

Week 16 – Questions to Consider

Psalm 46 ~ Psalm 47 ~ Psalm 48 ~ Proverbs 11:1-15

Small Group Warm Up Question:

What Bible book do you want to study and understand better?

1. Looking over Proverbs 11:1-15, what verse is most helpful to you, why? What are some of your favorite contrasts between the “righteous” and the “wicked”?
2. How would you define “pride”? Why is pride so dangerous? (Proverbs 11:2). When was a time that God gave you the gift of humility?
3. What does it mean that “when the wicked dies, his hope will perish”? (Proverbs 11:7) How is that different for the believer?
4. How would you define “gossip”? In what ways does it put down others? Why is gossip so hard to stop? How is Proverbs 11:12-13 helpful in confronting the temptation to gossip?
5. What are some scary storms you’ve been caught in before? Where do you go when you expect danger from a storm? Why? What is it like to be caught in “the open” in a storm?
6. What are some “spiritual storms” we can get caught in during life? In what ways is God “our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” (Psalm 46:1) during those times?
7. What sort of situations are described in Psalm 46:2-3? Why would these scenarios naturally provoke fear? What situations in life tempt you towards fear? How can a follower of God have confidence even in such frightening situations?
8. How is sitting by a river so refreshing, peaceful, & comforting? In what ways does God’s grace bring us gladness and rest? (Ps46:4-7)
9. When does world news trouble and concern you? How does Psalm 46:6-7 instruct us when we think about the world situations around us?
10. What does it look like to “be still” and “know that I am God”? In what ways do you think God is teaching you to be more “still” before Him? What needs to change in your life to experience His fortress-like peace? (Psalm 46:10-11)
11. When was the last time you clapped your hands? Why? When was the last time you shouted out loud with joy? Why? Who does Psalm 47 call to clap and shout with joy? Why?
12. What is your favorite praise song? Psalm? Why? How is God growing you through your time in the Psalms this year? (Ps47:6-7)

More questions @ www.southfork.church/psalms-proverbs-discussion-guide

From Zion to Heaven

Psalm 48

Zion = Jerusalem = City of God Zion -> New Jerusalem = Heaven

“For here we have no lasting city,
but we seek the city that is to come.”

Hebrews 13:14

Zion Is D_____ to Be All About God: Heaven Is All About God

[1] Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised in the city of our God! His holy mountain, [2] beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the earth, Mount Zion, in the far north, the city of the great King.

- Revelation 14:1 "Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father’s name written on their foreheads."
- Revelation 21:1–2 “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. [2] And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.”

Zion D_____ God’s Strength: Heaven Is an Indestructible City

[3] Within her citadels God has made himself known as a fortress. [4] For behold, the kings assembled; they came on together. [5] As soon as they saw it, they were astounded; they were in panic; they took to flight. [6] Trembling took hold of them there, anguish as of a woman in labor. [7] By the east wind you shattered the ships of Tarshish.

- Revelation 21:3 “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.’”

Zion T_____ of God's Forever Goodness: Heaven Is God's Forever Goodness

[8] As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the LORD of hosts, in the city of our God, which God will establish forever. Selah

- Revelation 21:4 “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.”

Zion O_____ God's Amazing Love & Truth: Heaven Is God's Pure Love & Truth

[9] We have thought on your steadfast love, O God, in the midst of your temple.

- Revelation 21:5 “And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

Zion Is an E_____ Monument to Glorify God: Heaven Is an Eternal Fountain of God's Glory

[10] As your name, O God, so your praise reaches to the ends of the earth. Your right hand is filled with righteousness.

- Revelation 21:6 “And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.”

Zion T_____ Protects God's People: Heaven Is An Irrevocable Inheritance

[11] Let Mount Zion be glad! Let the daughters of Judah rejoice because of your judgments!

- Revelation 21:7 “The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.”

Zion Warns & Encourages the Next Generation: Heaven Is Entered Only Thru Faith in Jesus

[12] Walk about Zion, go around her, number her towers, [13] consider well her ramparts, go through her citadels, that you may tell the next generation [14] that this is God, our God forever and ever. He will guide us forever. (ESV)

- John 12:15 “Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!”
- Romans 9:32–33 “Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, [33] as it is written, ‘Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.’”
- Revelation 21:8 “But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.
- Revelation 21:22–27 And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. [23] And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. [24] By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, [25] and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. [26] They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. [27] But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

This Next Week's Psalms & Proverbs Reading Plan:

Week 17: Psalm 49 ~ Psalm 50 ~ Psalm 51 ~ Proverbs 11:16-31

- **Hope & Purpose in Jesus:** www.southfork.church/jesus
- **Daily Verse by Text Message:** remind.com/join/sfbcdevo
- **Our Plan:** www.southfork.church/2023-bible-reading-plan

From Zion to Heaven

Psalm 48

Zion = Jerusalem = City of God Zion -> New Jerusalem = Heaven

“For here we have no lasting city,
but we seek the city that is to come.”

Hebrews 13:14

Zion Is Designed to Be All About God: Heaven Is All About God

[1] Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised in the city of our God! His holy mountain, [2] beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the earth, Mount Zion, in the far north, the city of the great King.

- Revelation 14:1 "Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads."
- Revelation 21:1–2 "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. [2] And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband."

Zion Displays God's Strength: Heaven Is an Indestructible City

[3] Within her citadels God has made himself known as a fortress. [4] For behold, the kings assembled; they came on together. [5] As soon as they saw it, they were astounded; they were in panic; they took to flight. [6] Trembling took hold of them there, anguish as of a woman in labor. [7] By the east wind you shattered the ships of Tarshish.

- Revelation 21:3 "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.'"

Zion Testifies of God's Forever Goodness: Heaven Is God's Forever Goodness

[8] As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the LORD of hosts, in the city of our God, which God will establish forever.

Selah

- Revelation 21:4 "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."

Zion Overflows God's Amazing Love & Truth: Heaven Is God's Pure Love & Truth

[9] We have thought on your steadfast love, O God, in the midst of your temple.

- Revelation 21:5 "And he who was seated on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.'"

Zion Is an Earthly Monument to Glorify God: Heaven Is an Eternal Fountain of God's Glory

[10] As your name, O God, so your praise reaches to the ends of the earth. Your right hand is filled with righteousness.

- Revelation 21:6 "And he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.'"

Zion Temporarily Protects God's People: Heaven Is An Irrevocable Inheritance

[11] Let Mount Zion be glad! Let the daughters of Judah rejoice because of your judgments!

- Revelation 21:7 "The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son."

Zion Warns & Encourages the Next Generation: Heaven Is Entered Only Thru Faith in Jesus

[12] Walk about Zion, go around her, number her towers, [13] consider well her ramparts, go through her citadels, that you may tell the next generation [14] that this is God, our God forever and ever. He will guide us forever. (ESV)

- John 12:15 “Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!”
- Romans 9:32–33 “Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, [33] as it is written, ‘Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.’”
- Revelation 21:8 “But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.
- Revelation 21:22–27 And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. [23] And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. [24] By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, [25] and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. [26] They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. [27] But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

Revelation 21:10–14

[10] And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, [11] having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. [12] It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed—[13] on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. [14] And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. (ESV)

Revelation 21:22–27

[22] And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. [23] And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. [24] By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, [25] and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. [26] They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. [27] But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life. (ESV)