

Heaven

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Lesson #7

The Old Testament hope for a new Earth.

- Isa 26:19 But your dead will live; their bodies will rise. You who dwell in the dust, wake up and shout for joy. Your dew is like the dew of the morning; the earth will give birth to her dead. NIV
 - The verse above makes no attempt to separate the resurrections between the saved and lost as two separate events. (most doctrines are not built on a single verse)
 - The Old Testament saints were not looking to go to a distant Heaven *They were expecting to live on a restored Earth.*
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The Old Testament hope for a new Earth.

- Some have reduced Christ's reign on Earth to the Millennial kingdom.
 - Rapture
 - Tribulation
 - Second Coming
 - 1000 year reign on Earth
 - Great white throne judgment
 - New Heaven and New Earth



The Old Testament hope for a new Earth.

- Isa 9:7 Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. NIV
 - Isa 65:17 "Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. 18 But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy. NIV
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The Old Testament hope for a new Earth.

- It seems clear the Old Testament saints expected to live forever on the Earth.
 - I think it is somewhat irrelevant whether they believed in a restored Earth or a new Earth; the facts are that God promised a ‘forever’ on Earth.
 - We do not long for something we have never seen or have any reference to; we long for things to be set right on Earth much like they were in our lives when we came to Christ.
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The Old Testament hope for a new Earth.

- Isa 66:22 "As the new heavens and the new earth that I make will endure before me," declares the Lord, "so will your name and descendants endure. NIV
 - The fact of a new Earth is written in many places in the Old Testament.
 - The Old Testament saints were not looking for a new Earth because it was all they could relate to. They were looking for a new Earth because that is what God promised.
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Will we remember the things we see now?

- Common question – how can we have joy in Heaven if we know unsaved loved ones are suffering in hell?
 - Isa 65:17 "Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. NIV
 - Being careful not to build a doctrine on a single verse, it would seem we could begin to build a case from Isaiah 65 for us being released from sad memories.
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Will Earth be destroyed or restored?

- Luke 21:33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. NIV
 - 2 Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. NIV
 - Rev 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. NIV
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Will Earth be destroyed or restored?

- Think of this – the Apostle Paul ‘passed away’ 2000 years ago and his body cannot be found today because it has completely changed into another form of matter, dust.
 - However, at the rapture of the church the Apostle Paul will be resurrected and his body will be restored into a recognizable Apostle Paul. (resurrected Jesus)
 - If passing away was not the complete extinction of Paul, how can we be so sure the Earth that passes away cannot be resurrected and restored as well?
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Will Earth be destroyed or restored?

- Forest fires often destroy and seemingly wipe out hundreds of acres of green and living trees, but there is always a resurrection of those forests.
 - *Fire cleanses the forests of diseased plants and trees. Forest fires also remove the underbrush that sometimes suffocates new growth in the forest.*
 - When the forest 'passes away' it is not uncommon at all for a healthier forest to replace it.
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Will Earth be destroyed or restored?

- Acts 3:19 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, 20 and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you — even Jesus. 21 *He must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets. NIV*
 - The prophets promised a restoration of the Earth and the New Testament affirms the same promise.
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Will Earth be destroyed or restored?

- **So the answer to the question above
is YES!**

Questions / Comments