

Surprised by Hope
Chapter 8 Study Questions
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Please read chapter 8, and answer these questions as you read.

Chapter 8

- I. Wright uses the following image to describe the new creation: “God will redeem the whole universe; Jesus’ resurrection is the beginning of that new life, the fresh grass growing through the concrete of corruption and decay in the old world. That final redemption will be the moment when heaven and earth are joined together at last, in a burst of God’s creative energy for which Easter is the prototype and source.” What do you think of this image of the new creation bursting forth in the presence of the old?

- II. A common North American view of the second coming is Jesus descending from the clouds and his redeemed rising from the earth to meet him in the rapture. Wright argues extensively against this view. How does Wright describe these passages? What is your view after reading Wright?

- III. Did Jesus teach about the second coming? What is Wright’s perspective? If Jesus didn’t teach about it, does it make the teaching untrue?

IV. Who is Lord of this world? The administrative/political leader of the United States, Russia, China, the United Nations, the United Kingdom? The Pope? The richest person in the world? The head of the largest company in the world? You? Someone else? What are the consequences of this?

V. Wright claims that Paul is bringing together 3 stories in 1 Thessalonians 4. What are the three stories?

VI. What reality does Paul summarize from 1 Thessalonians 4 (three points)?

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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