

## "The New Heaven and the New Earth: The Basics" (Part 1)

Genesis 1:26-2:9

*"Christians often talk about living with God in heaven forever. But in fact the biblical teaching is far greater than that: it tells us that there will be new heavens and a new earth — an entirely renewed creation — and we will live with God there." (Wayne Grudem)*

*"The new earth in eternity will be this present earth purified, refined, and renewed. God's people will live on this new earth, which has connections with the present earth, forever." (Micheal Vlach)*

- **Pre-Understandings or Presuppositions:**

- Pre-understandings are assumptions about something **apart from study or evidence**. It is the assumptions we have about Scripture and God's plans that we **take into our study of Scripture, not from our study of Scripture**. It is **very difficult** to have our pre-understandings or presuppositions changed.
- Have you ever held to a theological view of which you were very sure, but when challenged you struggled to defend your view? **Your pre-understandings have been challenged.**

- **Man and Earth are inseparable in God's purposes.**

- Man was formed from the dust of the ground (Genesis 2:7).
- Man was tasked to rule and subdue the earth (Genesis 1:26,28; Psalm 8).
  - "The heavens are the Lord's heavens, **but the earth He has given to the children of man.**" (Psalm 115:16)
- Because of sin, man is unable to rule and subdue the earth (Genesis 5:28-29).
- Someday Jesus will rule on the earth (Zechariah 14:9) and we will rule with Him (Revelation 5:10).
- Man and earth are connected from Genesis 1 to Revelation 22.
- Both saved and unsaved will have physical bodies for all eternity (Daniel 12:1-2; John 5:28-29)
  - Keep in mind that bodies were created to see, hear, smell, taste, and touch.
  - Why would Jesus need to **rise physically** to **save us only spiritually**? Our bodies will be redeemed (Romans 8:23).
- What does it mean that we will have "spiritual bodies" in 1 Corinthians 15:44?
  - "Paul refers to 'spiritual' as that which empowers the body, not as its substance. A steam train is not made of steam, an electric oven is not made of electricity, nor is a gas stove made of gas."
- God will not destroy His "very good" creation (Genesis 1:31), but instead He will restore it (Matthew 19:28). *Paliggenesia* means "Genesis again" or "renewal".
  - The current creation will be set free and exists in a state of "hope" (Romans 8:20-21).
  - All of the "impurities" of the earth and the heavens will be removed (2 Peter 3:10-13).  
***This current creation is not beyond redemption and restoration any more than man is!***
- Look at the Biblical language for the glorious destiny of creation:
  - "The regeneration" (Matthew 19:28).
  - "The restoration of all things" (Acts 3:21).
  - "To reconcile all things" (Colossians 1:20).
  - "A new heaven and a new earth" (Revelation 21:1).
  - "I am making all things new" (Revelation 21:5).

**Announcements:**

★**DONATIONS:** Throughout the month of April, we are collecting monetary donations for HeartCry Missionary Society. The goal of their ministry is to facilitate the advancement of indigenous missionaries throughout the world. Their strategy consists of four primary components: financial support, theological training, Scripture and literature distribution, and the supply of any tool necessary to facilitate the completion of the Great Commission. There is a container on the back table for monetary donations, or you can give on Venmo and make a note that it is for HeartCry.

★**FELLOWSHIP LUNCH:** We are having a Fellowship Lunch THIS Sunday, April 7th, immediately following the worship service. There is a sign-up list on the table in the entryway, please sign-up to bring something to the meal. EVERYONE is invited to stay to enjoy the food and the fellowship with us.

★**BAPTISMS:** Our next Baptism service will be on Sunday, April 14th. If you are interested in being baptized or have any questions about baptism, please see Pastor Jeremey or one of the other Elders.

★**COMMUNION:** We will be celebrating and partaking of Communion together as a church body THIS Sunday, April 7th.

★**MENS BREAKFAST:** Attention Men: The next Men's Breakfast will be on Saturday, April 13th, at 7am, at Big Apple Café — Log Pond. Please RSVP to Zach Adams by NEXT Wednesday, April 10th! (740)618-0739