

What will the resurrected Earth
be like? Part 1
Will the new Earth be the
Garden of Eden all over?
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“Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him.”
Rev 22:1-3

1. Will the New Earth be a return to Eden?

Yes, because it will include the Garden of Eden.

No, because it will include a carryover of culture, nations, and everything that is good.

A young man is sick from infancy and is suddenly healed. Does he become a baby again? No. He's a healthy young man. He doesn't go back and start over from the point his health went bad. Rather, he continues from where he is, going on from there. He doesn't abandon the knowledge and skills he developed while he was ill. He's simply far more capable of using them now that he's been healed.

Music, knowledge, technology, art, sports, architecture

History won't start over with the New Earth.

When Adam and Eve were kicked out of the Garden of Eden:

They were the same people. The Bible doesn't say that their memories were erased, like a hard drive of a computer and they had to learn to walk, talk, and eat.

Likewise, when we are healed, we will not be starting over from “square one” because we now live on a new Earth.

2. Some fun facts about Eden

- Eden was not just a garden. It was an entire land of natural wonders.

A. Eden was the place where God wanted man to live.

“Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed.” Gen 2:8

B. Eden was a beautiful place loaded with food.

“And the LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food.”
Gen 2:9

C. It had a great river and abundant resources

10 A river watering the garden flowed from Eden; from there it was separated into four headwaters.

D. Tremendous natural resources

“The name of the first is the Pishon; it winds through the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold. (The gold of that land is good; aromatic resin and onyx are also there.) Gen 2:10-12

“Take two onyx stones and engrave on them the names of the sons of Israel in the order of their birth—six names on one stone and the remaining six on the other. Engrave the names of the sons of Israel on the two stones the way a gem cutter engraves a seal. Then mount the stones in gold filigree settings and fasten them on the shoulder pieces of the ephod as memorial stones for the sons of Israel. Aaron is to bear the names on his shoulders as a memorial before the LORD.” Ex 28:9-12

What would onyx stones memorialize? Eden

The onyx stones on the high priest's shoulders should serve to remind the people of Eden, the perfect Earth that should be kept alive in the hearts, dreams, and hopes of God's people. God wanted his people to look at the Temple and the high priest – a symbol of mankind reconciled to God – and to remember Eden, where people lived in communion with God. The stones suggested that in redeeming mankind, God would restore them to Eden.

“The LORD will surely comfort Zion and will look with compassion on all her ruins; he will make her deserts like Eden, her wastelands like the garden of the LORD. Joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the sound of singing.” Isaiah 51:3

3. What will the new nature be like?

A. We will see men and women as God intended.

“After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.” Matt 17:1-3

B. We will see animals as God intended.

“The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them.” Is. 11:6

C. We will see nature unchained and undiminished

We have only seen it cursed and decaying but we have seen a great deal that pleases and excites us.

If the “wrong side” of Heaven can be so beautiful, what will the right side look like?

If the smoking and devastated remains are so stunning, what will Earth look like when it's resurrected and made new, restored to the original?

On the New Earth we will see the real Earth, which includes the good things not only of God's natural creation but also of mankind's creative expression to God's glory. God is no more done with the Earth than he's done with us.

In *The Last Battle*, C. S. Lewis portrays the girl Lucy as she mourns the loss of Narnia, a great world created by Aslan, a beloved world that she assumed had been forever destroyed. Jewel the unicorn mourns too, calling his beloved Narnia “The only world I've ever known.”

Although Lucy and her family and friends are on the threshold of Aslan's country (Heaven), she still looks back at Narnia and feels a profound loss. But as she gets deeper into Aslan's country, she notices something totally unexpected. What happens next, I believe, reflects the biblical revelation of the New Earth:

“Those hills,” said Lucy, “the nice woody ones and the blue ones behind—aren't they very like the southern border of Narnia.” “Like!” cried Edmund after a moment's silence. “Why they're exactly like. Look, there's Mount Pire with his forked head, and there's the pass into Archenland and everything!”

“And yet they're not like,” said Lucy. “They're different. They have more colours on them and they look further away than I remembered and they're more. . . more. . . oh, I don't know...”

“More like the real thing,” said the Lord Digory softly.

Suddenly Farsight the Eagle spread his wings, soared thirty or forty feet up into the air, circled round and then alighted on the ground.

knew it till now. The reason why we loved the old Narnia is that it sometimes looked a little like this.”

“Kings and Queens,” he cried, “we have all been blind. We are only beginning to see where we are. From up there I have seen it all—Ettinsmuir, Beaversdam, the Great River, and Cair Paravel still shining on the edge of the Eastern Sea. Narnia is not dead. This is Narnia.

“But how can it be?” said Peter. “For Asian told us older ones that we should never return to Narnia, and here we are.”

“Yes,” said Eustace. “And we saw it all destroyed and the sun put out.”

“And it’s all so different,” said Lucy.

“The Eagle is right,” said the Lord Digory. “Listen, Peter. When Asian said you could never go back to Narnia, he meant the Narnia you were thinking of. But that was not the real Narnia. That had a beginning and an end. It was only a shadow or a copy of the real Narnia, which has always been here and always will be here: just as our own world, England and all, is only a shadow or copy of something in Aslan’s real world. You need not mourn over Narnia, Lucy. All of the old Narnia that mattered, all the dear creatures, have been drawn into the real Narnia through the Door. And of course it is different; as different as a real thing is from a shadow or as waking life is from a dream.”..

The difference between the old Narnia and the new Narnia was like that. The new one was a deeper country: every rock and flower and blade of grass looked as if it meant more. I can’t describe it any better than that: if you ever get there, you will know what I mean. It was the Unicorn who summed up what everyone was feeling. He stamped his right forehoof on the ground and neighed and then cried:

“I have come home at last! This is my real country! I belong here. This is the land I have been looking for all my life, though I never