

Lesson 8- “The New Heaven and The New Earth”

2 Pet. 3:10-13; Rev. 21:1,5; 22:3

“There has been much confusion about the fate of planet earth. Some have read the Bible’s words about fire and burning to mean that the earth will be obliterated at the end of the age. Not so. There will be fire, but it will be restorative instead of destructive. The earth is our home forever.”¹

1. THE PROMISE OF A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH

- “...we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.” (2 Pet. 3:13)
- “The hope of a ‘golden age’ is legitimate, and in the heart of every human being...The human race is homesick for the Garden of Eden.”²
- ““In the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed.” (Heb. 1:10-12; Ps.102:25-27)

2. THE PROMISE OF A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH

A. The Information (2 Pet.3:10,12)

- “But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be **destroyed** (Lit. luthasetai- loosed; untied; atomic elements being split) by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be **laid bare**... (ie: *uncovered, not destroyed; purified not burned up*). That day will bring about the **destruction** of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat.”

B. The Interpretation

- “...for many years as a Bible student and later as a pastor, I didn’t think in terms of renewal or restoration. Instead, I believed God was going to destroy the earth, abandon His original design and plan, and start over by implementing a new plan in an unearthly heaven. Only in the past fifteen years have my eyes been open to what scripture has said all along.”³
- “New” in terms of quality, not new as in having never existed before; a new version of the original; formed from the original elements now purifies and renovated.
- “God doesn’t throw away His handiwork and start from scratch; instead He uses the same canvas to repair and make more beautiful the painting marred by the vandal. The vandal doesn’t get the satisfaction of destroying his rival’s masterpiece. On the contrary, God makes an even greater masterpiece out of what His enemy sought to destroy.”⁴

C. The Illustration (2 Pet. 3:5-7)

- David Jeremiah understands this illustration to refer to Noah’s flood.
- I suggest this refers back to Genesis 1:1-2 and the great pre-Adamic judgement which the heavens and the earth experienced as a result of Satan’s fall. For more on this, see “**Resolution in Symmetry**” TA&F Sunday Ministry page; December 17, 2017. http://www.trinityinme.com.au/uploads/1/0/0/9/100925190/2_peter_3.pdf

3. THE PROMISE OF A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH

A. The Removal of the Sea (Rev. 21:1)

- “The ecology of the new earth will be totally different from that of the present earth...there will be no salt-water oceans. Since salt is a preservative, and there will be no decay, no salt will be needed”⁵

B. The Reversal of the Curse (Rev. 22:3)

- “Thorns and thistles- and tombstones will disappear from the ground.”⁶

C. The Restoration of All Things

- “...to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.” (Eph. 1:10) Heaven on earth will finally become a reality...the prayer “Your kingdom come your will be done on earth, just as it is in heaven” will finally be answered.
- A New Appreciation of the World in Which We Now Live
- A New Appreciation of the World to Which Are Going.

¹ David Jeremiah; *Revealing the Mysteries of Heaven- Study Guide; Turning Point; 2009; Outline p.97*

² *Ibid p.98*

³ Randy Alcorn; *Heaven; Tyndale; 2004; p. 89*

⁴ *Ibid. p. 100*

⁵ *Jeremiah; p. 101*

⁶ *Ibid. p. 102*