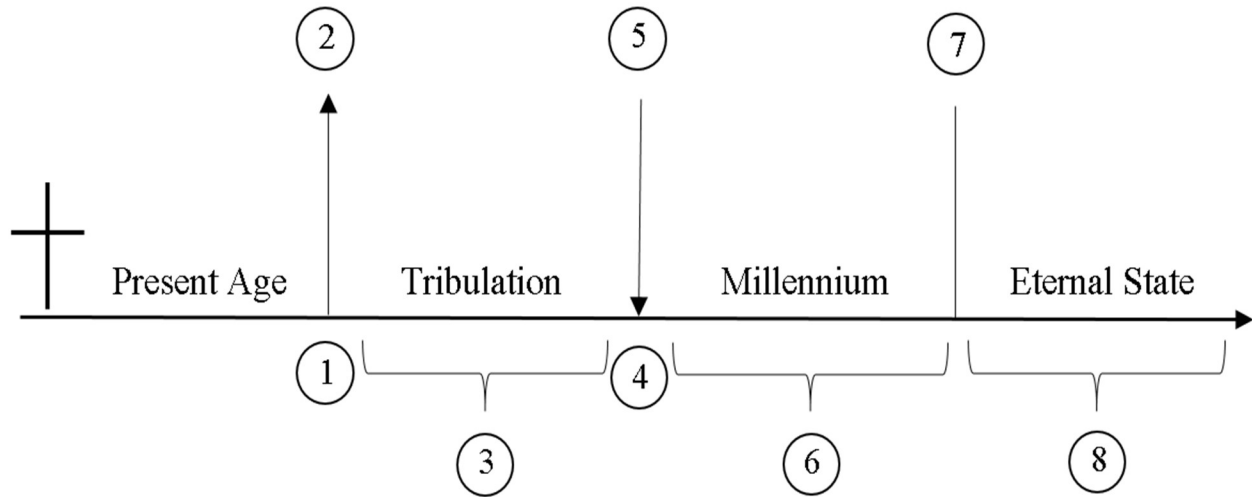


Entrust Eschatology The New Heavens & Earth 5/23/24

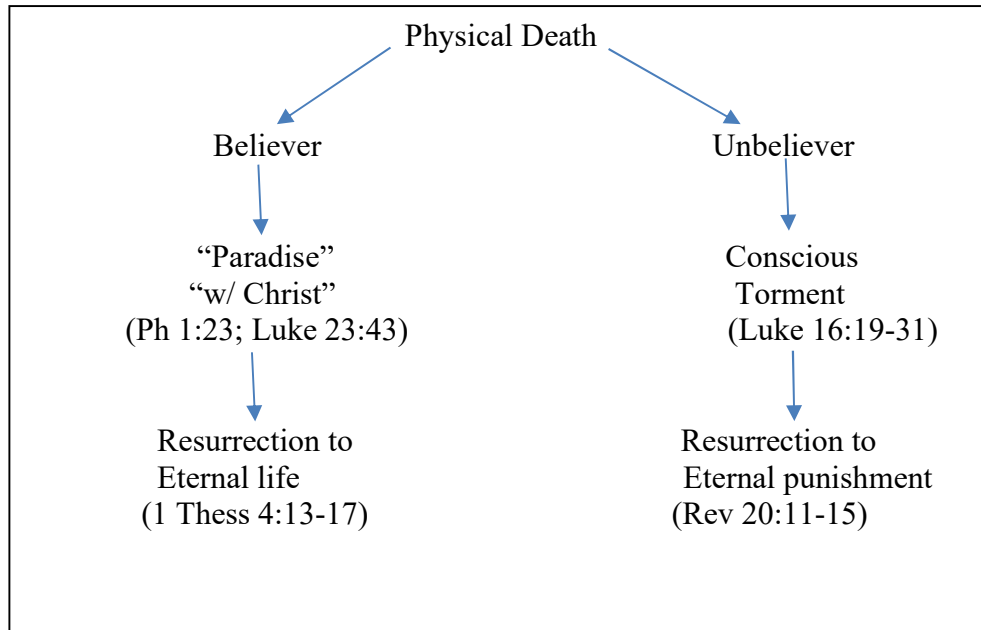


1. The Imminent Rapture of the Church
2. The Judgment Seat of Christ
3. The Seventieth Week of Daniel
4. The Divine Restoration of Israel
5. The Second Coming of Christ
6. The Millennial Reign of Christ
7. The Final Judgment of Unbelievers
8. **The Final State of Eternity**

