

Heaven: Our Eternal Home

Hebrews 11:1-16

Introduction

I The Dimensions of Heaven

- A. The **earth's** atmosphere - Gen 1:6-8
- B. The starry heaven - Jer 8:2; Mt 24:29
- C. The **dwelling** place of God - Acts 7:55-56; Rev 22:1-2

II The Location of Heaven

- A. The **past** Heaven
 - 1. Abraham's Bosom - Lk 16:22-23
- B. The **intermediate** Heavens:
 - 1. The **3rd** Heaven - 2 Cor 12:2
 - 2. The Millennial Kingdom - Rev 20:1-15
- C. The **eternal** Heaven: The New Earth
 - 1. The objections to a renewed New Earth
 - a. **Misconceptions**: World, false religions, media
 - b. Platonism: 427-347 B.C.
 - c. Gnosticism: 1st-3rd Century Church
 - 2. The evidence for a **renewed** New Earth
 - a. The "**Bookend**" plan of God - Gen 1-2; Rev 21-22
 - b. The biblical principle of continuity - Gen 1:1; Is 65:17; 2 Pet 3:13; Rev 21:1
 - c. The pattern of Biblical **redemption**
 - 1. Noah and the flood - Gen 6-9; 2 Pet 3:3-7
 - 2. God's dealings with Israel - Rom 11
 - 3. The first and second Adam - 1 Cor 15:44-49
 - d. The Bible's **all**-inclusive language - Mt 19:28-29; Acts 3:21; Col 1:19-20; Eph 1:9-10
 - e. The Bible's choice of adjectives
 - 1. The New Earth in the Old Testament:
 - a. Beriy'ah = "To **create** new" - Num 16:30
 - b. Chadash = "To **renew**, or repair" - Is 65:17

- 2. The New Earth in the New Testament:
 - a. Neos = "New **chronologically**" - Heb12:4
 - b. Kainos = "New **freshness**" - 2Cor5:17; Rev21:1
- f. The refusal of God to give ground - Col 2:13-15
- g. The eager **expectation** of the Creation - Rom 8:19-24
- h. The Lamb's claim to Earth's Title **Deed** - Rev 5:1-2

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Take some time this week to consider the following:

1. It has been said that "a person can be so Heavenly minded that they are no earthly good." Is this an accurate statement based on Col 3:1-2? What are the benefits of meditating on Heaven?
2. Is it difficult for you to think of Heaven as a physical place with physical properties? What are these beliefs based on?
3. Take some time this week to read Genesis 1-2 followed by a reading of Revelation 21-22. What observations can you make regarding God's original creation and our Eternal Home? What similarities/differences do you see?
4. How do the points affirming the biblical evidence for a renewed earth challenge you? What questions do they prompt? Can you find answers to your own questions in the Scriptures?
5. Take a few minutes to meditate on and thank God for His eternal plan for your life and for His entire creation. Then ask Him to give you a single-minded heart like the saints of the past in Hebrews 11:1-16 who "were longing for a better country -- a heavenly one."

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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