**Heaven and Earth**

**February 9-10, 2017**

Watch the Heaven and Earth video by The bible Project: found on [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zy2AQlK6C5k) or on [Bible Project Website](https://thebibleproject.com/product/heaven-earth-video/)

What stood out to you from the video? What are the ﬁrst things that come to mind when you think about heaven? What stood out to you about the relationship between Heaven and Earth? The video states that “*the union of heaven and earth is what the story of the bible is all about*” do you think this is true, and if so, what does it mean to you?

*Revelation 21: 3-4 “ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “ Behold the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”*

Are you excited to go to heaven or scared? Have you ever thought of heaven in the way Revelations 21:3-4 describes it?

*Heaven and Earth are depicted as distinct but overlapping dimensions of divine space and human space.*

Read:

Genesis 28: 10-17- Jacob’s dream of angels at Bethel

Exodus 3:1-6- Moses’ encounter with God at the burning bush

Exodus 19:9-12- Moses encounter with God’s presence on Mt Sinai

What do you make of these Biblical passages that show heaven and earth as overlapping spaces? Is it a new concept for you? What are its implications?

 *In the Bible these overlapping spaces of heaven and earth or where God dwells are ﬁrst associated with temples, then Jesus, then Christ followers.*

Read: passages below, that pertain to God dwelling in the temple.

Exodus 29: 42-46- God says the express purpose of the temple is to dwell among and meet his people

Exodus 29: 42-46- Solomon acknowledges that God’s presence ﬁlls all of creation, however he has chosen to become uniquely present in his chosen temple in Jerusalem// 1 Kings 8:27-30

Based on the holiness study, why did God choose to dwell in the temple?

Read: passages below, that pertain to God dwelling in Christ.

John 1: 14- “Made his dwelling” is intentionally connecting to

Exodus 29: 44-46

John 2: 18-22- Jesus clears the Jerusalem temple and claims that he is the temple

What are the implications of Christ becoming the temple where God dwells? What does that mean for us?

Read: the passages below, that pertain to God dwelling among his followers by the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 2: 19-22- The church is the temple

1 Peter 2:4-5- Followers of Jesus as Stones in the temple

How do these verses change the way you view yourself? We are made holy and God is able to dwell inside of us (sinners) because of Christ. Do you ﬁnd this idea difﬁcult or easy to accept? What are your thoughts on the evolution of where God resides/where heaven and earth collide?

*New Creation is a rejoining of heaven and earth.*

Read: Philippians 1: 21-24; 2 Corinthians 5:6-9 -The Christian’s ultimate destiny is resurrection in the new creation.

Do you ﬁnd it easy or difﬁcult to have the mindset we see in these passages?

Read: Revelation 21

The Bible ends with the heavenly presence of God being fully rejoined and integrated into earth. How does this passage describe heaven? Did you read any new aspects of heaven that you had not thought about before?

*Conclusion* How can you apply what you have learned in this study to your life? Do you have greater appreciation of God, who chooses to dwell inside of you? Are you actively pursuing pockets of heaven and earth colliding by sharing the gospel with friends and family who do not know Him?

References:

 *Ideas and quotes from this study were taken from The Bible Project study on Heaven and Earth.*