**Sagecreek Bible Church**

**Worksheet – The New Heaven, The New Earth, And The New Jerusalem**

**Part 2**



**31 May 2020**

**The New Heaven, The New Earth, And The New Jerusalem**

The rapture of the Church

The Great Tribulation

The Battle of Armageddon

The Second coming of Christ

The Millennial Kingdom

The Great White Throne Judgment

The new heaven, new earth, and New Jerusalem

**Worksheet – Part 2**

Here is a simple chart depicting how I believe the Plan of the Ages is laid out for us.

The rapture of the Church

The Great Tribulation

The Battle of Armageddon

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The new heaven, new earth, and New Jerusalem

What do you think the likelihood is that man can create a perfect society on the earth today? Provide any thoughts you may have that support your answer.

Many attempts have been made to create a perfect society on the Earth, but all have failed. What do you believe went wrong with these efforts?

How has studying Heaven as our eternal home changed your thinking and approach to life?

What two writers in the NT primarily speak to us about the new heaven and the new earth?

Peter would write this just prior to his dead in about 68AD:

**2Pe 3:13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.**

John would write this just prior to his own death in about 100AD:

**Rev 21:1 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.**

Peter and John knew that this concept of a new heaven and new earth were presented by God through the Prophet Isaiah long before John and Peter wrote about it.

**Isa 65:17 For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.**

**Isa 66:22 For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain.**

In these two verses, Isaiah presents a commitment from God.

He will create new heavens and a new earth, and there will always be true believers to worship God in them.

So then, what will the new heaven and the new earth be like?

How can we describe this place?

They stand out before all believers as the place where all our deepest hopes for life and goodness will be fulfilled.

Certainly, as we view this through the light of Genesis 1-2, we can see Revelation 21- 22 as a bookend to biblical revelation.

Gen 1-2 speak of the creation of the heaven and earth that we currently live within.

Rev 21-22 speak of the creation of the new heaven and the new earth that we will live in.

The new heaven and the new earth pictured in Revelation correspond in many ways with the Genesis creation.

In both places, God dwells with His people in some kind of bodily, or at least in the case of Eden, visible form.

God walked in Eden (Genesis 3:8).

Jesus will rule from the throne in the New Jerusalem (Revelation 22:3).

In both the past and future paradises, we find the Tree of Life (Genesis 2:9; Revelation 22:2).

We also find life-giving water (Genesis 2:10; Revelation 22:1).

Eden marks the first place of one human connecting with another.

The heavenly paradise of Revelation will be an extended community of all who have believed (Genesis 2:18, 22; Revelation 21:27).

But, there are some contrasts between the new heaven and the new earth and the paradise in Eden.

In the new heaven and new Earth, temptation and the potential to sin won’t be part of humanity’s experience.

Also, a garden will not serve as the center of God’s dwelling on earth.

Instead, the center of God’s reign will be a city, the New Jerusalem, a holy dwelling on earth (Revelation 21:10).

As we study this subject, lets join those believers who received the Letter to the Hebrews.

**Heb 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.**

**14 For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. (Let’s seek it with them.)**

**15 And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned.**

**16 But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.**

I am so homesick for this country and the city that is there.

**The Case of “The Promise of a New Heaven and a New Earth”**

When Isaiah picked up his pen, he created art.

He was a very eloquent writer, maybe the best of the OT prophets.

Listen to what he wrote:

**Isaiah 65:17 For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.**

**18 But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy.**

**19 And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying.**

And then, he added this:

**Isaiah 66:22 For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain.**

**23 And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD.**

Isaiah certainly saw a time coming when earth and heaven would be transformed by God.

He KNEW God had a glorious future for His people, which includes a new heaven, a new earth, and a new capital city.

As we have seen in some recent studies, Peter shares some big time news about what will occur leading up to the new heaven and the new earth.

**2 Peter 2:7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. (In other words, fixing the existing heavens and earth are a part of God’s judgment plan.)**

**8 ¶ But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. (Among other things, Peter is telling us that regardless of how long it seems to take, the Lord’s promise is going to be fulfilled.)**

**9 ¶ The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.**

**10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.**

**11 ¶ Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,**

**12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?**

**13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. (A synonym for “Utopia” here is “a place where righteousness dwells.”)**

It has been said that if Hollywood would make a movie accurately based upon the Bible, they’d have a best seller.

That’s very true.

Imagine this passage from Peter as a disaster movie.

The whole universe explodes and collapses in flame, and out of the ashes a new heaven and new earth appear.

