## Surprised by Hope **Chapter 7 Study Questions**

Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Please read chapter 7, and answer these questions as you read.

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<u>Ch</u>	<u>apter 7</u>
I.	Wright describes that heaven and earth are not different places in the same spacetime but separate space-times. This is similar to saying that we can't get in a spaceship of any speed over any period of time and reach God. How have you imagined God in the past — as "up there" in our space and time or as in a separate space and time? After reading Wright, what do you think? What are the consequences of this view?
II.	Wright describes heaven as the control-room for earth based on Matthew 28:19, "All authority is given to [Jesus] in heaven and on earth." Do you think Jesus is in control of earth in the present as a CEO of a company is? If so, how do you explain the evil that remains? Are there limits to a CEO's effective authority in the moment?
III.	Does Jesus have a body today in heaven? Using your Bible, read John 20:19-29, which describes events after Jesus was resurrected but before he ascended. Does Thomas's question and Jesus' invitation fit your understanding? Explain.

IV.	Was Jesus ever not divine? Was Jesus ever not human after his birth on earth? Explain. Does Wright agree?
V.	Wright discounts the view that the church should take control of the world and issue orders and, alternatively, that the church should sit back and let the world go its own way. He speaks of a third way. What is it? What do you think of it?
VI.	Wright indicates the Jesus has gone into God's space, is ruling our rebellious world in the present, and interceding for us at God's right hand. Does this give you comfort, challenge you, both, or something else? How and why?
VII.	Does Wright's claim that there will always be a human at the helm of our world (rather than God the Father, some other being, Satan) give you comfort, challenge, something else? Why?

VIII.Wright presents two opposing views of the "second coming" with which he disagrees — one rather common in North American Christianity and another in mainline Christianity, briefly explain them.

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 <a href="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/">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/</a>. 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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