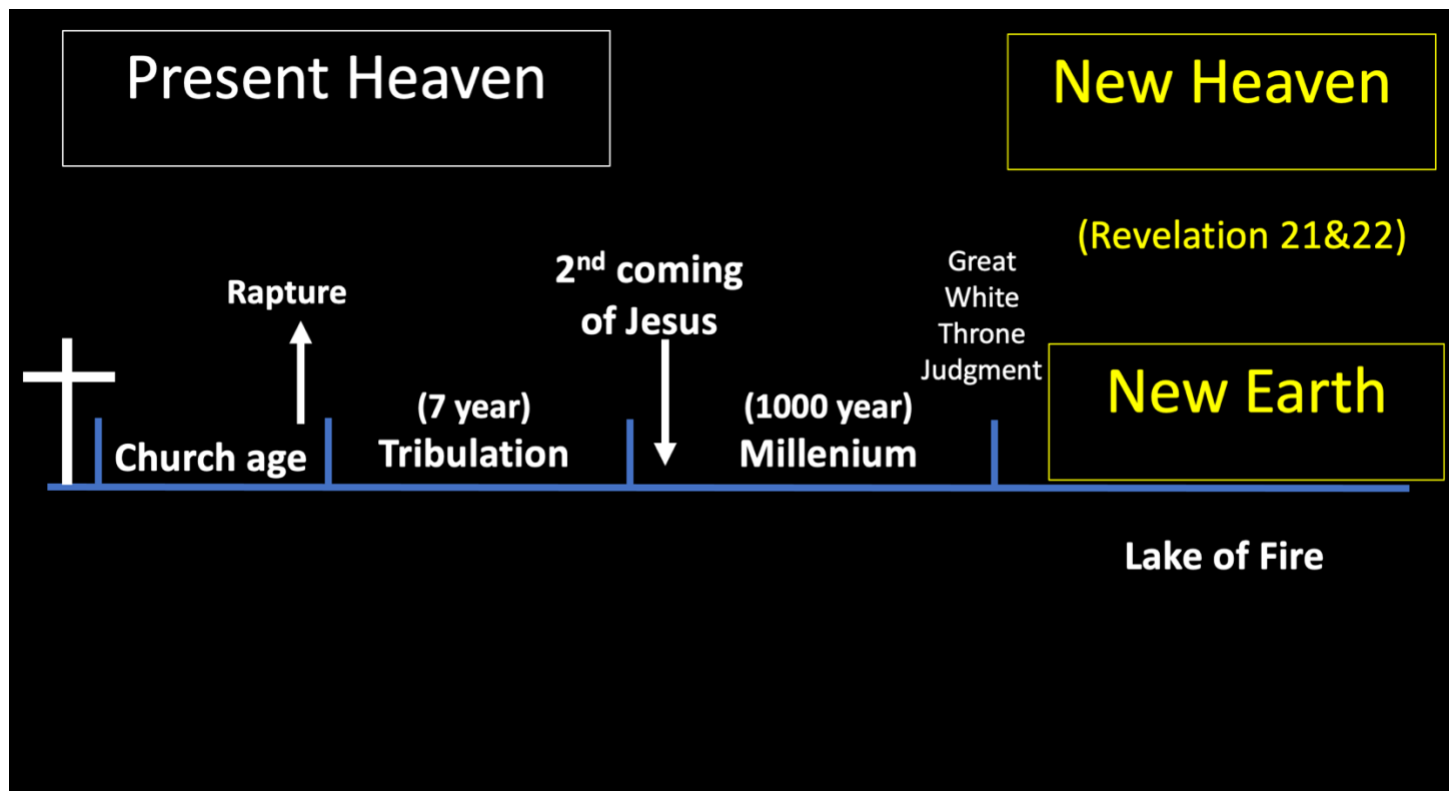
**Question 2: Read John 14:2, Hebrews 11:10, Hebrews 11:16, Luke 23:43.** Pastor Jeff asked the next question and that was “what is heaven like?” There were 4 different places in Scripture that showed different descriptions of heaven:

- House (John 14:2)
- City (Heb. 11:10)
- Country (Heb. 11:16)
- Paradise (Luke 23:43)

All of these descriptions are helpful in wrapping our minds around heaven. Which one is most helpful for you and why?

**Question 3: Read 2 Corinthians 5:8 and 1 Thess. 4:16-17, 2 Peter 3:10-13.** Pastor Jeff asked the question “Is the present Heaven different from the future Heaven?” And the other question related to this is “What are the New Heavens and New Earth?” How is the current version of heaven different than what will happen after

the Great White Throne Judgement? What does 2 Peter 3 talk about happening to this earth? Use the graphic below to help your discussion.



**Question 4: Revelation 21:9-27.** What is the New Jerusalem? Why do you think there is no temple in the New Jerusalem? When the new heaven and earth comes, God wipes away every tear. What grief, pain or trauma are you presently dealing with? Is the future hope for a place without these things encouraging to you? How can you share this hope of the new heaven and new earth with others who are struggling?

### Praise / Prayer Requests

Pray for your group with these things in mind:

**Adoration** – How can I praise God for what this teaches me?

**Confession** – What sin can I confess because of what this teaches me?

**Thanksgiving** – How can I thank God for what Jesus has done?

**Supplication** – What do I need to ask of God in order to grow in light of this?