

Heaven

XIV. The Renewal of the Old Earth

A. Destruction for a Remake?

1. Scriptures that seem to indicate complete destruction - Ps 102:25-26; Lk 21:33; 2 Pe 3:10; Rev 21:1
2. Scriptures that seem to indicate the Earth will remain forever
 - a. Ec 1:4; Ps 78:69
 - b. Forever - *`owlam* - concealed, the vanishing point; time out of mind (past or future), eternity; frequently, always, ancient (time), any more, continuance, eternal, perpetual, at any time.
 - c. doesn't always mean forever - De 15:17

B. Burned up or Refined

1. As the Works of the saints are purified by fire and follow them to Heaven - 1 Co 3:12-15
2. Scriptures that seem to indicate the Earth will be renewed and regenerated - Rev 21:1; 2 Pe 3:10
 - a. a temporary destruction for the purpose of renewal
 - b. a complete destruction would say that Satan had succeeded in corrupting things so bad that God couldn't do anything but destroy it
 - c. pass away doesn't have to mean to go out of existence
 - i. caterpillars pass away and become butterflies
 - ii. A real passing away with real continuity with what comes after

C. Redemption includes Restoration

1. If the scripture never spoke of a new earth, Peter spoke in Acts 3:21 speaks to Christ remaining in Heaven until "the times of restoration"
2. "the times of restoration" was promised by God through His prophets since the world began
3. A time when God destroys and restores all to its original state
 - a. affect the whole of creation
 - b. wiping away all of the corruption of sin, cleansing it by fire - 2 Pe 3:6-7
 - i. burned up - *katakaio* - to burn down (to the ground), consume wholly:--burn (up, utterly).
 - ii. Translated - laid bare, to expose
 - c. fitting it for an age of glory, righteousness, and peace - Rev 21:1

D. The Meaning of "New"

1. *kainos* - new (especially in freshness; while 3501 *neos* is properly so with respect to age:--new.
2. not new as opposed to old, but new in quality and superior in character
3. Paul uses *kainos* in 2 Co 5:17 "new creature"
4. Redemption reintroduces the conditions of the new creation

XV. Will the New Earth Be Familiar . . . Like Home?

A. Assumptions about Heaven

1. non-Earth
2. Unfamiliar, otherworldly
3. Disembodied
4. Foreign
5. leaving favorite things behind

6. no time or space
7. Static
8. neither old like Eden, nor new and earthly, just strange and unknown
9. nothing to do, float on the clouds
10. no learning or discovery; instant and complete knowledge
11. boring
12. loss of desire
13. absence of the terrible

B. What the Bible Says about Heaven

1. New Earth
2. Familiar, Earthly
3. Resurrected bodies
4. Home, comfort
5. Retaining the good, finding the best ahead
6. Time and Space
7. Dynamic
8. Both old and new
9. worshiping and Serving God; ruling with Christ; purposeful work, friends to enjoy
10. An eternity of learning and discovery
11. Fascinating
12. Continuous fulfillment of desire
13. Presence of the wonderful; everything we desire and nothing we don't

C. The Familiarity of Home

1. What meaning should we attach to the Word "Home?" (getting past the disfunctions)
 - a. Familiar
 - b. memories of growing up
 - c. part of who I am
 - d. a place with loved ones
2. Since the Bible says that Heaven is our home
 - a. Since we have already lived here, it would be familiar
 - b. a place where we fit in; for which we were made
 - c. made for us by Jesus - Jo 14:2-3
 - d. we will be with people we love

D. Does Earthliness Demean Heaven?

1. Other Religion's Heaven
 - a. Greek Mythology
 - i. Mount Olympus is an earthly Heaven
 - ii. The gods indulge in scandalous behavior, making heaven seem cheap
 - b. Islam
 - i. heaven is where a man is given countless concubines
 - ii. Promiscuity is an eternal reward, making heaven seem cheap
2. God is Holy and Transcendent
 - a. But He came to walk with man in the garden - Ge 3:8
 - b. The incarnation and resurrection of Christ joined God and flesh for eternity
 - c. it cannot be inappropriate to think of Heaven in Earthly terms