

## Surprised by Hope

Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Please read chapter 9, and answer these questions as you read.

## Chapter 9

- I. Wright argues extensively from scripture and elsewhere that Jesus will take the role of judge in the second coming. How do you feel about a judgement yet to come? If it were true, would it change how you approach life? How do you think others would react?
- II. Wright notes that this judgment is a good thing and that it's described in the scriptures with people shouting for joy and clapping their hands. How can this be according to Wright?
- III. The author notes that with this understanding of the second coming and judgment, Jesus remains other than the church and other than the world while being present to both the church and the world through the Holy Spirit. He claims this argues against other systems (Stoic, Platonic, Hindu, Buddhist, and other world views). What do you think? Do you think Jesus will confront the world in the future and that the entire world will be subjected to him? Will the world be transformed?

- IV. Wright claims that in this time between Jesus' ascension and the "parousia" we are set free from two extremes we risk going into today. What are those? Do you reject these, also?
- V. Very near the end of the chapter, Wright writes, "People who believe that Jesus is already Lord, and that he will appear again as judge of the world are called and equipped (to put it mildly) to think and act quite differently in the world from those who don't." Do you agree? What does this mean for your your life? Your congregation?

This study guide is written to guide study and discussions of *Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church* by N. T. Wright. The full set of study guides is available at <https://livingintograce.com/2022/02/21/study-guide-questions-for-surprised-by-hope-rethinking-heaven-the-resurrection-and-the-mission-of-the-church-by-n-t-wright/>. While based on the book, this guide was not prepared in cooperation with the author, N. T. Wright, nor the publishers (SPCK and HarperOne).



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