



# The New Heavens and the New Earth

*[paraphrased]* "God has promised it! We look forward to a new heavens and a new earth, in which we will all live with Him eternally."<sup>1</sup>

## 1. The following explains this truth more deeply:

- a. Both the Old and New Testaments speak of a new heavens and a new earth (see Isaiah 65:17; 66:22; Rev 21:1). Some believe a good case can be made for the renovation of the present heavens and earth rather than a new creation.

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<sup>1</sup> "The New Heavens and the New Earth," The Assemblies of God, <https://ag.org/Beliefs/Statement-of-Fundamental-Truths#16> (Accessed August 30, 2017).

- b. The word “new” used of the new earth is also used of our new nature as a new creation (2 Cor 5:17; Gal 6:15; Eph 4:24). Yet we still retain our identity as the same person. However, it is more commonly used of something brand new, such as new wineskins (Matt 9:17; Mark 2:22), a new piece of cloth (Mark 2:21).

It is used to reveal things previously unknown, not previously present, unheard of—such as a new name (Rev 2:17) and a new covenant, which covenant is entirely different from the old one given at Mt. Sinai (Jer 31:31; Luke 22:20; Heb 8:8).

It is also used to describe the New Jerusalem, which already exists in heaven (Gal 4:26) and comes down to the new earth from heaven. It is, therefore, clearly not the present Jerusalem “renovated,” but a marvelous new one coming to a marvelous new earth.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Menzies, W. W. (1993). [Bible Doctrines: A Pentecostal Perspective](#). (S. M. Horton, Ed.) (p. 255-256). Springfield, MO: Logion Press.

2. After the final judgement, believers will enter into the full enjoyment of life in the presence of God forever.

**Revelation 21:1–3 (ESV)** Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.

3. What is heaven?

- a. Heaven is the place where God most fully makes known His presence.
- b. Heaven is a place, not a state of mind.
- c. Jesus ascended to Heaven in Acts 1.

- d. Stephen, an early martyr of the faith, saw Jesus in heaven at the right hand of God as he died.

**Acts 7:55 (ESV)** But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

- e. In **John 14:2 (ESV)** Jesus says, “In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you...I go to prepare a place for you?”

4. Although the status, state, location, and comprehensive attributes of heaven are mostly unknown to us in this life, Jesus is there now and one day we will join Him.

- a. God’s physical creation will be renewed and we will continue to **exist** and **act** in it.
- b. In addition to a renewed heaven, God will make a perfect and eternal “new earth.”

**2 Peter 3:10 (ESV)** But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

**Revelation 21:1 (ESV)** Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

- c. Our resurrection **bodies** will be part of the renewed creation. In the new heavens and new earth, we will receive new bodies—ones that will never grow old or become weak or ill.

**Revelation 19:9 (ESV)** And the angel said to me, “Write this: ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.’ And he said to me, “These are the true words of God.”

5. The New Creation will not be **timeless**. It will include an unending succession of moments.

- a. Since we are finite creatures now, we can expect to always live in a succession of moments. Just as we will never attain God's omniscience or omnipresence, so we will never attain God's eternity in the sense of seeing all time equally.
- b. However, as newly made infinite creatures, we will live in a succession of moments that will never end. Time will be different.

**Comment:** "We observe and experience the building blocks of all existence in three ways: time, space, and matter. We understand their laws and limitations through the lens of our limited ability to understand. Yet the God we worship created all three and is therefore not limited as we are.

"He created matter (solid, liquid, gas), everything that exists. He created space (length, width, volume), a

place in which it all exists. Finally, He created time (past, present, future), a ‘when’ for it all to exist.

“Now, the God who made all those things certainly exists outside all of them and is not bound by the laws that hold them together. Otherwise, He would not be almighty and He certainly would not be God. We cannot fit all this wondrous truth in our four-pound brains. But when he stand with Him on the new earth, in the new heavens, our new bodies and minds will be able to understand much, much more. And He will be all the MORE worthy of our praise and worship!”

- Dan Kersten

6. The doctrine of the new creation provides motivation for storing treasure in heaven.

When we consider the fact that this present creation is temporary, and our life in the new creation will last for eternity, we have a strong motivation for godly living in such a way as to store up treasure in heaven.

**2 Peter 3:11–13 (ESV)** <sup>11</sup> Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup> waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! <sup>13</sup> But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

7. The New Creation will be a place of great beauty, abundance, and joy in the presence of God.

- a. In this holy city death shall be no more.  
**(Revelation 21:4)**
- b. The New Creation will be free from all evil.

**Revelation 21:27 (ESV)** But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

- c. More important than the beauty of the New Creation, the fellowship with God's people, and the absence of pain and suffering will be the presence of God and enjoying unhindered fellowship with Him forever.

**Revelation 21:3–4 (ESV)** <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. <sup>4</sup> He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

- d. In the heavenly city, we will be able to endure the power and holiness of the presence of God's glory for we will live **continually** in the atmosphere of the glory of God.

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

## GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

1. According to the Bible, what effect will the judgment of the present earth have upon people?
2. Why does the Bible discuss what is going to happen to the present universe when the end comes?
3. From the Bible, what can you learn about the new heaven and new earth?
4. After reading the description of the New Jerusalem, do you believe it will be like cities we currently have on earth? Why or why not?
5. What do you most look forward to when you think about spending eternity with Jesus?