

Monday

## Revelation 21:1–4, 22:1–5

The Bible gives us a detailed description of the heaven. It calls it a holy city, a new earth. We have a beautiful description of what eternity will be like. But instead of God telling us what heaven is, what it's like, or what's there, God tells us what is not in heaven. We've never experienced perfection. We don't really know what it's like to not suffer or to not sin, so describing heaven to us is like describing a rainbow to a blind person. So God tells us what is not in heaven. He tells us there will be no more crying, no more loss, no more pain, no more bad anything. You will never sin again. The best part about heaven, God tells us, is that we will be with him. We will no longer be separated from God, the one who loves us the most. Heaven is full of the glory of God, and we will be in his presence forever. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death is gone for good--tears gone, crying gone, pain gone.

Lord Jesus, thank you for being my Savior and opening and promising heaven for me. I want to live with you forever. Forgive me for what I have done wrong, and help me to walk with you every day.  
Amen.

Tuesday  
**John 13:1–17**

While Jesus and his disciples were away from home in Jerusalem, they gathered to celebrate the Passover. The Passover was the biggest holiday of the year, and they weren't going to let the fact that they were away from home stop them from celebrating it.

Peter and John found a place available for their group to gather. Peter and John also prepared that room for their celebration and their meal. They laid out a table and put couches at it where Jesus and the twelve would recline while eating – as was the custom in those days. They also brought in basins and towels so all could wash before the meal. Usually the host of a meal like this would have a servant who would wash the guests' dusty feet as they arrived. This time there was no such servant, nor was there really even a host, for they were all just borrowing the room for the night.

As the group arrived, Jesus took a towel, poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet. This washing was something that everyone would have expected to happen before the meal, but no one was willing to do it. There was too much pride in their hearts. Now they saw their master, their Lord doing this humblest of service. Nobody knew who in the group should have been the one to wash everyone's feet. But everyone knew that Jesus was the last one who should have been doing it.

The disciples were still expecting Jesus to set up an earthly kingdom, and still scheming over who would be the greatest in Jesus' earthly kingdom. They were still set on attaining earthly glory and having Jesus do that for them. But instead, he's acting like a servant and washing their feet.

Peter couldn't stand it. When Jesus came to him to wash his feet, Peter cried, "You shall never wash my feet!"

"If I do not wash you," said Jesus, "you have no part with me."

At this Peter answered, "Lord, not my feet only, but you must wash all of me."

By doing this, Jesus set an example that no one is too important to serve the people around them. Thanks be to God that he views people that way. God lowered himself and lived a humble life as a man named Jesus to live as we are supposed to live, to wash our souls, and to save us.

- **Are you willing to wash anybody's feet?**

Close with prayer

Wednesday  
**John 1:29–34**

Each year in the spring we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. What a great day it was when Jesus rose from the dead. The very worst day on earth must have been the day that Jesus died. He was betrayed and killed by his own people, the Israelites--the people he loved and came to save. Jesus knew that all of these things would happen though. He is God in human form. He knew before he came to earth that he would die that way. The Bible teaches that Jesus is the Lamb of God. Because Jesus is a pure and holy man, he was the perfect sacrifice for sins. Because Jesus is true God, his sacrifice is enough to count for all of our sins. This was a sacrifice God knew would take place when Adam and Eve first sinned. Jesus willingly laid down his life for us all.

The Bible tells us quite a bit about sacrifice. Many years ago, the Israelites used to sacrifice animals for their sins. These sacrifices were to be a covering for their sins. Hundreds of years of sacrifices of lambs and rams and bulls all pictured and pointed to the one who would come one day to be sacrificed once and for all to take away the sin of the world. That was Jesus. People would bring their animals to sacrifice. They would bring the very best of what they had, the very best cattle or the very best lambs, as sacrifices to God. These sacrifices were to be healthy, valuable, and without blemish. God commanded this after he delivered them out of Egypt. God planned for Jesus to be his final sacrifice for all of us.

Jesus is the sacrifice that saves everyone in the world who would only trust him. It is true that Jesus' own people betrayed him and did not trust him. But God also knew that would happen. He still wanted to reach out to the whole world and provide his son, his very best, so that we could know him and be with him. God wanted us to know that he loves us so much that he was willing to give up his own son for us.

Jesus was born into this world and laid down his life for every one of us. A pure and perfect sacrifice so we could have eternal life. And then, three days later, he rose from the dead. He showed that he is more powerful than sin and death. And now 2000 years later he wants us, his disciples to go and tell everyone this wonderful "good news" that Jesus died for us and has risen from the dead. "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

• **Why did Jesus have to die on the cross?**

Close with prayer

Thursday

## Leviticus 16:3–34

Have you ever heard of a scapegoat? When a group of people are in trouble for doing something bad and only one person takes the wrap for the whole group, that person is acting as the scapegoat. Or when someone knows that they've done something wrong and they deserve to be punished but they just blame someone else instead, that's treating someone like a scapegoat.

A scapegoat is something that comes from the Bible. Once a year, the Israelite people would expel a living goat from their camp. They did this because God told them to. The high priest would place his hands on the goat. Then the priest would confess the sins on behalf of all the people of Israel. This was to be understood as a symbol of transferring all the sin of the people onto the goat. This scapegoat, bearing the sin of the people, would be shewed away into the wilderness never to be seen again. The goat would eventually likely be eaten by a wild animal, but what God was trying to tell the people when they did this every year was, "I take your sin away, and you do not ever need to worry about it again. Your sin is dead and gone. Trust me." The sacrificed goat perished. The scapegoat took away the impurities and sins to the wilderness. The scapegoat pictures Jesus who bore our sins, and by taking them away, frees us from the guilt of our sins.

Jesus is our scapegoat. God put our sin on Jesus, so he could take it away and die, so that our sin is no longer in the way between us and God.

Close with prayer

Friday  
**Isaiah 53:3–8**

He was despised and rejected by mankind,  
a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.  
Like one from whom people hide their faces  
he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.  
Surely he took up our pain  
and bore our suffering,  
yet we considered him punished by God,  
stricken by him, and afflicted.  
But he was pierced for our transgressions,  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,  
and by his wounds we are healed.  
We all, like sheep, have gone astray,  
each of us has turned to our own way;  
and the Lord has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all.  
He was oppressed and afflicted,  
yet he did not open his mouth;  
he was led like a lamb to the slaughter,  
and as a sheep before its shearers is silent,  
so he did not open his mouth.  
By oppression and judgment he was taken away.  
Yet who of his generation protested?  
For he was cut off from the land of the living;  
for the transgression of my people he was punished.

Those words are talking about Jesus. The prophet Isaiah wrote them 700 years before Jesus was born.

Jesus was betrayed even by his friends. They fled from the horror of his arrest and cross. His sorrows were not his alone, but the sorrows of condemnation of all people. Grievances – illness, loss, suffering – these are the consequences of sin. His griefs are not due reward for his deeds, for this man had done nothing wrong. No one could even bear to look at his pain and suffering. Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

- **What do these verses from Isaiah 53 mean? (What is God telling us and teaching us here?)**
- **What do these words of Isaiah lead you to repent?**
- **For what do they lead you to give thanks to God?**
- **What do these words make you want to ask from God?**

Close with prayer