



HEAVEN EARTH

Heaven on Earth: Plot Twist

September 26th & 27th

Speaker: Heather Zempel

Scripture: Ephesians 2:11-22

Series Overview

Our identity, our authority is anchored in a dimension of reality called heaven. It is the domain of God's dominion — perfect harmony, true identity, full authority. Every blessing is ours in the heavenly realm (Ephesians 1:3). Heaven is invading earth right here, right now. How? With a supernatural demonstration of God's love and power and wisdom. As citizens of heaven, we represent the heavenly realm. The goal? On earth, as it is in heaven.

Series Discussion Questions

How did you witness heaven invading earth this week?

Message Overview

The Bible is full of plot twists and turns- a Hebrew baby raised in the house of Pharaoh delivers the Hebrews from Egypt, the shepherd with the sling defies the Philistine, the baby in the manger is God in human form, the crucified Jesus walks out of a tomb. But Jesus had one more plot twist up his sleeve-- the inclusion of the Gentiles into the promises and the blessing given to Abraham. God is not just at work to merge two worlds-- heaven and earth. He is also at work to merge two peoples-- the Jew and the Gentile-- into one family of God. The destiny of heaven on earth is dependent on the development of this new community. It will require deep awareness of the reconciling work of Jesus on the cross, a relentless pursuit of peace and unity, and a passionate commitment to demonstrating the character, ways, and mission of God to the world.

Message-Specific Discussion Questions

What is one of your absolute favorite plot twists (movie, book, show, etc.)?

Read Ephesians 2:11-22. What stands out to you, and why? What impacted you most from Pastor Heather's message?

Pastor Heather shared that, *"Being invited into the family of God required absolutely zero work on their part. Living as the family of God would take every ounce of energy they had."* Where is it taking every ounce of energy you must live as the family of God?

Which of the four principles of peacemaking (Ask anything, listen well, disagree freely, love regardless) most need to be implemented in your life? In what context?

Pastor Heather posed the question, *"Are we pursuing our own comfort or are we pursuing a new community?"* What is the difference? What does it look like for you to pursue comfort? What does it look like for you to pursue a new community?

Practical Application

- As you engage **The Letter to the Ephesians** this series, check out these resources recommended by Pastor Heather:
 - **BOOK:** *A Week in the Life of Ephesus* by David Arthur Desilva
 - **BOOK:** *Practice Resurrection* by Eugene Peterson
 - **BOOK:** *The Drama of Ephesians* by Timothy G. Gombis
 - **TOOL:** [Blue Letter Bible](#)
 - **PODCAST:** Windows into the Bible, [Episode 23: The Decisions of Paul](#)
 - **CLASS:** Udemy Class: [N. T. Wright Paul and His Letter to the Ephesians](#)

- Find a daily rhythm of connecting with God and with one another by committing to [NCC Daily](#), a new five-minute audio podcast to help you walk verse-by-verse through the book of Ephesians. Invite a few others to do so with you, connecting throughout the week via Marco Polo or a group text, or meeting together online or in person to discuss and debrief what you're learning.

- Climb the stairs to the [Upper Zoom](#) each Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 7:14am. Join us as we start our days in His presence together, listening intently, and responding in prayer. Register at ncc.re/UpperZoom.