

Eschatology

The Eternal State He Makes All Things New

As we discussed last week, the White Throne Judgment not only bring an end to all rebellion against God, it also brings an end to life, as we know it now. Revelation 20:11 and 2 Peter 3:10-13 teaches us that this present earth and heaven will be destroyed by fire, thus God will un-create that which He created.

The Bible delineates three heavens (2Cor. 12:2). The first heaven is the earth's atmosphere (Gen. 1:20; Job 12:7; Ezek. 38:20); the second heaven is interplanetary and interstellar space (Gen. 15:5; 22:17; Deut. 1:10; 4:19; Ps.8:3; Isaiah 13:10); the third heaven is the dwelling place of God (Deut. 4:39; 1Kings 8:30; Job 22:12; Ps. 14:2; Dan. 2:28; Matt. 5:34; Acts 7:55).

John and Peter's description of "heaven passing away" is referring to the first heaven, which is part of the earth that must be destroyed because of sin.

<p>New Heavens</p> 	<p>The New Heavens and New Earth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Satan removed from further influence in history (Rev 20:10)• No longer any sea (Rev 21:1)• No longer any death, crying, or pain (Rev 21:4)• All things made new (Rev 21:1)• No longer any night (Rev 21:25)• No longer any unclean, nor those practicing abomination and lying (Rev 21:1)• No longer any curse (Rev 22:3)• No longer any sun (Rev 22:5)• Believers are able to see the Father face to face (Rev 22:4)
<p>New Jerusalem</p> 	
<p>New Earth</p> 	
<p>Lake of Fire</p> 	<p>The Lake of Fire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The eternal abode of Satan, the Antichrist, and the False Prophet (Rev 19:20, 20:10)• The eternal abode of all the human unbelievers throughout history (Rev 20:10)• It is an eternal lake of fire and brimstone (Rev 20:10)• All residents will be tormented day and night forever and ever (Rev 20:10)• It is an eternal, second death (Rev 20:14)

Revelation 21:1-8 details unfolds for us six features of the new heaven and new earth:

1. Its Appearance (22:1)

The phrase “new heaven and new earth” derives from two passages in Isaiah; 65:17 and 66:22. The new heaven and earth will not merely succeed the present universe. They will be brand-new and fresh. The first noticeable difference is that there is no sea. All life is currently dependant on water. But in the new earth will be dependant on the “water of life” (22:1, 17) instead.

2. Its Capital (21:2)

The “new Jerusalem” will be the capital of the new earth. The text is clear that it comes down from the third heaven and will be the dwelling place of God. The concept of a city includes relationships, activity, responsibility, unity, socialization, communion, and cooperation. Unlike the evil cities of the present earth, the people in the new Jerusalem will live together in perfect harmony.

3. Its Supreme Reality (21:3)

The reality that God will pitch His tent among His people’ no longer will God be far off and distant. No more will His presence be veiled in the human form of Jesus Christ. We will all see God as He is (John 3:2).

4. Its Uniqueness (21:4-6a)

Life will be dramatically different from anything we have known in this present world.

5. Its Residents (21:6b-7)

Two descriptive phrases reveal who will live in the new heaven and new earth. First is “one who thirsts.” That phrase signifies those who “hunger for righteousness (Matt. 5:6; Ps. 42:1; Isaiah 55: 1-2). Second is “one who overcomes.” An over-comer, according to 1John 5:4-5, is one who exercises saving faith in Jesus.

6. The Outcasts (21:8)

All those who rejected the gospel of Jesus, have rejected God, have been judged (white throne), and are forever in the Lake of Fire.