



## LIFE GROUP NOTES

Week Beginning: 7th May 2023

Revelation 21:1-8

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### Warm Up

Recall a time when you won a race or a competition with a team. What was it like? How did you feel?

Did you want others to share your joy at winning?

### Background and context

This passage, coming as it does almost at the end of the entire Biblical narrative, sees the great revealing of God's new Earth and new Heaven as finally God's great rescue plan is complete. There is a promise here to the victorious that they will inherit all of this goodness that God has brought about. Can you hear the cheers of the victorious? Will you find yourself amongst them? Or will you find yourself amongst the second group, those cast into the fiery lake of sulphur to die... again? Yikes!

### Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity

What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand? This could be a time to discuss and share reflections and ideas on the passage or watch a Bible project type video that helps explain things.

1. How many promises or allusions to other scriptures can you find fulfilled in this passage? (hint: my reference guide says 283 different verses – but getting them all is not expected)
2. What is the good news of this passage to you?
3. Does the concept of a new Heaven and new Earth fit with your understanding of 'heaven'? If not, why not?
4. Given your knowledge of who Revelations was written to (you can find this in the book) why do you think verse 8 lists the sins it does?
5. How do we balance the holiness of God's people with the recognition of Grace offered in becoming part of God's people?
6. Where else can you find lists of sins within scripture – how should you then interpret these in light of this Revelation passage?
7. How do you explain the concept of hell to someone of no faith who say's 'a loving God wouldn't judge people'?
8. Have you ever experienced/observed judgmentalism within the church family?
9. What do you think it means by the second death in verse 8? Does the view of resurrection of everybody found within Revelation fit your typical thoughts about life after death?
10. Is there any way you may try to live differently in light of your study of this passage?



Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.

We want to encourage the development of prayer, to help everyone grow in confidence in praying. There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.