



**Life Group Questions**  
midlandevangelicalfreechurch  
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Date: October 3, 2021

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 3:16-4:6

Recap:

1. Ecclesiastes 1 = An Eternal Perspective: Live today, *FOR* forever.
2. Ecclesiastes 2 = Portion (Pie): Accept & Enjoy.
3. Ecclesiastes 3:1-15 = Gift (Birthday): Share & Enjoy.
4. Ecclesiastes 3:16-4:06 = How to Pass the Test

How does God test Abraham (Genesis 22)?

- Did he pass?
- If so, how?
- How does that translate to today?
- How did God reward Abraham for believing His promise?

Did God-the-Father test God-the-Son?

- Did he pass?
- If so, how?
- How does that translate to today?
- How did the Father demonstrate his affirmation of Jesus as the Only begotten son of God<sup>i</sup> and king of the world?
- How is the Father currently rewarding the Son for believing His promise?
- How will the Father reward the Son in the future for the Son's obedience?



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What is God like?

- Please name some of his unique attributes.

How does the above (God's Nature) influence our understanding of God's promises?

- Please make a specific application for each attribute your group named.

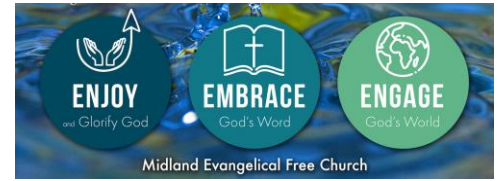
What does God promise to New Testament (New Covenant) believers?<sup>ii</sup>

- What do we receive from God immediately upon belief in Jesus?
- What do we receive from God constantly as we go through life?
- What do we receive from God in increasing proportion as we grow in our faith?
- What will we receive from God in all it's fullness in the future?
  - Please try to name as many things as you can and then look at the end note below for any you may have missed.
  - Also, consider naming some things God does not promise in this life "Under the Sun" (Eccl).

How does all of this connect and relate to Ecclesiastes 3:14-4:6?

How does this speak to the issue of Injustice?

How does it inform the author's understanding of what happens after life?



<sup>i</sup> Affirming words and voice of God at Jesus' Baptism, Glory of the Transfiguration and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vocal Affirmation, by Resurrecting Christ the Father vindicated him after his martyrdom, then the Father exalted the Son to the Father's right hand, and is in the process of making such that eventually at the name of Jesus every knee will bow.

## <sup>ii</sup> Summary of **New Testament Promises**

Shortened, Abridged, Categorized, and edited for theological accuracy version of <http://www.cai.org/bible-studies/new-testament-promises>

### 1. Current

#### a. His Acceptance

- i. **Forgiveness of sin** (MATTHEW 1:21, (MATTHEW 6:14; MATTHEW 12:31; MATTHEW 18:35; MARK 11:25-26; LUKE 5:24; ACTS 10:43; ACTS 13:38-39; ACTS 26:18; ROMANS 3:25; ROMANS 4:7-8; EPHESIANS 1:7; COLOSSIANS 1:14; 1 JOHN 1:9; 1 JOHN 2:12)
- ii. **Adoption as sons and daughters** (GALATIANS 4:5-7, 31; EPHESIANS 1:5)
- iii. **Christ to be our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption** (1 CORINTHIANS 1:30)

#### b. New life

- i. **New birth** (1 PETER 1:23; 1 JOHN 5:1)
- ii. **Freedom** (JOHN 8:32,36) -
- iii. **with an eternal quality about it** (ROMANS 6:5-8) (MATTHEW 19:29; MARK 10:30; LUKE 18:29-30; JOHN 3:15-16,36; JOHN 4:14; JOHN 5:24; JOHN 6:27, note: JOHN 6:47,50,58; JOHN 8:51; JOHN 10:27-29; JOHN 20:31; ROMANS 2:7; ROMANS 6:22-23; TITUS 1:2; 1 JOHN 2:25; 1 JOHN 5:11-12)

#### c. **His Presence** - To experience the goodness of God via his abiding presence now (Matthew 28:18-20; John 14:23; 1 Corinthians 6:17-20)

