

THE SEED WAR TRILOGY

The Hope of Heaven



A guided map through resurrection, renewed creation,
Revelation 21–22, and the hope of God's presence

30 KEY PASSAGES • VISUAL TIMELINE • READING GUIDE

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New Jerusalem • Artistic interpretation

READ THE BIBLE'S HOPE AS ONE STORY

Heaven is often reduced to a vague afterlife. Scripture's picture is larger: God dwells with His people, the dead are raised, evil is judged, creation is renewed, and the nations walk in God's light. This guide helps you follow that movement without rushing past the text.

"Behold, I make all things new."

— REVELATION 21:5

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

1

Open the passage.

Use your preferred Bible translation. Read the paragraph around each reference, not just a single verse.

2

Observe before interpreting.

Circle repeated words, note who is acting, and identify what changes between the beginning and end of the scene.

3

Connect the whole story.

Ask how the passage relates to resurrection, judgment, renewed creation, God's presence, and the people of God.

4

Respond with hope.

Write one belief to strengthen, one fear to surrender, and one practice that expresses faithful expectation.

A NOTE ABOUT INTERPRETATION

Christians agree on the return of Christ, resurrection, judgment, and God's final victory, while differing about the sequence of some events. This guide follows the broad canonical arc and avoids date-setting.

THE GUIDING QUESTION

As you read, keep asking: *What does this passage reveal about God's presence, God's purpose for creation, and the life of His redeemed people?*

The Bible's Arc of Hope

With Christ after death. Raised with Him when He returns.
At home with God in a creation made new.

“Behold, I make all things new.”

REVELATION 21:5 / KJV



FOUR ANCHORS TO KEEP IN VIEW

God's presence

Unbroken communion with God.

Revelation 21:3

Renewed creation

New heavens and a new earth.

2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:1

Bodily resurrection

Raised and transformed in Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:42-54

Justice and healing

Death and evil do not have the final word.

Revelation 21:4, 8; 22:2-3

Read the passages in context. This map shows the ministry's broad reading of Christian hope, not a detailed timetable. Christians differ on the sequence of some events; the illustrations are symbolic.



03 / 30 KEY PASSAGES

Promise & Presence

An imaginative portrayal of reunion, belonging, and embodied joy; not a literal depiction of heaven.

These passages answer the first question of Christian hope: not merely “Where will I be?” but “With whom will I be?”

01 John 14:1–3

What does Jesus promise?

Jesus prepares a place and will gather His people to Himself. The heart of the promise is personal communion with Christ.

03 2 Corinthians 5:1–8

How does Paul face death?

Paul contrasts our present mortality with God’s lasting provision and longs to be at home with the Lord.

05 Hebrews 11:13–16

What country did faith seek?

The faithful confessed they were strangers and desired the better country God prepared for them.

02 Luke 23:39–43

What hope can be immediate?

Jesus assures the repentant criminal of being with Him in paradise, grounding hope in Christ’s mercy rather than human merit.

04 Philippians 1:21–23

Why can death be gain?

Paul’s desire to depart and be with Christ shows the believer’s conscious, Christ-centered hope beyond death.

06 Psalm 16:8–11

Where is fullness of joy?

The psalm locates enduring joy and life in God’s presence, a promise the New Testament connects with resurrection.

Journal: Which promise most directly speaks to a fear or longing you carry today? Why?



04 / 30 KEY PASSAGES

Resurrection & Embodied Life

The empty tomb at dawn · Artistic interpretation inspired by Matthew 28:1–6.

The New Testament's hope is concrete. God does not discard His people; He raises and transforms them.

07 Job 19:23–27

What does Job expect to see?

In the midst of suffering, Job anchors hope in a living Redeemer and the astonishing expectation of seeing God.

09 1 Corinthians 15:35–44

What kind of body is raised?

Paul uses seed imagery: continuity with what is sown, yet transformation into an imperishable, glorious body.

11 Philippians 3:20–21

What will Christ transform?

The returning Savior transforms our lowly bodies to be like His glorious body by His sovereign power.

08 Daniel 12:1–3

Who awakens from the dust?

Daniel points to resurrection, judgment, and the lasting radiance of those who lead others toward righteousness.

10 1 Corinthians 15:50–54

What happens to mortality?

At the last trumpet, the dead are raised and God clothes His people with immortality; death is swallowed up in victory.

12 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

How should believers grieve?

Christian grief is real but not hopeless: Christ returns, the dead in Christ rise, and His people are forever with Him.

Journal: How does bodily resurrection change the way you view aging, illness, grief, or care for the body?



