

Heaven – Our eternal home  
Part 1

Removing the curse

7/11/2010

Will the Earth and the entire universe be utterly destroyed, and the New Earth and new universe be made from scratch? Well, we seem to find an *apparent* contradiction in the Bible:

(Jesus said) “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.” Luke 21:33

“The day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.” 2 Pet 3:10

From these passages it would seem clear: “utterly destroyed.”

In contrast, we find these passages:

“He built his sanctuary like the heights, like the earth that he established forever.” Ps 78:69

“Generations come and generations go, but the earth remains forever.” Eccl. 1:4

From these passages it would seem clear: “the earth remains forever”

So which is it? “utterly destroyed” or “remains forever”?

I would like to propose that maybe it is BOTH.

Once the last martyr has died and Christ returns He will establish his 1,000 year reign on the earth. At the end of the 1,000 year reign, the devil will be released from the pit to deceive the nations. He will lead an army against God and his Holy City, Jerusalem. However, they will be defeated and God will throw him to hell and will in turn throw hell into the Lake of Fire. It is at this time that God brings Heaven and Earth together. One of the first things he does to make that happen is recorded in Rev. 22:3a:

“No longer will there be any curse.”

1. If God put the curse on the Earth, because of sin, God can remove the curse because of righteousness.

How did the curse affect what God had created?  
It separated man and creation from the Creator.

As a result everything bad that you can name came into existence.

2. When the curse is lifted, the old Earth, as we know it, that is, under the curse, will be will be totally destroyed.

This would be similar to a neutron bomb going off but instead of killing all the people and leaving everything else intact, it killed the curse.

“If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.” 1 Cor 3:12-15

That sounds like a fire to me but a different sort of fire, one that consumes the bad and leaves the good.

With the curse is lifted, we will see a totally new and restored earth and a heaven.

“He must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets.”  
Acts 3:21

3. The death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ is enough to redeem and rescue the Earth, just as it is enough to redeem and rescue mankind.

“Whatever sin has touched and polluted, Christ will redeem and cleanse. If redemption does not go as far as the curse of sin, then God has failed. Whatever the extent of the consequences of sin, so must the extent of redemption be.” Steve Lawson

We like to sing a song at Christmas, called Joy to the World. Issac Watts got it right in 1719 when he penned these words:

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And Heaven and nature sing,  
And Heaven and nature sing,  
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

“If God would have to annihilate the present cosmos, Satan would have won a great victory...Satan would have succeeded in so devastatingly corrupting the cosmos that it was beyond redemptions reach.”

“In his redemptive activity, God does not destroy the works of his hands, but cleanses them from sin and perfects them, so that they may finally reach the goal for which he created them...this principle means that the new earth to which we look forward will not be totally different from the present one, but will be renewal and glorification of the earth on which we now live.” Anthony Hoekema

Let's go back to Gen 2:14-16 and review what got cursed and will the curse be lifted?

A. The serpent – no way

“So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.” Gen 2:14

“And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.”  
Rev 20:10

B. Mankind – maybe

“But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...” Joshua 24:15

C. Earth – yes!

"Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life.” Gen 2:17b

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away...” Rev 21:1