- i. **Comfort** (MATTHEW 5:4; LUKE 6:21; 2 CORINTHIANS 1:4)

- ii. **Mercy** (LUKE 1:50)
- iii. **Joy** (LUKE 2:10-11; 1 PETER 4:13-14, Gal 5:22-23)
- iv. **Wisdom** (JAMES 1:5; LUKE 12:11-12, 21:15)
- v. **Guidance** (JOHN 16:13)
- vi. **Help in temptation** (HEBREWS 2:18) (ROMANS 5:17; ROMANS 8:37; 2 CORINTHIANS 2:14; 1 JOHN 5:4)
- vii. **Power, love, and a sound mind** (Eph. 4:19, 2 CORINTHIANS 13:4) (Eph. 3:16, Phil. 4:13, 2 CORINTHIANS 12:9) (2 TIMOTHY 1:7)
- viii. **Peace** (JOHN 14:27; JOHN 16:33, Phil. 4:7)

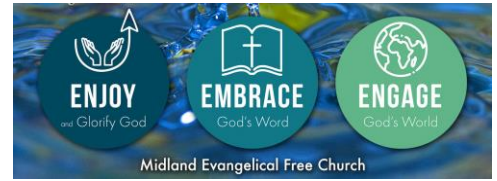
## 2. Future

- a. **Return of Jesus Christ** (REVELATION 22:7,12,20; cp. REVELATION 3:11)
- b. **The resurrection** (JOHN 5:28-29; JOHN 6:40,44,54; JOHN 14:19; ACTS 24:15; 1 CORINTHIANS 6:14; 1 CORINTHIANS 15:20-58; 2 CORINTHIANS 4:14; REVELATION 20:11-15)
- c. **Justice** (ROMANS 2:6,12-16; ROMANS 8:33; 1 CORINTHIANS 3:11-15; 1 CORINTHIANS 4:5; 1 CORINTHIANS 11:31)
- d. **New Heaven and New Earth** (2 PETER 3:13; REVELATION 21-22)  
All things new (REVELATION 21:5)
  - i. No more tears, death, sorrow, pain (REVELATION 7:17; REVELATION 21:4)
  - ii. Rest from hard labor (REVELATION 14:13, 21:3)
- e. **An eternal kingdom to Christ and His saints** (LUKE 1:32-33; LUKE 12:32; REVELATION 5:10; REVELATION 11:15; REVELATION 22:4-5)

### “Inheritance” - The Full Possession of our entire estate

Colossians 3:24 (NLT)<sup>24</sup> Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that **the Master you are serving is Christ.**

1 Peter 1:4, 13 (ESV)<sup>4</sup> an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>13</sup>Therefore...set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.



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Mark 9:41 (ESV)<sup>41</sup> For truly, I say to you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ will by no means lose his reward.

***“The Lord will Reward!”***

“a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time” (1 Peter 1:4)

1. not of past justification or
2. not of present sanctification (speaking in theological categories) but
3. of the future **full possession of [our entire estate i.e.] all the blessings of our redemption**—of the final, complete fulfillment of our salvation (cf. Rom. 13:11; 1 Pet. 2:2).

Though already ‘prepared’ or *ready*, it will not be *revealed* by God to mankind generally until the *last time*, the time of final judgment. Wayne A. Grudem, *1 Peter: An Introduction and Commentary*, vol. 17, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1988), 63–64.

John 14:1–3 (ESV) “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

The day of God when the universe will be remade is the day of the Lord Jesus, the day when he will be *revealed*. Edmund P. Clowney, *The Message of 1 Peter: The Way of the Cross*, The Bible Speaks Today (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1988), 53.

Our inheritance is not simply a land, a city, or even a new earth. It is all that God will give us; his salvation. Edmund P. Clowney, *The Message of 1 Peter: The Way of the Cross*, The Bible Speaks Today (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1988), 49.

***No More Sin!*** *We await grace that will only be ours when Christ returns, and presumably that grace will finish the sanctifying work so that believers can no longer sin (cf. 1 John 3:1–3).* Thomas R. Schreiner, *1, 2 Peter, Jude*, vol. 37, *The New American Commentary* (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2003), 78.

1 Corinthians 15:49 (ESV) Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.