

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The following questions help us engage with the sermon, music, and liturgy in this morning's worship service, and may be useful during personal devotions, group studies, and family worship.

1. If in the future the first heaven and the first earth will have passed away why should we bother caring for the earth? And does this give us a different perspective on doing so from, e.g. secular environmentalists?
2. Sometimes in evangelism programs in past decades Christians have been encouraged to ask the question, "What would you say to God if He asked you, 'Why should I let you into My heaven?'" Would there be any value in asking a less direct question first, namely "What do you think heaven will be like?" If that is a helpful question, why?
3. Revelation is like a great tapestry, and in many places its scenes have been composed not with thread but with passages of Scripture. How many passages, promises, and prophecies can you see in 21.1-8? What do you think is the main significance of the tapestry at this point?
4. What different "images" or "pictures" of this new world order are suggested by these verses, and how do they help to shape the way we live the Christian life and experience the fellowship of the Church here and now?
5. The first seven verses of this passage are thrilling. Why do you think it ends on such a sobering note in verse 8?