

## DOCTRINE MATTERS: ESSENTIAL TRUTHS OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

### Message 30: The New Heaven and the New Earth: Our Final Destiny

#### Revelation 21:1 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

“Our whole education tends to fix our minds on this world...

When the real want for Heaven is present in us, we do not recognize it. Most people, if they had really learned to look into their own hearts, would know that they do want, and want acutely, something that cannot be had in this world. There are all sorts of things in this world that offer to give it to you, but they never quite keep their promise ...

If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world. - C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, 119

“The grand climax of God’s entire revelation and of all His purposes in creation is about to be unfolded. The most glorious chapters in the Bible are these last two chapters, opening up the wonders of the endless ages of eternity, and the fruition of all the great plans of a loving God.” - Henry M. Morris, *The Revelation Record*, 435

#### What we know:

We will live \_\_\_\_\_ with God in the New Heaven and Earth

#### Matthew 25:31-34 (ESV)

<sup>31</sup> “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne.

<sup>32</sup> Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. <sup>34</sup> Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

This is an entirely renewed \_\_\_\_\_!

#### Isaiah 65:17 (ESV)

<sup>17</sup> “For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.

There will be a \_\_\_\_\_ of heaven and earth in the new creation:

#### Revelation 21:2-3 (ESV)

<sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.

#### What is “heaven”?

“To be in resurrected bodies on a resurrected Earth in resurrected friendships, enjoying a resurrected culture with the resurrected Jesus—now that will be the ultimate party! Everybody will be who God made them to be—and none of us will ever suffer or die again. As a Christian, the day I die will be the best day I’ve ever lived. But it won’t be the best day I ever will live. Resurrection day will be far better. And the first day on the New Earth—that will be one big step for mankind, one giant leap for God’s glory.”

- Randy Alcorn, *Heaven*

#### Isaiah 66:1 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> Thus says the LORD: “**Heaven is my throne**, and the earth is my footstool; what is the house that you would build for me, and what is the place of my rest?”

#### 1 Peter 3:21-22 (ESV)

<sup>21</sup> ... Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup> who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

Heaven is a \_\_\_\_\_, not a “\_\_\_\_\_”.

**Acts 1:9-11 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup> And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, <sup>11</sup> and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

**Acts 7:55-56 (ESV)**

<sup>55</sup> But he (Stephen), full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup> And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

And, the very fact that we will have \_\_\_\_\_ like Jesus’ indicates that heaven will be a place, for in such physical bodies (made perfect, never to become weak or die again) we will inhabit a specific place at a specific time, just as Jesus now does in His resurrection body!

The New Heaven and New Earth is the culmination of God’s promised \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of all things.

Annihilation/Re-creation or Renewal?

4 reasons for \_\_\_\_\_:

- 1) The Greek ...  
*neos v. kainos*

**Revelation 21:1 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Then I saw a new\* heaven and a new\* earth ...

- 2) Redemption/Restoration in Roamns 8 ...

**Romans 8:18-21 (ESV)**

<sup>18</sup> For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup> For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

- 3) Christ’s victory or Satan’s?

- 4) Analogy of new heaven/earth and our resurrected bodies ...

Our resurrection bodies will be part of the renewed creation.

**Genesis 1:31 (ESV)**

<sup>31</sup> God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Remember ...

**Luke 14:15 (ESV)**

<sup>15</sup> When one of those who reclined at table with him heard these things, he said to him, “Blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!”

**Luke 22:18 (ESV)**

<sup>18</sup> “For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”

**Matthew 8:11 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup> I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven ...

**Revelation 19:9 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup> And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.”

**Revelation 22:2 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> ... through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

What are we going to do in heaven?

**Conclusion:** So, what now?

**Matthew 6:19-21 (ESV)**

<sup>19</sup> “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, <sup>20</sup> but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

<sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

A right view of eternity leads to ...

**2 Peter 3:11-13 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup> Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, **what sort of people ought you to be** in lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup> waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! <sup>13</sup> But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

A right view of eternity leads to ...

Theology is for **doxology** and **devotion**—that is, the praise of God and the practice of godliness.

- J.I. Packer

NEXT WEEK: **Doxology and Devotion:  
Living What We've Learned**