

## Surprised by Hope

## Chapter 11 Study Questions

Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Please read chapter 11, and answer these questions as you read.

## Chapter 11

- I. Wright notes the church was of three parts as understood before the 16th century. name and very quickly describe the three.

- II. Wright describes purgatory as a Roman Catholic doctrine. Is it held in the Eastern Orthodox Church or generally in protestantism? How did Martin Luther react to one of the expectations derived from the doctrine of purgatory and what was it?

- III. Wright documents the perspectives of two Roman Catholic teachers in the last generation (Rainer and Pope Benedict XVI). Briefly describe their perspectives.

IV. Wright names 4 challenges to All Souls' Day, which help to describe those awaiting their final destination. What are they?

V. Scripture describes Christians who have departed this world as in "sleep". How does Wright describe this?

VI. Does Wright believe those present in "heaven" or "paradise" are actively praying for those of us here, or that we should ask those there to pray for us on our behalf? Why or why not?

VII. What is the most common word in the New Testament translated as “hell” and what does it describe?

VIII. Wright describes three pictures of life after death for those not in Christ (Traditional, Universalist, Conditionalist) and adds his own. Describe these three perspectives and Wright's.

IX. Near the end of the chapter, Wright authors,

“Israel believed (so Paul tells us, and he should know) that the purposes of the creator God all came down to the question: how is God going to rescue Israel? What the gospel of Jesus revealed, however, was that the purposes of God were reaching out to the question: how is God going to rescue the world through Israel, and thereby rescue Israel itself as part of the process but not as the point of it all? Maybe what we are faced with in our own day is a similar challenge: to focus, not on the question of which human beings God is going to take to heaven, and how he is going to do it, but on the question of how God is going to redeem and renew his creation through human beings, and how he is going to rescue those humans themselves, as part of the process but not as the point of it all.”

What do you think? Do you agree or disagree? To what conclusions does this lead you?

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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