

A Theology of Heaven

Part Six:
"The Redemption of the Earth"

Basic Tenets

1. The "present heaven" is not the eternal state
2. There will be a physical, bodily resurrection of the dead
3. Our eternal home (heaven) will be the new (renewed) earth

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"Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth;..."

– Isaiah 65:17

"For just as the new heavens and the new earth which I make will endure before me," declares the Lord, "so your offspring and your name will endure."

– Isaiah 66:22

"But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells."

– 2 Peter 3:13

“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away,...”

– Revelation 21:1

- *new "earth"* – implies continuity with the present earth
- *"new" earth* – this earth restored or made new through destruction

Earth's Redemption

1. The Original Creation: "*Paradise*"

- God created the heavens and the earth and it was "very good"
- He created man in His image and gave him dominion over the earth
- Man enjoyed fellowship with God while ruling over a harmonious creation

Earth's Redemption

2. The Fall: "*Paradise Lost*"

- alienation from God
- curse upon the earth – futility and lack of harmony
- banishment from Eden and from eternal life

The promise of a coming redeemer!

Earth's Redemption

3. Redemption: "*Paradise Regained*"

- Removal of sin and death; restoration of relationship with God forever
- Removal of earth's curse; restoration of God-intended harmony and beauty
- Return to an earthly paradise; like Eden but greater (Revelation 22:1-3)

Earth's Redemption

“For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in the heavens.”

– Colossians 1:19-20

Earth's Redemption

“For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but because of Him who subjected it in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole of creation groans with the pains of childbirth together until now.”

– Romans 8:19-22

Earth's Redemption

Conclusion:

- **This Earth gives us a foretaste of the New Earth (i.e. heaven)**
 - imagine this earth free from the effects of the curse
 - this world, free from sin and corruption and made new, is our home!