Glad You Asked: *What Happens After We Die*? Next Steps Study

The Next Steps studies will help us dive a little deeper into what the sermon covers on Sunday morning. This study can be done as a small group or individually.

Since the beginning of time, man has wondered about life after death. In the Old Testament, heaven was a promise.

**Read: Isaiah 25:6-26:4**  *“***6** *On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine -- the best of meats and the finest of wines.* **7** *On this mountain He will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations;* **8** *He will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; He will remove His people’s disgrace from all the earth. The Lord has spoken.*

**9** *In that day they will say, ‘Surely this is our God; we trusted in Him, and He saved us. This is the Lord, we trusted in Him; let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation.’* **10** *The hand of the Lord will rest on this mountain; but Moab will be trampled in their land as straw is trampled down in the manure.* **11** *They will stretch out their hands in it, as swimmers stretch out their hands to swim. God will bring down their pride despite the cleverness of their hands.* **12** *He will bring down your high fortified walls and lay them low; He will bring them down to the ground to the very dust.*

**26: 1** *In that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah: We have a strong city; God makes salvation its walls and ramparts.* **2** *Open the gates that the righteous nation may enter, the nation that keeps faith.* **3** *You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.* **4** *Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord Himself, is the Rock eternal.”*

1. How will God provide for us in heaven?
2. How will God “swallow up death forever”? (verse 8)
3. Verse 8 says that “The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; He will remove His people’s disgrace…” What tears (from grief, loss, shame, embarrassment, loneliness, fear, anger…) are you looking forward to having God wipe away?
4. Why is salvation seen as the foundation and structure of heaven (Isaiah 26:1-2)? Why is that important?
5. There are a lot of unknowns about what heaven will be like. In this passage, what does Isaiah say that we should focus on? Look at Isaiah 26:3-4.

After the coming of Jesus, the Messiah, more was written in the New Testament about the promise of heaven.

**Read Revelation 7:15-17** *“* **15** *Therefore, ‘they are before the throne of God and serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will shelter them with His presence.* **16** *Never again will they hunger; and never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat down on them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd;*  **17** *For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; He will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe every tear from their eyes.”*

**Read Revelation 21:1-7 “1** *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.* **2** *I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.* **3** *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.* **4** *‘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.’*

**5** *He who is seated on the throne said, ‘I am making everything new!’* **6** *He 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.* **7** *Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.”*

1. What similarities do you see in the Isaiah and Revelation passages? Circle common themes and phrases.
2. What new information does Revelation tell us about heaven? Underline items that are not mentioned in Isaiah.
3. In any of the passages listed above, draw a star by the item that is the most meaningful to you.
4. After hearing Pastor Jay preach on Sunday and doing this study, how would you answer the question, “What happens after we die?”