05 / 30 KEY PASSAGES

Renewed Creation

A restored creation · Artistic interpretation of peace, fruitfulness, and life made new.

Biblical hope does not treat creation as disposable. God's victory reaches bodies, communities, and the created world.

13 Isaiah 11:1–9

What does Messiah's reign restore?

Righteous judgment and deep peace reach the created order; the earth is filled with the knowledge of the Lord.

15 Isaiah 65:17–25

What marks the renewed world?

Joy, fruitfulness, security, meaningful labor, and peace fill Isaiah's portrait of new heavens and a new earth.

17 Romans 8:18–25

What is creation waiting for?

Creation groans in hope of liberation, while believers await adoption's completion—the redemption of our bodies.

Journal: Which feature of renewed creation most expands your picture of God's salvation?

14 Isaiah 25:6–9

What feast does God prepare?

God's victory is pictured as a feast for all peoples, the swallowing up of death, and the wiping away of tears.

16 Isaiah 66:22–23

How enduring is God's new creation?

The new heavens and the new earth endure before God, and worship extends across the whole human family.

18 2 Peter 3:10–13

What should hope produce now?

The promised new heavens and new earth call believers to holiness, peace, patience, and lives shaped by righteousness.



06 / 30 KEY PASSAGES

New Jerusalem & the Peoples of God

New Jerusalem · An imaginative cityscape, not a literal architectural plan (Revelation 21–22).

Revelation's final city is both place and people: God's dwelling, the Lamb's bride, and the home of a redeemed multitude.

19 Hebrews 12:22–24

What community do believers approach?

Zion is pictured as a joyful assembly gathered around God, Christ the mediator, and a kingdom that cannot be shaken.

21 Revelation 19:6–9

Why is the future a wedding feast?

The marriage supper celebrates the Lamb's victory, covenant joy, and the prepared people who belong to Him.

23 Revelation 21:22–27

What fills the city with light?

God and the Lamb are its temple and light; the nations walk by that light and bring their glory into the city.

20 Revelation 7:9–17

Who gathers before the throne?

A countless, multiethnic people worship God; hunger, thirst, scorching heat, and tears are finally answered.

22 Revelation 21:9–21

What does the holy city reveal?

The radiant New Jerusalem portrays God's people in covenant fullness—secure, beautiful, ordered, and filled with divine glory.

24 Revelation 22:1–5

What flows from God's throne?

The river and tree of life picture unending life, healing, service, God's visible presence, and the reign of His servants.

Journal: What do the city, garden, temple, bride, and feast images each contribute to the final picture?



07 / 30 KEY PASSAGES

Judgment, Invitation & Fulfillment

The father welcomes his returning son · Artistic interpretation of Luke 15:20–24.

God's final victory includes both justice and grace. The Bible closes with sober accountability and a free invitation to life.

25 Matthew 25:31–46

What does the King bring to light?

Jesus depicts final judgment as personal, public, and morally serious; allegiance to the King is revealed in lived mercy.

27 Revelation 20:11–15

Why does final judgment matter?

No evil is hidden and no life is insignificant before God. Death itself is judged and removed from the future.

29 Revelation 22:12–17

How does the Bible's final invitation sound?

The coming Judge also gives a gracious invitation: the thirsty may receive the water of life without price.

Journal: Where does this final vision bring comfort—and where does it call you to repentance or action?

26 John 5:24–29

Who has authority to judge and raise?

The Son gives life and executes judgment. His voice will summon the dead, displaying His divine authority.

28 Revelation 21:1–5

What is made new?

God dwells with humanity; death, mourning, crying, and pain pass away as the One on the throne makes all things new.

30 1 John 3:1–3

How does future likeness shape us now?

Those who hope to see Christ as He is pursue purity in the present, living as God's beloved children.

WHAT WILL WE DO IN GOD'S NEW CREATION?

Scripture gives us anchors rather than an exhaustive itinerary. These promised activities are enough to replace the caricature of an endless, passive existence.

SEE

We will see God's face.

Revelation 22:4 — Unbroken communion replaces distance, shame, and concealment.

SERVE

We will serve God.

Revelation 22:3 — Service remains, but the curse, frustration, and corruption that distort it are gone.

REIGN

We will reign with God.

Revelation 22:5 — Human vocation is restored under God's wise and life-giving rule.

WORSHIP

We will delight in God.

Revelation 7:9–12 — Worship is the full-hearted recognition of God's beauty, victory, and worth.

FEAST

We will celebrate together.

Isaiah 25:6–9; Revelation 19:9 — The future is pictured as shared abundance, covenant joy, and welcome.

BELONG

We will live as one redeemed people.