Here is a bit more of the promise of a new heaven and earth.

**Heb 1:10 And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands:**

**11 They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment;**

**12 And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail.**

This passage tells me two things about the new heavens and new earth:

The existing heavens and earth are compared to an old set of clothes that lose their usefulness and must be changed.

But God will never change, or change His plan, meaning that this promise will be fully fulfilled.

The Hebrews writer is quoting a passage from Psalms.

**Psa 102:25 Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands.**

**26 They shall perish, but thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed:**

**27 But thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end.**

All of this preparation work leads us to the main passage on this subject: Rev 21-22.

**Rev 21:1 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.**

**2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.**

A very logical question here is, “when will this happen?”

Let’s take a look down future history lane to see the order of events in Revelation.

I believe, chronologically, the new heaven and earth will appear after the rapture of the Church,

after the Great Tribulation and the Battle of Armageddon,

after the Second coming of Christ,

after the Millennial Kingdom,

and after the Great White Throne Judgment.

It will come at the end of time as we know it, and at the beginning of eternity.

Another question here is, “how will this happen?”

I don’t believe the Lord will thoroughly wipe out every bit of the old and start over from scratch.

I believe the Lord will create the new heaven and earth by renovating, overhauling, refurbishing, and reconstituting the old heaven and earth.

**2 Peter 3: 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.**

**12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?**

The phrase burned up, literally means “laid bare” or “exposed.”

It pictures being uncovered or laid open for exposure.

It isn’t a matter of utter destruction but of stripping everything away and getting back down to the original elements.

There will be a burning away of everything associated with sin, death, the curse, and what is not eternal.

It would appear to have more with purification than annihilation.

God will once more exercise His creative power to recreate the universe and make the new heaven and the new earth.

He did it once, He’ll do it again.

Dr. W. A. Criswell was a very prominent preacher in our country who put it this way:

“God someday shall purge this earth and this universe of all of its sin and unrighteousness and darkness and death. It will be dissolved in a fervent heat. The elements shall return to their primordial form, and that whole creation of God shall be burned with fire (2 Peter 3:10-12). It shall be cleansed. It shall be purged. Everything that is wrong and everything that is transgressing and sinful shall be taken out of it. Then shall come to pass this ultimate and final revelation described for us in the twenty-first chapter (Revelation 21). Out of this purged mass of God’s creative work, He will reshape, He will remake, He will re-create all of the heavens and this earth. There will be no destruction of what God has made. It is a renewal. It is a renaissance. It is a regeneration. It is a re-creation (Revelation 21:1-5).”

Here is another clue for us.

**Re 21:5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.**

The word “new” is significant.

There are two Greek words for “new.”

One of those words (*neos*) contained the idea of creating something form nothing – or new in terms of time.

The other word (*kianos*), suggested newness in terms of quality.

This is the word John used of the new creation at the end of the age – not utter destruction but utter transformation.

Just to give you further insight, *kianos* is also the same word Paul used in 2 Cor 5:17, when he wrote that if we were in Christ, we are a new creation.

A new convert is not completely destroyed, he is totally transformed.

Can you imagine preaching a Gospel message to the lost, telling them that if they would only accept Christ they would be totally destroyed?

But we do preach total transformation.

Here is another clue for us.

**Rev 21:1 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.**

Let’s look at the Greek term for “passed away.”

This Greek word (parerchromai) does not mean to cease to exist but to change form, to pass from one state to another.

It’s actually the word used for a man who walks through the door and passes from one room to another room.

Bible commentator William Hendrickson wrote:

“The first heaven and the first earth have passed away. In our imagination let us try to see this new universe. The very foundations of the earth have been subjected to purifying fire. Every stain of sin … every trace of death has been removed. Out of the great conflagration a new universe has been born. The word used in the original implies that it was a ‘new’ but not an ‘other’ world. It is the same heaven and earth, but gloriously rejuvenated, with no weeds, thorns, or thistles, and so on.”

When I speak of a loved one who has “passed away” I don’t mean to say they are now nonexistent.

They have simply moved from one state to another.

Here is another clue for us.

Peter compared the transition from the old creation to the new creation to Noah’s flood.

**2 Peter 3:5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:**

**6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:**

**7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.**

Think about this – was the world of Noah’s day destroyed?

No, but it was cleansed and purified.

The entire earth changed as the judgment of God came upon it.

But the essential elements making up the earth were not annihilated.

God did not obliterate it – He renovated it.

