

Paradise

Jesus said, *"Take my yoke upon you and learn of me."* **(Matthew 11:29)** To learn, means to get an understanding about God, His will and purpose for you in His Kingdom. It is the truth that we seek to know and understand. What the Lord reveals to us holds us accountable. **(Luke 12:47-48)**

Learning involves searching, **(Jeremiah 29:13)** and seeking, **(Matthew 6:33, 7:7)**. You must be willing to open the door of your heart **(Revelation 3:20)** and have a willingness to change as you grow **(2 Peter 3:18)**.

When you start looking, that's when you start finding. The more you look, the more you find. **(Luke 10:23-24, 24:45)** God will reveal knowledge unto those who seek to know His will. **(Daniel 2:22. 1 Corinthians 2:10)**. The deeper you dig into the Word of God, the greater the treasure you find. **(Colossians 2:3, Romans 9:23, 11:33, Ephesians 3:16)**. *"Blessed are they who hunger and thirst, for they shall be filled."* **(Matthew 5:6)**

2 Peter 3:1,6,7 says: *"This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you: in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: that ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the Holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the Apostles of the Lord and Savior." "...the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished, but the heavens and earth which are now by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment of ungodly men."*

2 Peter 3:12-13 says: *"Looking for and hasting unto the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved and the elements shall melt with fervent heat. Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for "new heavens and a new earth", wherein dwelleth righteousness."*

The Apostles and the Prophets were not speaking about the end of our physical planet. All the books of the Bible deal directly or figuratively with the end of the world (**age**) which was present when Peter wrote this second epistle.

The end of all things in the story of redemption is what was going to happen. It was the end of the Gentile world, the end of the Jewish world, the end of the "temporary" world of the Christians.

Today, in the New Covenant world, there only exists two types of people; believers and unbelievers. It was the beginning of an age that **NEVER** ends. ***"Of His kingdom there shall be no end."*** (Luke 1:33)

In **2 Peter 3:3**, the apostle Peter connects those days with the last day and the coming of the Lord Jesus. When we think of the world, we think of a heaven and earth. In **verse 6**, the heaven and earth (world) that then was, was overflowed with water and perished.

Obviously, the world, the heaven and earth, was not the physical planet, for it was not destroyed. The world, or this heaven and earth, was the people. Those people perished because of unrighteousness. Therefore, we can conclude that Noah's world was the **"first heaven and earth"**.

In **2 Peter 3:7**, Peter talks of the world, ***"the heaven and earth, which are **"now"**"*** that is the world which was in existence in Peter's Day. These were the people who were living in the first century.

The word **"now"** indicates that it was not the world in the past, nor was it the world in the future. **"Now"** was the world in which Peter was living. Peter's world, his heaven and earth, was going to be destroyed by "fire".

"For, behold, the day (the last day) cometh that shall burn as an oven and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up saith the Lord of Hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch..... and ye shall tread down the wicked, for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the "day" that I shall do this, saith the Lord of Hosts." (Malachi 4:1,3)

This is the fire and the **"day"** that John the Baptist had in mind when He said, ***"And now the axe is laid unto the root of the trees, therefore; every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down and cast into the fire."*** (Matthew 3:10)

When Peter wrote this second epistle, the then present heaven and earth was about to be destroyed by **"fire"**. Of this Jewish world, its elements and works would be burned up, melted, dissolved.

Therefore, this Jewish world was the **"second heaven and earth"** which was given at Matthew Sinai, the Old Covenant. Jesus said in **Matthew 5:18**, ***"...till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law till all be fulfilled."***

Hebrews 8:13 says ***"In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away."*** But there is another world after the world of the Jews. It is called the New Heavens and the New Earth or the third heaven.

There are only four times this expression occurs in the entire Bible. The first time is in **Isaiah 65:17**, ***"For behold I create New Heavens and a New Earth, and the former shall not be remembered nor come into mind." "But be ye glad and rejoice forever in that which I create, for behold, I create Jerusalem for rejoicing and her people a joy. And I will rejoice in Jerusalem and joy in my people...."*** This is the New Jerusalem of **Hebrews 12:22-23**. ***"But ye are come unto Mount Sion, and unto the city of the Living God, the heavenly Jerusalem.... to the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect."***

Here is a prophecy of the coming of the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ, the heavenly "Jerusalem". God was to create the New eternal heaven and earth. This was to be the third (New) Heaven and New Earth of **2 Peter 3**.

The second mention of "New Heavens and New Earth" is **Isaiah 66:22**, ***"For as the New Heavens and New Earth which I will make shall remain before me, saith the Lord...."*** If a thing remains, it is eternal.

Obviously, this is the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. The third mention of the New Heaven and the New earth is in **Revelation 21:1-2**: **"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband"**.

This relationship in the New Jerusalem, in the New Heaven and in the New Earth is the marriage relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. This is referring to the eternal heaven and earth, the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The fourth and final time that the New Heaven and the New Earth are mentioned is in **2 Peter 3:13**. Peter is looking for the Last Day and the end of all things. (**1 Peter 4:7**) He is looking for the arrival of the eternal age, the eternal heaven and earth, the eternal wife of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The bride was making herself ready these forty years, (AD 30 - AD 70). The time of the wedding was at hand. These were the things of the immediate future in the days of the days of the Apostles. **THESE WERE THE LAST DAYS**. The New Heaven and the New Earth were the new eternal world without end.

At times, the Holy Spirit allowed some to look into the future, into that New Jerusalem, that new world, that New Heaven and New Earth. (**John 8:56**) In **Revelation 1:10**, John was privileged to see and experience ***"the Lord's day"***. He looked into the New Heaven and New Earth which was in his future.

2 Peter 3:13 also refers to the New Heaven and the New Earth. Paul refers to the third heaven in **1 Corinthians 12:1-2**. He then calls this third heaven paradise in **1 Corinthians 12:4**. Paradise is where the Tree of Life is located. (**Revelation 2:7, 1 John 5:11**)

If a person is in Jesus, he has eternal life which is in paradise. We eat of that tree of life today in the eternal kingdom of God, in that eternal day, the Lord's Day.

The Tree of Life which was lost to Adam and Eve has been regained in the Lord Jesus Christ. It is that New Heaven and New Earth in its eternal glory and splendor that excels any physical glory or physical heaven and earth. It is the Kingdom of God in its eternal state, totally spiritual in nature.

Our gaining the Tree of Life, eternal life in Jesus in the eternal Kingdom is what the Bible is all about. Spiritual death is swallowed up in victory. **(1 Corinthians 15:54-57)** We have eternal life! (1 John 5:13) If we are in Christ, we have eternal life in Jesus. We are in the third heaven, the New Heaven and the New Earth now! The Tree of Life is accessible to us right now today!

With growth comes change. With change comes freedom from the traditions of men. With freedom comes responsibility. To whom much is given, much shall be required.

The tendency today is to let others do our thinking for us, particularly the ministers and elders and accept what they say as "Gospel". God has revealed His will in such a way that all of us can understand it. **(1 Corinthians 1:13, Ephesians 3:3-4)** We must make our own investigation of the Word of God. The faith which you have, hold it as your own conviction before God. **(Romans 14:22)**

[BACK](#)