Revelation 7:9; 21:24–26 — Distinct peoples bring their glory into a reconciled, holy community.

CREATE

We will inhabit a fruitful world.

Isaiah 65:21–23 — Scripture's imagery includes building, planting, enjoyment, and meaningful fruitfulness.

REST

We will be free from the curse.

Revelation 14:13; 22:3 — Biblical rest is not emptiness; it is completed work, secure belonging, and unhindered life.

Keep the center centered: The deepest promise is not an activity list. It is this: "They will see his face" (Revelation 22:4).

REVELATION 21: ALL THINGS NEW

Read the chapter once without stopping. Then return to each movement below. Record what disappears, what appears, who speaks, and how God’s presence reshapes the scene.

21:1–4	New creation and God’s dwelling. List every “no more” statement. What positive reality takes the place of each loss?
21:5–8	The throne speaks. Mark the promises, the invitation to the thirsty, and the warning. What do they reveal about God’s character?
21:9–14	The bride becomes a city. Notice the mixture of people, place, covenant, and beauty. Why might all four be needed?
21:15–21	Measured glory and security. What do the measurements, foundations, gates, and costly materials communicate beyond literal size?
21:22–27	God and the Lamb are its light. What is absent from the city? What remains of nations, culture, honor, holiness, and access?

OBSERVE THE CONTRASTS

THE FORMER ORDER	THE NEW ORDER
Sea as chaos and threat	Creation made secure under God’s rule
Death, mourning, crying, pain	God’s presence and comfort
Night, impurity, deception	Divine light, holiness, truth
Closed access through sin	Open gates for those written in the Lamb’s book

Write one sentence that captures the chapter’s central announcement:

REVELATION 22: LIFE, WORSHIP & INVITATION

The Bible closes by returning to garden imagery, but the story has moved forward into a radiant city. The final chapter joins restored life, faithful service, urgent expectation, and grace.

1

22:1–2 — River and tree

Trace the source of life. What has been restored from Eden, and what is added for the healing of the nations?

2

22:3–5 — No curse; face-to-face service

Underline what God's servants do and receive. How do worship, identity, light, and reign fit together?

3

22:6–11 — A trustworthy and urgent word

Why is the prophecy not sealed? What kind of readiness does the nearness of Christ's coming require?

4

22:12–15 — Reward, identity, and access

How do Jesus' titles frame His authority over creation, history, and final accountability?

5

22:16–17 — The Spirit and the bride say, Come

Notice both directions of "Come": longing for Christ and inviting the thirsty to receive life.

6

22:18–21 — Guard the word; live by grace

How do warning, promise, prayer, and grace form a fitting conclusion to all Scripture?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Which image in Revelation 21–22 most corrects your previous picture of heaven? ☐
2. What do the chapters say explicitly—and what questions do they leave open? ☐
3. How do God's throne and the Lamb shape every part of the final vision? ☐
4. What present habit would make sense if this future is true? ☐
5. Who in your life needs the chapter's invitation to the thirsty? ☐

FROM FUTURE HOPE TO PRESENT FAITHFULNESS

Biblical hope is not speculation for its own sake. It strengthens endurance, purifies desire, produces worship, and sends God's people into the world with courage and invitation.

A TRUTH TO BELIEVE

What does this study show you about God's character or promise?

A FEAR TO SURRENDER

Which anxiety about death, judgment, loss, or the future can you bring to Christ?

A HOPE TO PRACTICE

How could resurrection hope change your work, relationships, generosity, grief, or care for creation this week?

A PERSON TO ENCOURAGE

Who needs a Scripture, conversation, prayer, or practical act of hope from you?

A simple prayer: God of hope, fix my eyes on Christ. Teach me to live today in the light of resurrection, justice, renewed creation, and Your promised presence. Make me faithful, courageous, holy, and generous. Amen.

LET THE FINAL VISION SHAPE THE PRESENT

The Bible's final hope is not an invitation to escape faithfulness. It is a summons to patient endurance, holy imagination, costly love, and confident witness.

THREE WAYS TO KEEP GOING

READ	Return to Revelation 21–22 once a week for the next month. Each time, focus on a different theme: presence, justice, beauty, community, or mission.
EXPLORE	Read the complete long-form study, <i>New Heaven, New Earth</i> , at theseedwartrilogy.com/new-heaven-new-earth/ .
SHARE	Invite a friend or small group to work through the 30 passages. Compare observations before consulting commentaries.

“The Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who hears say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who is thirsty come.”

— REVELATION 22:17

THE SEED WAR TRILOGY

Biblical imagination for the unseen war—and the promised world to come.

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