

***Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further***  
***International Bible Lessons***

**Revelation 21:1-8**

**Sunday, November 6, 2016**

**L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.**

Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class so they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible class.

**Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further**

**1. What is the most important truth that you have learned from these verses?**

God will bring to a beautiful conclusion what He began when He created the heavens and the earth and human beings in the beginning. He will create a new heaven and earth that can never be spoiled as an inheritance for all of His children. His children will never be troubled again by anything evil.

**2. What are some of the things Churches need to do and teach today so believers can conquer as Revelation describes? What do you need to do to conquer?**

Churches need to teach and emphasize with love the Bible, the true revelation from God, the Holy Scriptures, because “these words are trustworthy and true” (Revelation 21:5). Keep loving and trusting in God as revealed in the Bible, and try to live and teach according to the Word of God to help others.

**3. What are some of the things on (or in) this old earth that you would like to see on (or in) the new earth that God will create? Do you think God will retain or even make more beautiful these things? Give some reasons for your answers.**

The Grand Canyon and snow covered mountains. Yes, but there will be a quality of newness in all God retains. God is creative and delights in creating beautiful and marvelous things to bring greater delight to Himself and His children forever. God will express His love in an infinite number of ways forever.

**4. Why do you think someone might weep in heaven? How does God respond to this weeping? What, if any, difference is there between weeping and crying (and between weeping and mourning)? What may God be teaching us here?**

They might remember some of their sins, mistakes, or painful losses on earth. God Himself personally will wipe away tears, and perhaps explain how He worked all things out for good. God will bring us complete happiness no matter what we remember from the past, because there will be no reason to weep in heaven except to express tears of joy.

**5. Why do you think God inspired John to include Revelation 21:8 in the Book of Revelation? How might you teach someone the truths this verse conveys?**

If Christians had to continue to suffer the consequences of being with people committed to doing evil, it would ruin the happiness of everyone; therefore, those types of people will not be in heaven. Those practicing evil need to repent of their sins and follow the Way of Salvation that God has provided, His one and only Son, Jesus Christ, to avoid being with those who do evil forever and enjoy the happiness that God wants to give to all who will obey Him.

© Copyright 2016 L.G. Parkhurst, Jr. You may reprint or reproduce *Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further* for not-for-profit use.