

Sovereign Grace Church
“New Heavens and a New Earth” outline
October 7, 2018

Revelation 21: 1-8

Eschatology is the study of last things. Last with reference to time? Maybe....but then again would that mean there is no time in our final state? I suspect that most folks believe that the Scriptures teach that humans can be redeemed, die and get raised to a life that doesn't end.....but the “doesn't end” part is usually taken to mean that time just keeps on going. Of course there could be more than one dimension of time in our resurrected world....but only God is taken to be eternal (outside of time).

But what about the place where the redeemed will continue to live? Is that place heaven? Is heaven a place? A place in our present Universe? We talk about dying and going to Heaven....but is Heaven our ultimate destination? The Bible would seem to indicate that it is not. Revelation speaks of a “new heavens and a new earth” as the final destination of redeemed humanity. And instead of the redeemed going to Heaven....it pictures instead the redeemed coming back to earth! This morning we will consider the New Heavens and the New Earth as the final destiny of redeemed humanity....and perhaps some related questions.

1. John saw a New Heaven and a New Earth. v. 1

- “new” refers to newness of quality or kind
II Cor. 5:17; Isa 65:17; Ac 3: 19-21

- John envisions the final culmination of what we are working toward even now.
Col. 1: 19-20

- No more sea?!
Isa 57: 20F

2. John saw a New Jerusalem. vv. 2-4

- Old Jerusalem Judged and New Jerusalem Returns
Heb. 12: 22-23

- **Fulfillment of the Promises**
Lev. 26: 11-12; Jn 1: 14; II Cor. 6: 16

- **No more Tears?!**
Isa 25: 8a; Jn 11: 25-26

3. John heard the King's Address. vv. 5-8

- **“I am making all things new” II Cor. 5:17**
- **“these words are true and faithful”**
- **“I will give of the fountain of the water of life...” Jn 4:14**
- **Those outside! The outlaws! v. 8**

Questions for Conversation and Reflection

- 1. Do you think there will be a connection between the old heavens and earth and the new heavens and earth? I can think of at least one!**
- 2. How are you as Christ's disciple even now living in the New Heavens and Earth? How is faith relevant to this? What does Jesus' resurrection have to do with the New Heavens and the New Earth? Would you describe the Christian life as an easy life? Or a hard life? What would make it easy? What would make it hard?**
- 3. Do you fear death? Do you fear dying? How are spiritual death and physical death connected? How can we live now as if we had already died?**
- 4. So....where do you think you will go when you die? After that?! What testimony would be good to have inscribed on your tombstone?**