**I. Introduction**

- The Intermediate State (between death and the final state of eternity)
  - At the point of physical death, the spirit of the individual is separated from his lifeless body (Jas 2:26) and it departs into the intermediate state (Gen 35:18; Acts 7:59).
  - The souls of unrepentant depart into a place of conscious torment (Luke 16:19-31), but the souls of the repentant immediately depart to be with Christ in heaven (2 Cor 5:8; Phil 1:21-23) – a place that Jesus called “paradise” (Luke 23:43) – where they rest from their labors (Rev 14:13) in a state of comfort (Luke 16:25).

- Both await a future resurrection when their bodies will be raised from the dead and reunited with their souls (Dan 12:2; John 5:28-29; Acts 24:15).
- The righteous will be bodily resurrected before the millennial reign of Christ (1 Cor 15:51-52; 1 Thess 4:15-17; Rev 20:4-6) and the wicked at the conclusion of it (Rev 20:11-15).



## II. The Introduction of the New Heaven and Earth (Rev 21:1-4)

Revelation 21:1–4 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer *any* sea. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, <sup>4</sup> and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be *any* death; there will no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”

### A. Heaven Comes Down to Earth (vv. 1-2)

1. The New Heaven and Earth (v. 1)

i. The Appearance of the New Creation (v. 1a)

*"a new heaven and a new earth"*

ii. The Destruction of the Old Creation (v. 1b)

*"for the first heaven and the first earth passed away"*

*"passed away"* - ἀπέρχομαι – cease to exist; go out of existence (LN)

John Walvoord: "That this is a totally new heaven and a new earth, and not the present heaven and earth renovated, is supported by the additional statement "the first heaven and the first earth passed away" (BKC, 2:983).

iii. The Absence of the Sea (v. 1c)

*"and there is no longer any sea."*

2. The New City of Jerusalem (v. 2)

i. The Description of the City (vv. 2a-2b)

- The Holiness of the City (v. 2a)

*"And I saw the holy city..."*

- The Newness of the City (v. 2b)

*"...new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband."*

ii. The Descent of the City (vv. 2c-2d)

- The Origin of the City (v. 2c)

*"coming down out of heaven"*

- The Originator of the City (v. 2d)

*“coming down out of heaven from God”*

iii. The Preparation of the City (v. 2e)

*“made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.”*

**B. God Dwells with His People (vv. 3-4)**

1. The Presence of God with His People (v. 3)

i. His Tabernacle Among them (v. 3a)

*“And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men’”*

ii. His Dwelling Among Them (v. 3b)

*“and He will dwell among them”*

iii. His Relationship with Them (v. 3c)

*“and they shall be His people”*

iv. His Person Among Them (v. 3d)

*“and God Himself will be among them”*

2. The Blessings of God for His People (v. 4)

*the first things have passed away.”*

i. The Comforting of Hearts (v. 4a)

*“and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes”*

ii. The Destruction of Death (v. 4b)

*“and there will no longer be any death”*

iii. The Absence of Suffering (v. 4c-e)

- No More Mourning (v. 4c)

*“there will no longer be any mourning”*

- No More Crying (v. 4d)

*“there will no longer be .. crying”*

- No More Pain (v. 4e)

*“there will no longer be .. pain”*

iv. The Passing of First Things (v. 4f)

*“the first things have passed away”*

### **III. The Fundamental Nature of the New Heaven and Earth**

John’s vision of “a new heaven and a new earth” (Rev 21:1) raises the question of the fundamental nature of this “new” creation. As R.C. Sproul observes:

Some view the passing away of the original creation as an act of divine judgment on a fallen world. The old order is destroyed, annihilated by God’s fury. Then the old is replaced by a new act of creation. Out of nothing God brings forth the new order. A second view of the matter . . . is that the new order involves not a new creation of out nothing, but rather renovation of the old order. Its newness is marked by the work of God’s redemption.

