

3. Final Victory



- Revelation 21:1-5
- 1 Corinthians 15:53-55

Reflect

Why is death and not, for instance, sin called the final enemy? If death is to disappear, does that mean that sin and sinners still exist—living in pain as in a continuous hell?

4. Homecoming



- John 14:1-3
- 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17

Reflect

What do you find to be the most prominent features of the future life envisioned in these texts?



When Paul uses the first person “we” in this letter, it does not necessarily mean that he expected to be alive when Jesus returned. This is a typical literary convention, using the first person to heighten the intensity.

5. Thy Kingdom Come



- Matthew 6:19 and Luke 17:21

Reflect

What is the difference between the way Jesus speaks about the kingdom in these two texts? Is He contradicting Himself? When Christians pray for God’s kingdom to come, what should it imply? Is it simply a longing personally to escape from the problems of this world? How does genuine prayer for the kingdom impact a person’s attitude toward the sufferings of other people and the social and global challenges of the present world?

Summary

The life that God has in store for the believers is real. He promises the end of death, sin and suffering, reunion with friends and family—and Jesus our Saviour. It is like a home, mansions are prepared, and the saints experience the joy and peace of full acceptance. Planning to live in that kingdom of God does not result in escape from this world, but turns the heart of the Christian in love toward fellow humans. The Christian extends the invitation of Jesus to enter His kingdom and works to see God’s will done on earth as it is in heaven.



Number 14. Ready to Go Home

ClearView

Bible study guide

Study guide number 13 took a look at the future God has prepared for His people. This lesson continues by discussing how this life is to prepare us for living in eternity.

1. City and Community



- Revelation 2:7 and 22:1-5

Background

The book of Revelation presents the future life in the New Jerusalem. The book begins with messages to the churches in seven cities in Asia Minor. Each of the victorious Christians in these cities receives a promise of life in the city to come. The promise to the church in Ephesus is but one of these links between present and future.

Reflect

Why is eternal life described as life in a city? Why not on a mountain top or far away from everyone in a solitary existence of individual meditation?

2. The Kingdom Among Us



- Luke 17:21



This biblical text has had many interpretations. It is significant that the “you” is plural, not singular. Jesus speaks about a kingdom among us, not within me. *Kingdom* in the Bible does not simply mean a nation with clear geographical borders. A kingdom is where the king rules. The king of the kingdom of God is Jesus.

Reflect

How can the kingdom of God be among us? How does this kingdom relate to the visible kingdom that will be established at the second coming of Jesus?

3. Family Values



- Ephesians 2:19-22