

Biblical Theology

Unit 8: Doctrine of the Church – Lesson 4: The New Heavens and New Earth

New Heavens and New Earth

- Definition: A description of the entirely renewed creation in which believers will dwell with God after the final judgement.
 1. **God has prepared a place for all believers at the consummation of all things.**
 - **Matthew 25:34** - *Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.*
 - **2 Peter 3:13** - *But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.*
 - **Revelation 21:1** - *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.*
 2. **Heaven is a place where God makes his presence most known in order to bless.**
 - **Isaiah 66:1** - *Thus says the Lord: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool; what is the house that you would build for me, and what is the place of my rest?"*
 - **Matthew 6:9** - *Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*
 - **1 Peter 3:22** - *who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.*
 - **Acts 1:11** - *"Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."*
 - **Acts 7:55-56** - *But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."*
 - **John 14:2** - *In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?*
 - **Revelation 21:2-3** - *And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.*
 - **Revelation 21:22-23** - *And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.*
 3. **Believers will exist and act in a physical realm in physical, glorified bodies.**
 - **2 Peter 3:13** - *But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.*
 - **Revelation 21:1** - *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.*
 - **Romans 8:19-21** - *For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.*
 - **John 5:25** - *Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.*
 - **Luke 20:35-36** - *those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage, for they cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.*

4. The New Creation will be a place of great beauty, abundance and joy.

- **Revelation 21:3-4** - *And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."*
- **Revelation 21:18-19a** - *The wall was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold, like clear glass. The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every kind of jewel.*
- **Revelation 21:15-26**
 - Beauty, Security, Glory of God.
- **Revelation 22:1-5**
 - Presence of God and renewed life.
 - Eternal life.

Discussion Questions

1. Do you long for eternal life? Why?
2. What do you struggle with most regarding your understanding of the new heavens and new earth?
3. How can an anticipation for the new heavens and new earth affect how you live your life on this side of eternity?

Reading Assignment

- *Article: You Cannot Serve Both God and Theology by Marshall Segal.*
- *2 Timothy Chapters 2 & 3*