

What will the resurrected Earth
be like? Part 4
Will there be time on the New
Earth?
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Preachers can be confused about heaven by reading some theological books that suggest in Heaven there will not be time or space. One book describes Heaven as “a mode of existence where space and time are meaningless concepts.”

Christian people are confused because they have been singing a hymn for years that includes these words, “and time shall be no more” and think it is from the Bible. Ironically, the same hymn speaks of, “When morning breaks...” Both the words morning and when are references to time.

Maybe people think they are making Heaven sound special when they say there’s no space and time but what they are doing is making it sound alien and unappealing. Probably not one person here would like to live in a place without “space and time” anymore than a fish wants to live in a realm without water.

Illustration:

If you could talk to a fish, try telling one, “When you die, you’ll go to fish Heaven and – isn’t this awesome?- there will be no water! You won’t have fins, and you won’t swim. And you won’t eat because you won’t need food. I’ll bet you can’t wait to get there!”

Likewise, it is any wonder that most Christians aren’t excited about Heaven? When we believe that it is an “existence” without time and space?

To understand the issue of time in Heaven it is important to first remember some of the differences between us and God.

Sir Issac Newton wrote of God: “He is eternal and infinite, omnipotent and omniscient; that is, his duration reaches from eternity to eternity; his presence from infinity to infinity.”

1. God is...Eternal – existing at all times

God is in the past, present and the future – all at the same time.

“Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.” Psalm 90:2

Our bodies are temporary but one day they will last for eternity. We are not eternal. We do not exist in the past and we are not present in the future. We can only exist in this moment. We cannot go back in time, 1 sec, 1 hour, 1 day, or 1 year.

God is eternal but He invites us to live in eternity with Him but we, as humans, will never be “eternal” in and of ourselves.” We are human beings and we will always remain, human, even in Heaven.

2. God is infinite

God is extending indefinitely, or endless.
God can be everywhere at the same time.

“Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.”
Ps 139:7-12

We are finite and can only be in one place at a time.

In Heaven, as redeemed human beings, we will only be in one place at a time.

3. God is omnipotent
Unlimited power and authority

“O LORD Almighty, God of Israel, enthroned between the cherubim, you alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth.” Is 37:16

Our power and authority limited and temporary.

In Heaven, whatever power and authority, God chooses to reward us with, will be limited and will be for His glory and our good.

4. God is omniscient
Possesses complete knowledge.

“Can anyone teach knowledge to God, since he judges even the highest?” Job 21:22

Our knowledge is limited and at times, inaccurate.

In Heaven, we will always be learning.

What I want us to understand today, is that we are and will remain human. On the new Earth, we will have resurrected, redeemed, and glorified bodies but we will NEVER be God. God doesn't need time, but He knows that we do.

Therefore, there will be both space and time in Heaven. These are for the benefit of His children. He knows that we need them, even though He does not.

God designed time before the curse arrived. Therefore time is not a part of the curse. However, the curse worked its way into time and now we can see its effects, “as time goes by.”

Like our bodies, the earth, and the heavens, God will resurrect, redeem and restore time to His original design – free from the curse.

Let's take a look about what the Bible tells us about time in Heaven:

- Heaven's inhabitants track with events happening in time, right down to rejoicing the moment a sinner on Earth repents.

“I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.” Luke 15:7

“Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.” Matthew 17:3

- Martyrs in Heaven know there is time in Heaven. “They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?" ... and they were told to wait a little longer...” Rev 6:10-11

- We are told of a specific period of time in Heaven.

“When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.” Rev 8:1

- In Heaven there will be day and night

“They are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them.

- Heaven has “months”

“On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month.” Rev 22:2

- People in Heaven sing

“And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.

You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth." Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they sang: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"

Music requires time. Meter, tempo, and rests are all essential to music. Songs have a beginning, middle and end.

Conclusion:

There will be time on the New Earth.

To say that we will exist without time, is like saying that we will be eternal. We will live in eternity, but we all had a beginning and we will have an end. God did not have a beginning or an end.

We will never be all knowing, all powerful or present in everyplace at the same time. Those are qualities of God. We are however, invited to serve Him and reign with Him, as His child, on the New Earth.