

What will the resurrected Earth
be like? Part 3

What will the New Jerusalem
be like?

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- Why is it that we all long for a better life?

Everyone seems to be working to have enough and then some. We all want to upgrade, remodel or expand. Why is it that this years model is so much more appealing than the model from 2 years ago? Why is bigger and newer always better? Are we just materialistic American's or is there something deeper going on?

- Why do we have this yearning to explore or be on an adventure?

Why did Magellan and Christopher Columbus risk life and limb seeking the "new world"?

Why have some of the brightest minds in the world spent their lives at NASA working to explore the farthest reaches of the universe?

Why do children want to dig a hole in the backyard all the way to China?

Why do we continue to search the wreckage of sunken ships or climb 14,000 foot mountains, or want to sail around the world or travel to foreign countries?

Are we just bored, or is there something deeper?

- Why do we long for a "fountain of youth"?

Why is there such an emphasis on looking and feeling younger? Are we all just shallow and vain? Or is there something deeper?

The answer to all of these questions can be found in one verse:

"Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart..." Eccl 3:11a

You see, all of the deepest desires of your heart, are at their core, longing for Heaven. We long for Heaven because Heaven is...

I. A place of extravagance

1. Shinning with the glory of God

"It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, clear as crystal." Rev 21:11

2. Communicating opulence

"The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass. The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone." Rev 21:18-19

John then names 12 stones, eight of which correspond to the stones of the high priest's breast piece (Ex 28:17-20)

- Why is Heaven a place of extravagance?
Because it is the home of the King of kings.
What else would you expect?

The Jesus we know, is the lowly baby in a manger. Meek and mild. A cross, a crown of thorns, a tomb. But let me take a minute to introduce you to the real Jesus. The glorified, exalted, Son of God and His eternal home. Jesus, the Father and the Holy Spirit desire to live like Kings in extreme extravagance.

II. A place of natural wonders

Just as our resurrection bodies will be better than our current ones, the New Earth's natural wonders will be more spectacular than those we now know. We can expect more magnificent mountains and more beautiful lakes and flowers than those on this Earth.

Look at God's track record in creating natural wonders in this universe.

On Mars, the volcano Olympus Mons is 370 miles across and would cover the entire state of Nebraska and rises 79,000 feet, or 3 times that of Mount Everest.

The Valles of Marineris is a vast canyon that stretches 1/6th of the way around Mars. It's 2,800 miles long, 370 miles wide and 4.5 miles deep. Hundreds of our Grand Canyons could fit inside of it.

1. A river of life

“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.” Rev 22:1-2a

2. A tree of life

“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.” Rev 22:2b

3. Mountains

“And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.” Rev 21:10

John calls it *a* mountain, not *the* mountain.

We know there will be many mountains on the New Earth that will need exploring and managing for the glory of God.

4. Weather

“He makes clouds rise from the ends of the earth; he sends lightning with the rain and brings out the wind from his storehouses.” Psalm 135:7

“Can you raise your voice to the clouds and cover yourself with a flood of water? Do you send the lightning bolts on their way? Do they report to you, 'Here we are'?” Job 38:34-35

Since the old Earth is the prototype of the new, there's every reason to believe he will show his greatness and beauty the same way on the New Earth.

The place you have longed for your entire life.

The new Jerusalem will be the perfect balance between Eden and what mankind has created for the glory of God.

J.R.R. Tolkien seems to address this in his Lord of the Rings trilogy, where he portrays different concepts of Elvish beauty and Dwarvish beauty.

Elves are people of the woods and waters, who celebrate and protect the natural beauty of Middle Earth.

Dwarves, are miners and builders who dig deep for precious stones and construct vast buildings. The Elves are uncomfortable with Dwarvish architecture, and Dwarves feel uncomfortable deep in the forest. Through a friendship forged between Legolas the Elf and Gimli the Dwarf, they come to appreciate the beauty of each other's world.

When we look at Rev 21-22, can you see how the Elven paradise reflects the elements of Eden in the NJ – rivers, trees, fruits, and mountains? While the Dwarves' view of beauty reflects the vast detailed architecture and precious stones of Heaven's capital.

It's likely that our tastes will differ enough that some of us will prefer to gather in the main streets and auditoriums for the great cultural events of Heaven, while other will want to withdraw to feed ducks on a lake or to leave the city with their companions to pursue adventures.

Where ever we go and whatever we do, we'll never leave the presence of the King. For although he dwells especially in the NJ, he will yet be fully present in the far reaches of the new universe – in which every subatomic particle will shout His glory.