

Heaven

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Lesson #8

God will live with us.

- If Heaven is where God is, and if God is going to live on the Earth, then to call the New Earth 'Heaven' is no stretch at all.
 - Rev 21:3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God." NIV
 - God will not send some delegate who will be like Him – God is going to come and personally live on the New Earth with us.
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God will live with us.

- “Fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, and friends are mere shadows. These are but scattered beams, God is the sun. These are but streams, God is the fountain. These are but drops, God is the ocean.” Jonathon Edwards
 - 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
 - It seems that the work is already done – “he has prepared” indicates a past action.
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God will live with us.

- **John 14:2 In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. NIV**
 - **So if the city is already done, why did Jesus say he was going to prepare a place for us?**
 - **When you are expecting house guests for a visit don't you usually prepare a room for them with clean sheets, fresh towels, and other amenities?**
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God will live with us.

- Imagine this – if you had the opportunity to spend time with anyone in all of history who would you choose?
 - We can come up with a list of names, but the list of names make a point for us worth noting – when God was thinking about someone he would like to spend time with He choose us!
 - John 15:16 *You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit* — fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. NIV
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Worshipping God.

- In this life we get occasional times of blessing when we experience in a fresh and real way the presence of God.
 - In Heaven, we will experience his presence all of the time and we will not grow accustomed to it.
 - Our perception of God isn't static, our knowledge of him will be in constant motion learning new things about him.
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Worshipping God.

- Eph 2:6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. NIV
 - We will spend eternity worshipping Him for the things He has done in us, and in those around us.
 - Every thing we see of His redemptive work will move us to worship Him in an unencumbered environment.
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Worshipping God.

- The current world, even marred by sin as it is, is full of glimpses of God and reasons to praise Him.
 - The New Earth will overflow with 'praise prompts' and we will never feel awkward about giving God the worship he is due.
 - If we were completely honest I believe we would all say that we are somewhat restrained in our worship for fear that someone might judge us to be weird.
 - In heaven it will be weird not to worship and serve God.
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Ruling On The New Earth

- **Rev 5:6** Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. **7** He came and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. **8** And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. **9** And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. **10** You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth." NIV
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Ruling On The New Earth

- It is God's will that man will rule on the earth.
 - God intended for man to rule (govern) on the earth.
 - Gen 1:28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground." NIV
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Ruling On The New Earth

- **Gen 17:8** The whole land of Canaan, where you are now an alien, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God." NIV
 - **God is the sovereign ruler of the universe, but chooses to delegate some aspects of ruling the earth to his people.**
 - **Men and women have been uniquely created and equipped for the task of managing the earth.**
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Ruling On The New Earth

- Kingdoms have been rising and falling throughout the history of man. Most, if not all, fell because of sin.
 - When Jesus sets up his kingdom it will be ruled in righteousness and will never end. We will rule and reign with him as we were intended.
 - Rom 8:17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs — heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. NIV
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Ruling On The New Earth

- Ruling the universe will be our 'family business'.
 - Every servant of the King will have a role to play in the kingdom and we will be servant rulers of the universe.
 - Luke 14:11 For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."
NIV
 - Those who humble themselves in this life to believe in, and serve Jesus, will be exalted in eternity.
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Ruling On The New Earth

- **Luke 22:29 And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, 30 so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. NIV**
 - **There is a battle being waged for control of the universe. God will win and hand the keys over to us.**
 - **He is grooming us for leadership – will we be faithful in a few things, so that he can make us rulers over many?**
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Matt 25:14-23

14 "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them.

15 To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. 16 The man

who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. 17 So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. 18 But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

19 "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them

Matt 25:14-23

20 The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.' 21 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' 22 "The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.' 23 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' NIV

Will the new earth be an Edenic paradise?

- **“The New Earth will be a place of sensory delight, breathtaking beauty, satisfying relationships, and personal joy.” Randy Alcorn**
 - **If God made the garden of Eden for man it is reasonable to conclude it is His will for man to live in that kind of environment.**
 - **We might say that the New Earth is a restoration to the moral state of all things as they were at the beginning.**
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What about history?

- **“By analogy, salvation in Jesus Christ, conceived in the broad creational sense, means a restoration of culture and society in their present stage of development. That restoration will not necessarily oppose literacy or urbanization or industrialization or the internal combustion engine, although these historical developments have led to their own distortions or evils. Instead, the coming of the kingdom of God demands that these developments be reformed, that they be made answerable to their creational structure, and that they be subjected to the ordinances of the Creator.” Albert Wolters**
 - **The New Earth will not be a restart of history, but a continuation of it.**
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What about history?

- If a child gets a disease and spends his formative years with it before being healed he does not go back and start life over again healthy.
 - He simply continues his life with all of his acquired skills, experiences, and relationships.
 - If that applies to us on the New Earth then we should not be thinking about losing things like technological advances, arts, and music.
 - Rev 21:24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. NIV
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What is the New Jerusalem?

- **Rev 21:10** And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. **11** It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. **12** It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. **13** There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. **14** The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. **15** The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city, its gates and its walls. **16** The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He measured the city with the rod and found it to be 12,000 stadia in length, and as wide and high as it is long. NIV
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What is the New Jerusalem?

- **The New Jerusalem is the capital city of Heaven – it is a 1500 mile cube.**



New Jerusalem

What is the New Jerusalem?

- **When you have a 1500 mile cube the following are possible:**
 - **Allowing 12' for each story of the structure you could have 600,000 stories.**
 - **This provides 900,000,000 square miles of floor space.**
 - **This could provide a living area of 1 sq mile each for 900 million people.**
 - **And this is just the capital city!**
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What is the New Jerusalem?

- **A second possibility:**
 - **We are not told that the New Jerusalem will necessarily have floors and be like a giant condominium.**
 - **It may be that the New Jerusalem will more like the cities we know now with structures of various shapes and heights.**
 - **What if the 1500 mile high house is God's?**
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What about the gates?

- **Rev 21:12** It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. **13** There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. NIV
 - **Gates were used on ancient cities to keep enemies out. They were nearly always closed at night.**
 - **The gates of the New Jerusalem are never closed. There is an angelic guard at each and there will be no predators.**
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What about the gates?

- **Rev 21:24** The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. 25 On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. 26 The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. NIV
 - Think about all of the advantages and disadvantages of city life today.
 - Lot's of opportunity, entertainment, and attractions, but also a greater chance of being a victim of crime.
 - In the New Jerusalem the city will have all of the advantages and none of the disadvantages.
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Questions / Comments