

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

“Heaven: Our New Life”

1 Corinthians 15:35-58

2006

Note: This message is labeled “04-05” because it was delivered in two parts.

Introduction

Review:

1. Our Misconceptions: Harps, clouds, cherubim, Golden Gates and Peter
The result of Platonism and Gnosticism
2. Our Eternal Home: The Past, Present and Future Heaven
3. Our New Environment: The New Earth and the Celestial City

I Overall Conditions On The New Earth

A. Pre-flood climate

1. There will be a global temperate climate
Gen 2:25 “The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.”
Gen 8:22 “As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.”
As long as the earth endures (in its original state) -- hinting that the present system of nature on the earth will give way to higher order of things at the renewal of the New Earth.

B. Pre-flood hydrology

1. There will no longer be any sea
Rev 21:1 “... there was no longer any sea.”

What about surfing?

Definition of sea: “A large body of salt water”

Ezek 47:8 “He said to me, “This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, where it enters the Sea. When it empties into the Sea, the water there becomes fresh. Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live.”

So it appears that the existing bodies of water we call seas today, will be made into fresh water by virtue of the River of Life flowing from the throne of God (Rev 21:1)

2. There will be no more natural disasters

Isa 60:18 “No longer will violence be heard in your land, nor ruin or destruction within your borders, but you will call your walls Salvation and your gates Praise.”

Tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, drought, storms, floods -- natural disasters of any kind -- will be a thing of the past.

C. Pre-fall **productivity**

Gen 3:17-19 tells us that the ground was cursed because of Adam’s sin.

And though it would produce fruit -- it would require painful toil and sweat to obtain a marginal return compared to God’s original intent.

Rev 22:3 “No longer will there be any curse.”

D. Pre-fall animal life

If the New Earth is all the best of the old earth and more, then we should expect it to contain animals.

1. The animals of every kind will be **abundant** - Gen 1
There are 120 species of animals mentioned in the Bible
2. The animals will be vegetarians
Isa 65:25a “The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox ...”
3. The animals will be **tame**
In the New Heaven, the most ferocious of animals will be docile and friendly.
Isa 65:25b “They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain,” says the LORD.”
4. The animals may be capable of communication
 - a. Adam and Eve register no surprise at the serpent’s talking - Gen 3:1
 - b. Balaam’s donkey speaks - Numbers 22:28-30
 - c. Four living creatures speak - Rev 4:6-8

II Biological Conditions On The New Earth

The Bible repeatedly affirms that believers will have resurrected bodies (Job 19:25-27; Is 26:19; Dan 12:2-3; 1 Cor 15:12-58; Phil 3:21; 1 Thess 4:16-17; Rev 20:4-6)

Quotes:

Calvin Miller: “Our graves are merely doorways cut in sod.”

Victor Hugo: “The tomb is not a blind alley; it is a thoroughfare. It closes upon the twilight, but opens upon the dawn.”

A. We will have **glorified** bodies

The New Testament tells us that Jesus resurrected body is the prototype for us:

1 Cor 15:20, 48-49 “But Christ [is] the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep ... As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the

man from heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven.

Phil 3:20-21 “But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.”

1 John 3:2 “Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.”

1. Our bodies will be physical

a. We will be made of flesh and bone

Luke 24:37-39 “They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.”

b. We will be able to walk, talk and work

1. On the road to Emmaus Jesus walked with the disciples - Luke 24:31
2. When Jesus talked to his disciples by the Sea of Tiberius - Jn 21:1-6
3. When he prepared breakfast for his disciples - John 21:9-13

c. We will be able to eat and drink

Following his resurrection Jesus appeared to the frightened disciples who though they were seeing a ghost.

In order to prove His physical, bodily resurrection Jesus asked:

Luke 24:31-43 “Do you have anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate it in their presence.”

There are also many references in both the OT and NT to eating and drinking in the Present Heaven as well as in the Future Heaven -- the New Earth.

Luke 14:15-24 “When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, “Blessed is the man who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God.” [Followed by the parable of the wedding Feast]

2. Our bodies will be recognizable

Jesus’ resurrected body was recognizable

- a. Mary recognized Jesus - John 20:16
- b. The disciples recognized Jesus on the Road to Emmaus - Luke 24:31
- c. Peter recognized Jesus by the Sea of Tiberius - Jn 21:7

Quote: The Westminster Confession of Faith, 1646

“All the dead shall be raised up, with the self-same bodies, and none other.”

