

# *Heaven*

Jim Hoffman

Lesson #6

# The Bible Trilogy

Past	Present	Future
<b>Genesis 1-2</b>	<b>Genesis 3 - Revelation 20</b>	<b>Revelation 21-22</b>
God's original design. Perfect humans living in a perfect environment.	Fallen man struggling to survive and endure life on a sin cursed earth.	Redeemed man living on a redeemed earth.

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# Restoration

- **“If God were to end history and reign forever in a distant Heaven, Earth would be remembered as a graveyard of sin and failure. Instead, Earth will be redeemed and restored.”** Randy Alcorn
  - **When one has unlimited power to restore and repair there is no reason to start from scratch.**
  - **Satan will not have the victory; God will restore Earth and mankind to His original design.**
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# Restoration

- It excites me to know that what I sense in my bones should be ..... Will be.
  - We have a deep longing for, and a distant sense that things are not as He intended and that something on Earth is desperately wrong.
  - That feeling is not new .... Heb 11:16 Instead, they were longing for a better country — a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them. NIV
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# Questions

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# Return to Eden.

- In Genesis God plants the garden on earth; in Revelation he brings down the new earth with a garden at the center.
- In Eden there was no sin or death; in the new earth, sin and death are no more.
- In Genesis the Redeemer is promised; in Revelation the Redeemer returns.

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# Lessons from C.S. Lewis

- In ‘The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe’
    - Narnia was living under an ‘always winter never Christmas’ curse.
    - Aslan (Jesus) dies to break the curse.
    - Man (the kids) are given rule of the earth from the resurrected Aslan.
    - Narnia was earth with the curse removed.
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# Redemption

- To some extent we live in an elongated parenthesis where a fallen world has been our home.
  - Rev 22:3 No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. NIV
  - Redemption is all about being bought back and restored to our original purpose.
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# The importance of the Resurrection.

- **1 Cor 15:17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. NIV**
  - **It is a grave mistake and a heresy to try to spiritualize the resurrection. If Jesus did not rise from the dead then he was merely a faithful martyr.**
  - **Rom 1:4 and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. NIV**
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# Resurrection is Physical.

- Resurrection goes beyond implying something physical ..... It cannot be understood apart from the physical resurrection of our bodies.
  - Gen 2:7 the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. NIV
  - Adam was not declared to be alive until he also had a body. God designed our bodies for eternity. (cells regenerate)
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# Resurrection is Physical.

- **Views of the afterlife that do not include a resurrection of our physical bodies are not biblical views.**
  - **Gnosticism is a view that says all spiritual entities are good and all physical entities are bad.**
  - **This is a direct contradiction of the bible where we read ... Gen 1:31 God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. NIV**
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# Resurrection is Physical.

- To some extent our view of heaven has been tainted by the ancient teachings of Gnosticism.
  - We read that the world, the flesh, and the Devil are our enemies in 1<sup>st</sup> John and jump to the incorrect conclusion that physical things are the problem.
  - Rather than thinking in terms of physical things being the problem, *we should recognize that sin is the problem that affected the world, the flesh, and the Devil.*
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# Resurrection is Physical.

- “Christianity is not a platonic religion that regards material things as mere shadows of reality which will be sloughed off as soon as possible. Not the mere immortality of the soul, but rather the resurrection of the body and the renewal of all creation is the hope of the Christian faith.” John Piper
  - “It is God who designed us to live on the earth and to desire the earthly life. And it is our bodily resurrection that will allow us to return to an earthly life – this time free from sin and the curse.”  
Randy Alcorn
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# Resurrection is Physical.

- Job 19:26 And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; 27 I myself will see him with my own eyes — I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me! NIV
  - Job seemed sure that his body would have to go through death and decay for a time, but he seemed just as sure that his body would be resurrected.
  - Furthermore, by his own words we learn that the resurrection was what he yearned for.
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# Resurrection is Physical.

- We were created in the image of God with physical bodies and God pronounced us 'good'.
  - He did not err, we were designed perfectly and the fact that the Devil has done some serious damage to our design does not alter God's intentions at all.
  - He who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all we can ask or think finds it not difficult at all to restore us as good as new, or better.
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# Resurrection is Physical.

- “The empty tomb is the ultimate proof that Christ’s resurrection body was the same body that died on the cross. If resurrection means the creation of a new body, then the body that died on the cross would have been left in the tomb.” Randy Alcorn
  - John 2:19 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." NIV
  - The Westminster Confession speaks of the resurrection of these ‘self same bodies’.
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# Resurrection is Physical.

- **Word, Excel, Powerpoint .... All Microsoft applications that get regular upgrades.**
  - **When you upgrade Microsoft Office the programs all look familiar, they do the same things as before and often much more. (new features and corrected glitches)**
  - **Our resurrected bodies will have all of the old 'bugs' fixed and will also have a lot of new features.**
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# Resurrection is Physical.

- The resurrected Jesus looked like the Jesus they all knew, but better.
  - He still spoke, could be touched, could interact, but he could also do other new things ... walk through walls (John 20:19) and fly (Acts 1:9).
  - His physical resurrected body is like the resurrected body we will have. (Phil 3:21 - He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control.)
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# Resurrection is Physical.

- **Rev 1:12** I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, **13** and among the lampstands was someone "like a son of man," dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. **14** His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. **15** His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. **16** In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. **17** When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. **18** I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades. NIV
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# Resurrection is Physical.

- **Acts 22:11** My companions led me by the hand into Damascus, because the brilliance of the light had blinded me. NIV
  - **Acts 7:55** But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 56 "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." NIV
  - **What's the point?** In one case Jesus' presence was so overwhelming that he appeared only as a blinding light. In another his appearance was so familiar that Stephen knew in an instant he was looking at Jesus.
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# Resurrection is Physical.

- **Luke 24:38** He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? **39** Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have." **40** When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. **41** And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" **42** They gave him a piece of broiled fish, **43** and he took it and ate it in their presence.  
**NIV**
  - The disciples would have seen the nail prints in his hands and feet. They also watched him eat and they touched him.
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# Resurrection is Physical.

- **1 Cor 15:42 So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; 43 it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; 44 it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. NIV**
  - **Sown perishable ----- raised imperishable.**
  - **Sown in dishonor ---- raised in glory.**
  - **Sown in weakness ----- raised in power.**
  - **Sown a natural body ----- raised a spiritual body.**
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**Questions / Comments**