

BCC Course on Biblical Eschatology
Week 8 = Heaven and the New Earth

I.) Heaven and the New Earth Scripture Preparation

Read: Revelation 4; Isaiah 25; Isaiah 65:17-25; Revelation 21:1-8

- 1.) What is the Destiny of the Believer?
 - Heaven?
 - New Earth?
- 2.) Three Phases of the Destiny of the Believer
 1. Heaven in this age before the return of Jesus
- 3.) A Millennial Kingdom on earth for 1000 years after Jesus returns
- 4.) The Eternal Kingdom on earth after Jesus' Millennial Kingdom
- 5.) Heaven
 - The dwelling of God
 - The center of God's universal kingdom
 - The home of elect angels
 - The home of the spirits of deceased believers
 - Where rewards are accumulated and stored
 - Heaven is the destiny of saints who die before the return of Jesus to earth.

Philippians 3:20

"For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ"

1 Thessalonians 1:10

"...and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *that is* Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come."

Matthew 5:12a

"Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great"

But the final and eternal destiny of the saved is not the current Heaven.

When some think of the future destiny of the saved, they think of the current Heaven

The song, "I'll Fly Away":

Just a few more weary days and then I'll fly away To that land where joy will never end I'll fly away.

The Old Rugged Cross. - One line says,

"Then he'll call me someday to my home far away, Where his glory forever I'll share."

Thomas Aquinas (13th century)

Empyrean Heaven

Heaven was beyond the Universe in a spiritual realm

Only activity was contemplation of God

In reality, the destiny of the saved after Jesus' return is a **restored earth**

Psalm 115:16

The heavens are the heavens of the Lord,
But the earth He has given to the sons of men.

Matthew 6:9-10

Our Father who is in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.
10 Your kingdom come.
Your will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.

"Whereas the believing dead are in the presence of Christ now, this model expects that their vision of and fellowship with God will be enriched within the fullness of life in a new creation."
(**Craig Blaising**, "Premillennialism," 163.)

The New Earth

- "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth" (Isa. 65:17a)
- "And the Lord will be king over all the earth" (Zech 14:9)
- "Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth" (Matt 5:5)
- "But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells." (2 Peter 3:13)

"Then I saw a new heaven
and a new earth." (Rev.
21:1a)

"You have made them to
be a kingdom and priests to
our God; and they will reign
upon the earth." (Rev. 5:10)

Matthew 19:28-29

28 And Jesus said to them, "Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in **the regeneration** when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. **29** And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name's sake, will receive many times as much, and will inherit eternal life.

The Reign of Jesus and Believers Has Two Earthly Phases

- Millennial Kingdom on earth (Revelation 20)
- Eternal Kingdom on earth (Revelation 21-22)

III.) Heaven and the New Earth Discussion Questions

- 1.) Why do you think so many Christians think that Heaven, not earth, is the final destiny **of believers?**
- 2.) What do you think of the idea that the Millennium and Eternal State will take place on earth?
- 3.) What do you think of Jesus' statement in Matthew 19:28-29 that the kingdom will involve relationships, houses, and farms?