3. Our bodies will be made whole

Resurrected believers will be physically whole in every way.

a. The deaf will hear, the blind will see, the dumb will sing, and the lame will be able to run - Isa 35:5-6

b. Our bodies will be eternal, glorious and powerful

1 Cor 15:42-44 "The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body."

Quote: Augustine, The City of God

"The body shall be of that size which it either had attained or should have attained in the flower of its youth, and shall enjoy the beauty that arises from preserving symmetry and proportion and all its members... Overgrown emaciated persons need not fear that they shall be in heaven of such a figure as they would not be even in this world if they could help it."

B. We will maintain our **identity**

Jesus called people in heaven by name, including Lazarus in Abraham's Bosom and Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the 3rd heaven.

If you are a believer, your name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life (Rev 3:5). A name denotes a distinct identity of an individual. The fact that people in heaven can be called by the same name they had on earth demonstrates they remain the same people.

Job 19:25-27 "I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; **I myself will see him with my own eyes -- I, and not another.** How my heart yearns within me!"

Luke 24:37-39 "They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. **It is I myself!**"

Application: What makes you you? Your name, personality, traits, gifts, passions, preferences, experiences, interests -- even your skin tone, nationality, will be restored and amplified, untarnished by sin and the curse.

C. We will have memories of life on earth

1. When Samuel was brought back to earth from Abraham's Bosom by the witch of Endor, he immediately knew Saul and rebuked him for his failure to obey God (1 Sam 28:17-18).

2. The Rich man in Gehenna remembered:

a. The good things he enjoyed on earth (Lk 16:25)

b. His brothers on earth (Luke 16:27-28).

3. The martyrs in the 3rd Heaven who remember the injustice of their persecutors (Rev 6:9-10)
4. Christ's nail-scarred feet and hands will *not* be forgotten!
Rev 5:6 "Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders."

Question: What about Isaiah 65:17 that says in Heaven "the former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind"?

A similar statement is found in Jeremiah 31:34 when God said, "I will remember their sins no more."

It doesn't mean that God can't remember, but that He chooses not to remember our past sins or to hold them against us.

In the same way, we will have memories of the past life on earth, but like Christ, it will be within our power to either remember certain things or to forget them.

Illustration: Life in New York

It is within my power to remember it, but it seldom comes to mind and can't rival my enjoyment of what God is doing here on Kauai.

D. We will have new **capabilities**

If our resurrection bodies have the same properties as Jesus, we may have new capabilities that are nothing short of comic book proportions!

1. Jesus' resurrected body was capable of appearing and disappearing suddenly (Road to Emmaus) Luke 24:31
2. Jesus resurrected body was able to pass through locked doors - Jn 20:19
3. Philip was transported from Gaza to Azotus -- 20 miles away (Acts 8:39-40)

III Sociological Conditions On The New Earth

A. Our relationships with the **saints**

1. We will enjoy corporate worship - Rev 5:13; 7:9-12; 15:2-4; 19:1-7
2. We will enjoy fellowship and eating
Matt 8:11 "I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven."
3. We will enjoy work on the New Earth (next session)

B. Our relationship with friend and **family**

1. We will experience a glorious reunion with those we know and love
1 Thess 4:13-18 "Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope ... God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him ... After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with

them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air ... Therefore encourage each other with these words.”

2. We will be reunited with our infant children

Examples of children who died before the age of accountability

a. David and Bathsheba’s son who died

2 Sam 12:23 “I will go to him, but he will not return to me.”

b. The boys under 2 years of age slaughtered by Herod - Matt 2:16-18

Jer 31:15-17 “This is what the LORD says: “A voice is heard in Ramah, mourning and great weeping, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because her children are no more. This is what the LORD says: “Restrain your voice from weeping and your eyes from tears, for **your work will be rewarded,**” declares the LORD. **“They will return from the land of the enemy. So there is hope for your future,**” declares the LORD. **“Your children will return to their own land.”**”

C. Our relationship with our **spouse**

Luke 20:34-35 “Jesus replied, “The people of this age marry and are given in marriage. But those who are considered worthy of taking part in that age and in the resurrection from the dead will neither marry nor be given in marriage.”

