

A Theology of Heaven

Part Seven: "The New Earth: Our Eternal Home"

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

– 2 Peter 3:13

- implies a continuity with this present earth; this earth made new
- essential to God's overarching plan of redemption

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

– 2 Peter 3:13

"And that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, whom heaven must receive until the period of *the restoration of all things* about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient times."

– Acts 3:20-21

Promise of the New Earth

Message of the Prophets:

1. Coming Judgment: "Day of the Lord"

- immediate judgment was a harbinger of coming cataclysmic judgment

2. Future Restoration and Blessing

- a time of complete, eternal restoration on the earth; includes Gentiles

Promise of the New Earth

Micah 4:1-5:4

1. The Coming Kingdom

- Zion (Jerusalem) will be the centerpiece
- Nations will know the Lord; desire to learn
- The Lord will reign as a perfect judge – no injustice, no warfare, great prosperity
- It will be an eternal earthly kingdom

Promise of the New Earth

Micah 4:1-5:4

2. The Coming King

- He comes in seeming insignificance
- He comes as a King-Shepherd
- He will be great to the "ends of the earth"

"For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."
– Habakkuk 2:14

"...And His dominion is from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth." – Zech. 9:10

"And the Lord will be king over all the earth; in that day the Lord will be the only one" – Zech 14:9

"The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our God and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever."
– Revelation 11:15

Promise of the New Earth

Isaiah 11:1-9

- A Davidic King (Messiah) will establish righteousness on the earth
- The curse will be lifted – animals and man will live in harmony again
- "The earth" will be full of the knowledge of the Lord

Promise of the New Earth

Isaiah 65:17-25

- The future kingdom is a "new heavens and a new earth" (renewed earth)
- There will be no weeping or death
- The curse will be lifted – man will not work in vain and animals will live in harmony

Promise of the New Earth

Conclusion:

- Our eternal home will be familiar not foreign!
 - animals, foods, enjoyable labor, dwelling places, cities, relationships, music, learning, new discoveries, breath-taking scenery
 - the New Earth will be more "home" than the present earth