



What In The World Is Going On Here? | Doug Wekenman | 7.5.20  
Weekly Study

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following question:

**Have you ever completed anything on your “bucket list”?**

SHARE

Welcome to our final week of Echoes of Eden. In this series, we are going back to the beginning because the first few chapters of the Bible answer some of life’s biggest questions. This week, Doug finished up the series by asking the question, “What in The World Is Going On Here?” We’ve all asked that question several times over the last few months, but before we go any further, take some time to check in with your Group by asking everyone to answer these questions:

**What is the best thing that happened to you this week?**

**What is one word you would use to describe your week? Why did you pick that word?**

**What is one word you would use to describe how your emotional state? Why did you pick that word?**

**What do you feel like God is currently teaching you?**

GROW

**Read Genesis 3:1-13**

**What has been your biggest take away from this series?**

**What is one new thing you've learned about Genesis 1-3 over the last few weeks?**

This week, Doug used several pictures to illustrate the big story of the Bible. Heaven and earth, which started as a single space, separated in Genesis 3. Our disobedience created a chasm between God and us that no human could ever overcome on their own.

God's space, or heaven, is full of His presence, goodness, beauty, justice, and peace. However, the human space is full of injustice, anxiety, and sin. In times like these, it's very easy to see this. Every time we turn on the news or jump on social media, it reminds us something is broken.

Fortunately, God did something to mend this. The Bible is the story of God bringing these two dimensions back together through the perfect sacrifice Jesus made on the cross. Jesus' death was the perfect sacrifice, made at the perfect moment, to perfect some very imperfect people. As the writer of Hebrews reminds us:

"If animal blood and the other rituals of purification were effective in cleaning up certain matters of our religion and behavior, think how much more the blood of Christ cleans up our whole lives, inside and out" Hebrews 9:14.

**Do you believe that the blood of Christ "cleans up your whole life"?**

**Do you ever have a hard time believing this story? Why do you think that is? What part do you get hung up on?**

M O V E

**Read Matthew 6:9-13**

**What do you know about this prayer? Why is it so important?**

**What stuck out to you from the Lord's Prayer? What do you think this prayer has to do with this topic?**

One of the best parts about following Jesus is we know the end of the story. Although these times can feel dark, lonely, and hopeless, we know where all of this is heading. Let's read about it together:

"After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes and held palm branches in their hands" (Revelation 7:9).

As Doug reminded us this week, one day, every tribe tongue and nation will be worshipping God together. That will be a joyous day, but until that day comes, we are invited to join in God's work here on earth.

You are on this earth for a reason. What you do now matters because you have a part to play in bringing heaven to earth. When Jesus gives us a model for prayer, right in the middle of the Sermon on The Mount, he invites us to pray, "your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10).

Jesus is inviting us to ask God to speed up the process of heaven and earth coming back together as one. This should revolutionize the way that we pray. We can ask that's God's Kingdom would come in our city, in our home, in our church, in our health, in our finances, in our relationships.

As followers of Jesus, the invitation is to MAKE HEAVEN MORE CROWDED by bringing heaven to earth!

N.T. Wright said it best: "Jesus's resurrection is the beginning of God's new project not to snatch people away from earth to heaven but to colonize earth with the life of heaven. That, after all, is what the Lord's prayer is all about."

**What is one practical way you can help bring heaven to earth this week?**

**What are your thoughts about the story arc of the Bible? What sort of emotions does it bring up for you?**

**Have you ever tried praying that God's Kingdom would come in your life? If so, what was the experience like?**

## P R A Y

We need prayer now more than ever. Spend some time sharing prayer requests. If you are in a coed group, consider breaking off into two separate calls to share more freely.

## T O G O

*After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes and held palm branches in their hands.*

Revelation 7:9