Why no marriage? Because the primary purpose for marriage is:

1. To illustrate Christ’s relationship to the church - Eph 5:22-33
2. To procreate in order to fill the earth and finally heaven with worshippers
3. To prepare Christians to comprehend and anticipate the intimacy and joy of relationship with Christ

“Earthly marriage is a shadow, a copy, an echo of the true and ultimate marriage.”

Ps 45:10-11 “Listen, O daughter, consider and give ear: Forget your people and your father's house. The king is enthralled by your beauty; honor him, for he is your lord.”

D. Our relationship with the angels

1. The angels are assigned to individuals - Matt 18:10
2. The angels are “sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?” - Heb 1:14
2. The angels will be submitted to our authority - 1 Cor 6:3
4. The angels are not to be worshipped - Col 2:18

E. Our relationship with **God**

1. We will **see** God

- a. Moses wasn’t permitted to see God’s face -- only his back (Ex 33:18-23)
- b. Paul affirmed in 1 Tim 6:16 that [God] “lives in unapproachable light” and has not been seen.

But the scripture clearly states that in Heaven we will see God:

Job 19:26-27 “And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes-I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!”

1 John 3:2 “But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.”

Rev 22:4 “They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.”

Why can't we see Him now?

Heb 12:14 “... without holiness no one will see the Lord.

Matt 5:8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.”

2. We will dwell with God

Ezek 37:27 “My dwelling place will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be my people.”

Rev 21:3 “And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.”

3. We will be **married** to Jesus Christ

In the New Testament, Christ is the Bridegroom (John 3:29), and the corporate church is His bride (Eph 5:25-33) for which wedding preparations are being made (Rev 19:7). [See also Isa 54:1-17; 62:4-5]

Isa 54:5 “For your Maker is your husband -- the LORD Almighty is his name -- the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; he is called the God of all the earth.”

2 Cor 11:2 “I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him.”

IV Spiritual Conditions On The New Earth

The first three chapters of the Bible present God's original plan for man including:

1. Eternal life
2. A righteous and sinless standing before God
3. A home with God
4. Dominion over the earth

Due to mankind's sin, all of these remarkable benefits were forfeited.

But the last three chapters of the Bible describe the glorious restoration of all things.

A. Our pre-fall **life**

Adam and Eve forfeited the benefits of eternal life, but Jesus will redeem it for us.

1. Pre-fall conscience

a. No guilt or shame

Gen 2:25 “The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.”

2. Pre-fall **fellowship** with God

Gen 3:8 “Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day ...”

3. Pre-fall peace and corporate unity with one another

Gen 2:23 “The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh ...”

4. Pre-fall freedom from sin's **consequences**

a. Freedom from hunger and thirst - Rev 7:16

b. Freedom from tears and sorrow - Isa 65:19; Rev 21:4a

c. Freedom from death, mourning, crying, pain - Rev 21:4a

d. Freedom from the curse - Rev 22:3

e. Freedom from the wicked and from their sin - Revelation 21:8, 27; 22:15).

5. Pre-fall **joy** and contentment

Isa 51:11 “The ransomed of the LORD will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.”

Ps 16:11 “You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.”

B. Our pre-fall **righteousness**

Adam and Eve forfeited a sinless life, but Jesus has redeemed it for us.

2 Peter 3:13 “But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a New Heaven and a New Earth, the home of righteousness.”

C. Our pre-fall home

Adam and Eve forfeited the Garden of Eden, but Jesus will redeem it for us.

Mark 10:29-30 “I tell you the truth," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age (homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields-and with them, persecutions) and in the age to come, eternal life.”

D. Our pre-fall **dominion**

Adam and Eve forfeited our right to have dominion over the earth, but Jesus will redeem that right for us.

Genesis 1:26 ff “Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them **rule over** the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth ... God said to them, Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and **subdue it**. **Rule over** the fish of the sea and birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the earth ...”

Rev 5:9-10 “And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased

men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and **they will reign on the earth.**”

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