The key question, then, is whether the first heaven and earth will be (a) annihilated and replaced or (b) judged and renewed/restored. Put another way, will the new heaven and earth be entirely new, created ex nihilo because the first heaven and earth will be utterly annihilated? Or will the new heaven

and earth consist of a restoration of the present planet? The following arguments have been offered for these two views:

A. View 1 – Annihilation and Creation Ex Nihilo

The primary argument for this view is found in the biblical language of destruction, which points to an entirely new planet following the complete annihilation of the old earth:

- Psalm 102:25-26: “the earth...and the heavens...will perish”
- Isaiah 24:20: “the earth...will fall, never to rise again”
- Matthew 24:35a: “Heaven and earth will pass away”
- 2 Peter 3:10a: “the heavens will pass away with a roar”
- 2 Peter 3:10b: “the elements will be destroyed with intense heat”
- 2 Peter 3:10c: “the earth and its works will be burned up”
- 2 Peter 3:11a: “all these things are to be destroyed”
- 2 Peter 3:12b: “the heavens will be destroyed by burning”
- 2 Peter 3:12c: “the elements will melt with intense heat”
- 1 John 2:17a: “The world is passing away”
- Revelation 20:11b: “earth and heaven fled away”
- Revelation 20:11c: “no place was found for them”
- Revelation 21:1: “the first heaven and the first earth passed away”

(Also see: Ps 97:5; Isa 13:13; 34:4; 51:6; Mark 13:31; Luke 16:17; 21:33; 1 Cor 7:31; Heb 1:10-12; Heb 12:27; 1 John 2:17)

B. View 2 – Judgment and Restoration/Renewal

The primary arguments for the view that the present-day heaven and earth will be restored and renewed are found in (1) the biblical terminology for newness in Revelation 21:1, (2) Paul's description of creation's redemption in Romans 8:19-23, (3) the language of regeneration/restoration/ reconciliation elsewhere in the New Testament, and (4) the broader storyline of the Bible.

1. The Biblical Terminology of Newness (Rev 21:1)

The Greek word translated "new" in Revelation 21:1 – "a new heaven and a new earth" – is not *neos*, but rather *kainos*. As Walt Kaiser notes: "The former word designates something that is new in time or origin, but the latter refers to something that is new in nature or quality. Therefore, what is taught in the new heavens and the new earth is not the emergence, or creation, of a brand new universe, but one that has continuity with the old, yet is thorough renewed."

2. The Future Redemption of Creation (Rom 8:19-23)

Rom 8:19-23 "For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. 23 And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.

KEY PARALLEL:

Believing Mankind longs for:	glorification
Physical Creation longs for:	glorification

3. The Restoration Language of Scripture

According to Randy Alcorn: "God has never given up on his original creation. Yet somehow we've managed to overlook an entire biblical vocabulary that makes this point clear. Reconcile. Redeem. Restore. Return. Renew. Regenerate. Resurrect. Each of these biblical words begins with the re- prefix, suggesting a return to an original condition

that was ruined or lost.” Some of the clearest passages using this restoration language include: Matthew 19:28: “in the regeneration,” Acts 3:21: “the period of restoration of all things,” and Colossians 1:20: “to reconcile all things to Himself.”

HOWEVER – Some respond to this argument by asserting that the regeneration in Matthew 19:28 and restoration in Acts 3:21 refer to the transition from the present age to the millennial kingdom, not from the millennial kingdom to the eternal state.

#### 4. The Broader Storyline of Scripture

Wayne Grudem: “It is difficult to think that God would entirely annihilate his original creation, thereby seeming to give the devil the last word and scrapping the creation that was originally ‘very good’ (Gen. 1:31).

### IV. The Key Features of the New Heaven and Earth

According to Revelation 21–22, the new heaven and earth to be inhabited by the people of God for all eternity will be characterized by the following:

#### A. The Newness of All Things (21:1, 5)

*See above*

#### B. The Blessing of God’s Presence (21:3, 7, 22)

*See above*

#### C. The Brilliance of God’s Glory (21:11, 23)

Revelation 21:10–11 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, <sup>11</sup> having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper.

Revelation 21:23 And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp *is* the Lamb.



D. The Immensity of its Size (21:15-17)

Revelation 21:15-17 And the one who spoke with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city and its gates and walls. <sup>16</sup> The city lies foursquare, its length the same as its width. And he measured the city with his rod, 12,000 stadia. Its length and width and height are equal. <sup>17</sup> He also measured its wall, 144 cubits by human measurement, which is also an angel's measurement.