In that same way, God will not cause the present earth to cease to exist.

The fire will renovate the earth far more effectively than the water did.

Some even believe that the New Jerusalem will be our ark of safety while all this is going on.

Here is another quote from Dr. W. A. Criswell:

“There is no such thing as a tendency on the part of things to be extinct, to be annihilated. There is no evidence that any atom God ever originally created ever is annihilated, never. There is no more tendency of a thing created to be annihilated than there is that a thing not created has a tendency to create itself. God made all that you see in matter in the beginning. It is never added to; it is never taken away from. If God ever creates a thing, it extends itself forever. For example, your soul: when a soul is created, (Ecclesiastes 12:7) says the body returns to the dirt, just as it was; it doesn’t cease to be. It still is, though in another form, ‘and the spirit returns unto God who gave it.’ No thing God ever made is ever destroyed. So the new heaven and the new earth are renovated, they are remade.”

There is one more reason to believe the new heaven and the new earth are renovated that means much to me.

I don’t believe God intends to give Satan the satisfaction of having totally ruined His creation.

God was very pleased with what He had created.

**Gen 1:31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.**

I don’t believe God ever changed His mind about what He said.

I believe his purpose for redeeming the world was not to abandon His creation but to restore it.

If Satan could so totally devastate the world that even God couldn’t fix it, that would be a victory for Satan.

I don’t see that happening.

Randy Alcorn, in his book on Heaven, says this:

“God doesn’t throw away his handiwork and start from scratch – instead, he used the same canvas to repair and make more beautiful the paining marred by the vandal. The vandal doesn’t get the satisfaction of destroying his rival’s masterpiece. On the contrary, God makes an even greater masterpiece out of what his enemy sought to destroy.”

There are some really neat things about the new heaven and the new earth that you should know.

There will be no sin, disease, or death.

There will be nothing to bust us apart or destroy things.

We’ll never have to quit because we ran out of daylight or it got too cold or hot.

There are some other things that make me scratch my head.

The first thing is the removal of the sea.

**Rev 21:1 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.**

I don’t like salt water, but why no more sea?

I would think that since over 71% of our planet is covered in water and uninhabitable, the removal of it would give us much more space to romp around in.

**Henry Madison Morris** (October 6, 1918 – February 25, 2006) was an American young Earth creationist, Christian apologist, and engineer.

He was one of the founders of the Creation Research Society and the Institute for Creation Research.

This is what he says about the question of the sea:

“There will, in fact, be no need for a sea on the new earth. The present sea is needed, as was the original antediluvian sea, as a basic reservoir for the maintenance of the hydrologic cycle and the water-based ecology and physiology of the animal and human inhabitants of the earth.”

Also, since there will be no decay on the new earth, there is no need of a salt preservative.

The next great thing:

**Rev 22:3 And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:**

What is this curse?

**Gen 3:17 And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;**

**18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;**

**19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.**

The curse is why everything goes wrong in our world and why life is such a fight all the time.

We have droughts, earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, fires, and floods.

We endure the evils of humanity’s sinful nature.

This all is included in the curse.

Gus’ business will be tending good plants, not eliminating bad ones.

The total work of Christ is nothing less than redeeming this entire creation form the effects of sin.

This is completed in the new earth.

**Rom 8:22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.**

**23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. (And the redemption of all that is around us.)**

**24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?**

**25 But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.**

Finally, there is the restoral of all things.

**Rev 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.**

**5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.**

Paul explains this for is in his letter to the Ephesians.

**Ephe 1:9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:**

**10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:**

Randy Alcorn, in his book on heaven, explains it this way:

“Heaven is God’s home. Earth is our home. Jesus Christ, as the God-man, forever links God with mankind, and thereby forever links heaven and earth. As Ephesians 1:10 demonstrates, this idea of earth and heaven becoming one is explicitly biblical. Christ will make earth into heaven and heaven into earth. Just as the wall that separates God and mankind is torn down in Jesus, so too the wall that separates heaven and earth will be forever demolished. There will be one universe, with all things in heaven and on hearth together under one head, Jesus Christ. God’s plan is that there will be no more gulf between the spiritual and physical worlds. There will be no divided loyalties or divided realms. There will be one cosmos, one universe united under one Lord – forever. This is the unstoppable plan of God. This is where history is headed.”

The restored area that I so look forward to is our ability to be in the presence of God, which was lost in the garden.

**Rev 21:3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.**

All this makes me pray even more urgently,

**Rev 22:20 He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.**