

Heaven on Earth

Isaiah 11:6-9

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⁶ And the wolf will dwell with the lamb,
And the leopard will lie down with the young goat,
And the calf and the young lion and the fattened ox together;
And a little boy will lead them.
⁷ Also the cow and the bear will graze,
Their young will lie down together,
And the lion will eat straw like the ox.
⁸ The nursing child will play by the hole of the cobra,
And the weaned child will put his hand on the viper's den.
⁹ They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain,
For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
As the waters cover the sea.

(Isaiah 11:6-9)

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Heaven on Earth

1. A Renewed Creation

- natural hostilities are removed – predators and prey are now reconciled
- a change of nature in the animals themselves – predators graze like domesticated animals
- the enmity between man and dangerous animals is removed – no fear or harm

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➤ The Reality

- in Messiah's reign danger, destruction, and death will be removed from the whole world because *the earth* will be filled with knowing the Lord

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2. A Restored (Expanded) Eden

- a picture of creation with the curse removed – no hostility or death but complete harmony
- the whole earth has become Eden-like – God's sanctuary filled with the knowledge of Him

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➤ The Fulfillment

- this final, restored kingdom will be the creation of new heavens and a new earth
 - Isaiah 65:17-25; 2 Pet. 3:13; Rev. 21:1ff

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3. A Resurrection Hope

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¹⁷ and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins... ²⁰ But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. ²¹ For since by a man *came* death, by a man also *came* the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. ²³ But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming, ²⁴ then *comes* the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power.

(1 Cor. 15:17, 20-24)

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3. A Resurrection Hope

- the resurrection of Jesus Christ both secures and inaugurates this new creation
- the bodily resurrection of Jesus is the guarantee of our bodily resurrection, uniquely transformed for this new creation

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"I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"

(John 11:25-26)

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