Notes:

\*It should be noted that the names of the 12 tribes of Israel are written on the gates, one on each:

Revelation 21:12 It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; and names *were* written on them, which are *the names* of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel.

E. The Splendor of its Adornment (Rev 21:10-11, 18-21)

Revelation 21:10-11 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, <sup>11</sup> having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper.

Revelation 21:18-21 The material of the wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. <sup>19</sup> The foundation stones of the city wall were adorned with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation stone was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, chalcedony; the fourth, emerald; <sup>20</sup> the fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, topaz; the tenth, chrysopras; the eleventh, jacinth; the twelfth, amethyst. <sup>21</sup> And the twelve gates were

twelve pearls; each one of the gates was a single pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

F. The Possession of Eternal Life (21:6; 22:1-2, 14)

Revelation 21:6 Then He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost.

Revelation 22:1-2 Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, <sup>2</sup> in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve *kinds of fruit*, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

Revelation 22:14 Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city.

G. The Satisfaction of the Thirsty (Rev 21:6, 22:17)

Revelation 21:6 Then He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost.

Revelation 22:17 (The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.

H. The Reign of the Saints (22:5)

Revelation 22:5 And there will no longer be *any* night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever.

I. The Worship of God (22:3)

Revelation 22:3 There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him;

J. The Absence of Suffering (21:4)

Revelation 21:4 and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be *any* death; there will no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.

K. The Removal of the Curse (22:3)

Revelation 22:3 There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him

L. The Prominence of the Apostles (21:14)

Revelation 21:14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them *were* the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

\*Note: Both the 12 Tribes of Israel (Rev 21:21) and the 12 Apostles (Rev 21:14) separately are prominently recognized at the capital city. Interestingly, this seems to indicate that, even in heaven, the distinction between the people whom they represented (The 12 Tribes representing Israel and the Apostles representing the Church), though they are the one people of God.

John Walvoord: "The distinction between Israel and the church is thus maintained" (BKC, 2:986).

M. The Healing of the Nations (22:2)

Revelation 22:2 in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve *kinds of* fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

N. The Exclusion of the Wicked (21:27; 22:15)

Revelation 21:27 and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Revelation 22:15 Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying.

O. The Punishment of the Wicked (21:8)

See "Section 12: The Final Judgment of Unbelievers" above.

**CONCLUSION:**

- 1) Whatever you do, make it your aim to be present in the New Heavens and Earth, by surrendering in faith to Jesus Christ.

Amongst the goals and aspirations you make during your brief life, above them all, make it your goal to enter into the joy of eternal life.

Matthew 7:13-14 Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. <sup>14</sup> For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

- 2) God's people will never forget, for all eternity, the great price that the Lord Jesus paid to bring them into the unspeakably joyful bliss of the New Heavens and Earth. Truly the value of his law-abiding life and sin-bearing death will be on display as God's people experience the eternal life he purchased.

Revelation 22:17 The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.

Psalms 136:26 Give thanks to the God of heaven, for His lovingkindness is everlasting.

## **Additional Questions Concerning the New Heavens and Earth**

- Will it be possible for the saints in the New Heavens and Earth to somehow sin, and therefore be expelled and sent away to hell?
  - No, for at least a few reasons:
    - “the first things have passed away” (Rev 21:4f). The “first things” included the curse, and sin’s power and presence. Therefore, it will not be possible for us to sin in the new heavens and earth.
    - Jesus spoke of salvation as “eternal life” (e.g. John 3:16). The word “eternal” has the idea of “unending,” “irreversible,” “perpetual.” Therefore, it will not be possible to be expelled.
    - “There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Rom 8:1). Christ’s righteous life fulfilled the law in the place of all who bowed the knee to him in faith, and his substitutionary, wrath-bearing death fulfilled the law’s demands for our penalty. His work is finished. Therefore, those in the joys of the new heavens and earth can never be expelled.
- Will the new heavens and earth contain minerals, geology, and materials that our current heavens and earth do not have?
- Will there be new, advanced technologies in the new heavens and earth?
- Will we eat food in the new heavens and earth?
- Will we have children?
- Will we have jobs, worship God, and recreate?