

Heaven – Our eternal home  
Part 3

A new Earth  
8/1/2010

Because of the Glory of the resurrection, one day the curse that currently occupies every inch of the cosmos will be lifted. On that day it will be as if a fire swept through the cosmos. But it is a fire that will consume the bad (hay, wood and straw) and leave the good (gold, silver and costly stones). A new Heaven and a new Earth will be the result.

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

Four ideas that will help us understand what a new earth means:

1. A new song

“Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things;” Ps 98:1

When you hear these words – “a new song”, do you imagine some type of “spiritual-song”: without words, music, rhythm? Of course not, why? Because it won’t be a song.

2. A new car

If I promised you a new car, would you say, “If it’s new, it probably won’t have an engine, transmission, doors, wheels, stereo, or upholstery?” If it didn’t have these things, it won’t be a car.

3. A new creation

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” 2 Corinthians 5:17

When a person comes to faith in Christ, that person is said to be a “new creation”. Does the person still have a body? Can you recognize a person after they become a Christian? They are the same person but a different person.

“Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is a new creation.” Gal 6:15

4. A New Earth

will not be a non-Earth but a new Earth. The new Earth is the Earth that we know – with dirt, rocks, cities, water, mountains, flowers, animals, people, atmosphere, rivers, etc. An earth without these would not be Earth.

Without the earth people would be incomplete. Without people the Earth would be incomplete.

The first Earth serves as the prototype or pattern for the New Earth “...the first earth had passed away...” Rev 21:1

By calling the New Earth *Earth*, God emphatically tells us it will be earthly, and thus familiar. Otherwise why call it Earth?

Concerning our eternal home

We assume:

Non-Earth

Unfamiliar; other worldly

Disembodied

Foreign

What the Bible says:

New Earth

Familiar; earthly

Resurrected bodies

Home – all of the comforts of home with all of the innovations of an infinitely creative God

Leaving favorite things behind

Retaining the good; finding the best ahead

Boring

Fascinating

Absence of the terrible (but presence of little we desire)

Presence of the wonderful (Everything we desire and and nothing we don't)

All of these faulty assumptions about Eternal life, lead us to think of it in terms of existence that never comes to an end. And the existence it seems to imply-a sort of religious experience in the sky, which leaves us wondering if we would want it to go on forever.

But Jesus is quite clear that when he speaks of eternal life, what he means is life that is absolutely wonderful and can never be diminished or stolen from you. He says,

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10).

Not, "I have come to threaten you into line," or "I have come to exhaust you with a long list of demands." Not even, "I have come primarily to forgive you." But simply, My purpose is to bring you life in all its fullness.

Dallas Willard writes in *The Divine Conspiracy*, Jesus offers himself as God's doorway into the life that is truly life. Confidence in him leads us today, as in other times, to become his apprentices in eternal living. "Those who come through me will be safe," he said. "They will go in and out and find all they need. I have come into their world that they may have life, and life to the limit."

In other words, eternal life is not primarily duration but quality of life, "life to the limit." It cannot be stolen from us, and so it does go

on. But the focus is on the life itself. "In him was life," the apostle John said of Jesus, "and that life was the light of men" (John 1:4).

This new life, or life to the max, will be found on the new Earth, with resurrected people, living in fellowship with their God and others and serving Him. What God began in Gen 1-2 He will restore in Rev 21-22 to all of its former glory and more.