



Space Part 1

DISCUSS

Now that we have reached the end of Life Explored, think again, about the question we asked at the very beginning, and see if your answer is any different: What’s the best gift God could give you?

READ: Revelation 21:1-7

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 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. ‘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.” 5He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

6He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. 7Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

HOLY CITY | Jerusalem
DWELL | Live

ALPHA & OMEGA | First and last letters in the Greek alphabet
THE OLD ORDER OF THINGS | How things used to be

SPACE Part 2

- There is, inside each one of us, a longing for relationship, and a longing for home.
- And yet many of us feel that our earthly relationships and our earthly homes ever fully satisfy – not even the best ones.
- That’s because we were made for another world. The Bible calls it “a new heaven and a new earth” (Revelation 21:1) – a world, real and physical, where we experience both relationship and the home we’ve longed for all our lives.
- This new world is described as being like a joyful wedding between Jesus Christ (the Bridegroom) and his people (the bride).
- Jesus speaks of those who are shut out from the new heaven and new earth because of their idolatry. As with any wedding, not everyone will be there.
- If you’re not living for Christ, which god are you living for instead? Does it give you lasting freedom, fulfilment or peace? Does it have an answer to death? Has it laid down its life for you? Is your god as good as this God has shown himself to be?



READ: Matthew 22:2-14

The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son.³ He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.⁴ “Then he sent some more servants and said, ‘Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.’”⁵ “But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business.⁶ The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them.⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.”⁸ “Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come.⁹ So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.’”¹⁰ So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.¹¹ “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes.¹² He asked, ‘How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?’ The man was speechless.¹³ “Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie his hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”¹⁴ “For many are invited, but few are chosen.”

KINGDOM OF HEAVEN | The place where God’s people live joyfully under God’s rule.

WEDDING CLOTHES | In those days it was custom to give wedding guests particular clothes to wear to the banquet

GNASHING | Grinding



EXPLORE

- 1. The king invites guests to his son’s wedding banquet three times. He is persistent, patient and generous. What are the different ways in which the invited guests respond in verse 3, 5 and 6?**

- 2. The king in Jesus’ story represents God. In verses 7-10. The king responds to this treason in two ways. What are they?**

- 3. In verse 13, a man is thrown out of the wedding banquet. Why?**



4. Isaiah 61:10 says: “I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness. What do you think the “Wedding clothes” might represent in Jesus’ story, and where do they come from?

5. Given what we’ve learned about God’s character during Life Explored, why do you think God offers people salvation, and how has he made that possible?

6. If you had to cast yourself in this story, which one of these four characters would you be?

Do you see other things as more valuable to you than being at the Son’s banquet (Verse 5)?

Would you consider yourself to be hostile to the invitation (Verse 6)?

Do you feel you’re already acceptable to God, without needing the “wedding clothes” he provides (verse 11)?

Or would you accept the invitation to the Son’s wedding banquet?

7. What has been the most striking for you during this session?
