

"What Will Heaven Be Like?" Revelation 21-22

God is going to renew all that He originally created such that we can expect a new heavens and new earth in the future. As a result, eternity will be much more of a concrete experience than we may realize that will be continuous with our present experience and far more compelling than we can imagine!

Bored with Heaven?

"Eternity is an unending church service ... we have settled on an image of the never-ending sing-along in the sky, one great hymn after another, forever and ever, amen. And our heart sinks. Forever and ever? That's it? That's the good news? And then we sigh and feel guilty that we are not more 'spiritual.'"

"I can't stand the thought of that endless tedium. To float around in the clouds with nothing to do but strum a harp ... it's all so terribly boring. Heaven doesn't sound much better than Hell. I'd rather be annihilated than spend eternity in a place like that."

Heaven Will Be Concrete!

- Eternity Will Be Earthy (21:1-2)

"Our destiny is an earthly one: a new earth, an earth redeemed and transfigured. An earth reunited with heaven, but an earth, nevertheless." —Paul Marshall

- God Renews the Earthly

"We groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body." —Romans 8:23

I'm a soul with a body of my own
And there's a time
I'll lay this body down
When I go,
don't mourn for what is lost
But rejoice for what is found

And if the devil wants to come for me,
I will tell him to his face,
You can have my body,
but you cannot have my soul.
In the heavens I will be singing
songs of Hallelujah.
You can have my body,
but you cannot have my soul.

"For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility ... in hope 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." —Romans 8:19-21

"The work of Christ, therefore, is not just to save certain individuals, not even to save an innumerable throng of blood-bought people. The total work of Christ is nothing less than to redeem this entire creation from the effects of sin. That purpose will not be accomplished until God has ushered in the new earth, until Paradise Lost has become Paradise Regained." —Anthony Hoekema

Heaven Will Be Continuous!

- Clue from Revelation – 1 Cor 2:9-10

"Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him ... For to us God revealed them through His Spirit."

- Correspondence to Creation

- Personal Resurrection

"See My hands and My feet, that it is I **Myself**; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones." —Luke 24:39

"We can banish all fear of being absorbed into the 'All' which Buddhism holds before us, or reincarnated in some other life form as in the post-mortem prospect of Hinduism ... The **self** with which we were endowed by the Creator in his gift of life to us, the **self** whose ...

"... worth was secured forever in the self-substitution of God for us on the cross, that **self** will endure into eternity. Death cannot destroy us." —Bruce Milne

- Creational Restoration

Heaven Will Be Compelling!

- We Will Be Feasters

"You will have the sweet longing of desire than can be fulfilled and shall be, again and again and again. Heaven is not the absence of longing but its fulfillment. Heaven is not the absence of itches; it is the satisfying scratch for every itch."

- We Will Be Learners

"For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully." —1 Corinthians 13:12

"Well, what did you do in heaven?" I ventured.

"Homework."

Homework? That was not what I was expecting. Choir practice, maybe, but homework?

"What do you mean?"

Colton smiled. "Jesus was my teacher."

"Like school?"

Colton nodded. Jesus gave me work to do, and that was my favorite part of heaven."

—Heaven is for Real, by Todd Burpo

- We Will Be Workers
- We Will Be Family Members
- We Will Be Worshipers

How expansive is your worship?