

I. Introduction and review.**II. When Christ returns, you will dwell with Him in the new heaven and the new earth.****A. Your body will be raised and transformed. I Cor. 15:43**

1. What is the relationship between your old body and your new body? I Co. 15:35f
 - a. What does Paul mean when he says your body will be raised a spiritual body?
 - b. There will be physical continuity: like a seed and plant. ICo. 15:36-38 Jo. 12:24
 - c. Jesus' body was the same body. John 2:19,21
2. Your risen body will be glorious like the body of the risen Christ. Phil. 3:20-21 I John 3:2 I Cor. 15:40-44,49 Rom. 8:29-30,23 Luke 24:36-43
 - a. You will be the same person. Luke 24:39a John 2:19,21
 - b. You will be human, not a spirit or an angel.
 - c. You will have a physical presence. Luke 24:39b,13-35 John 20:27
 - d. You may eat (and cook?). Jo. 21:4-5,12 Is. 25:6 Rev. 19:9,17 Luke 24:41-43
 - e. You may have new capabilities. Jo. 20:19 Mt. 28:10 26:32 Acts 1:9f I Th. 4:17
 - f. Your body will be glorious and imperishable. Phil. 3:20-21 I Cor. 15:42-44
3. You will be incapable of sin. Rev. 21:4 I Cor. 15:52 Ro. 8:23-24, 29-30 I Jo. 3:2 Ezek. 36:26 II Pe. 3:13

B. This present earth will be transformed. Isa. 35:1-10 65:17 66:22 Ro. 8:19f Acts 3:19f

1. The physical creation belongs to God and is important. Ps. 24:1 Gen. 1:31 Col. 1:16-20 John 1:1f
2. The physical creation is part of God's plan and must also be renewed when the curse is lifted! Gen. 3:15f Rev. 22:3 Rom. 8:19-23
3. The present earth will pass away. Lu. 21:33 II Pe. 3:6-10 Rev. 21:1,5 Ps. 102:25-26
4. The earth will be renewed just as the body is transformed. Acts 3:21 Rev. 21:1,5 Isa. 65:17 11:9-10 II Pe. 3:13

C. What will the new earth be like? Ezek. 36:35

1. It will be a great civilization. He. 11:10,16 13:14 Rev. 7:9 21:22
2. It will be huge. Rev. 21:16
3. It will be glorious, beautiful, and good. Rev. 21:19-21 Is. 40:5 66:19-20 Ps. 102:16 Heb. 11:10 13:14 I Pe. 3:13
4. It will be inhabited by a great multitude. Rev. 7:9
5. There will be no:
 - a. Death, pain, mourning, sorrow, and tears. Rev. 21:4 7:17 Isa. 25:8
 - b. Poverty, hunger, or thirst. Rev. 7:16 21:1-2 2:7
 - c. Temple. Rev. 21:22
 - d. Danger or fear. Rev. 21:25 Ps. 27:1 Isa. 60:11
 - e. Sin and crime. Rev. 21:27 22:15
 - f. Curse (thorns and thistles). Rev. 22:3
 - g. Night. Rev. 22:5 Isa. 60:19-21
 - h. Sea. Rev. 21:1
 - i. Divisions among believers (doctrine and denominations). I Cor. 1:12
 - j. Marriage or sexual relations. Mt. 22:30
6. It will be home. John 14:1-2

D. What will you do in heaven (the new earth)?

1. You will find rest from the troubles of this world. Re. 14:13 He. 4:10-11 Da. 12:13
2. Will you be bored in heaven?

3. Heaven will be exciting, joyful, and fulfilling. Rev. 19:9,17 Ps. 16:11 Isa. 35:10
4. You will give praise and glory to God as you, along with multitudes from every tribe, tongue, and nation will worship Him. Re. 5:13-14 7:9f
5. You will never stop learning. II Co. 3:18 I Cor. 13:12 Dan. 12:4 I Pe. 1:12 Lu. 2:52
6. You will serve Christ by working to express human dominion on the earth. Ge. 2:15 Re. 22:3 7:15 Ps. 90:17 Eph. 2:10 John 5:17.
7. Christ will reign and you will reign with Him. Re. 22:5,1 1:5 11:15 19:16 Isa. 9:10 Lu. 1:32-33 19:17 22:29-30 I Co. 6:2-3 15:22-25 Heb. 12:2 1:8 Ge. 1:26-28 Eph.1:10

E. God will dwell with us in the renewed earth. Rev. 21:1-3 22:1 Gen. 3:8 Ezek. 27:27

1. Do you long for God's presence? Ps. 63:1 42:1f 27:4 73:25 Mt. 5:8 John 1:14 14:9
2. We will see Him face to face. Rev. 22:4 John 1:14 17:3,24 I John 3:2
3. Heaven will be full of His glory. Isa. 6:3 Ps. 72:19 Hab. 2:14

F. Questions:

1. Will there be plants, trees, and flowers?
2. Will there be animals? Isa. 60:6 11:6-9 65:17,25 66:22
3. Where will I live? John 14:1-2,23 Isa. 65:21
4. How can I be happy without marriage? What relationships will I have?
5. How can heaven be perfect when we know the bad things that happened on earth and we are aware that some we love are in hell? Rev. 21:4 18:20 19:1-5
6. Will we miss the old earth? I Pe. 1:1 2:11

III. Heaven affects your life on earth now.

A. Spend time thinking about and desiring heaven. Col. 3:1 Heb. 11:16 Ps. 42 Phil. 4:8

B. Your present life should be devoted to enhancing your future happiness in heaven.

Mt. 6:19-21,33 I John 3:2-3 Rev. 19:7-8 II Pe. 3:11-14 Heb. 11:26 II Cor. 5:9-10

1. Your life on earth affects life in heaven. I Co. 15:58 3:12-15 Re. 14:13 Ps. 90:17

2. Live with an expectancy of Christ's return. Mt. 25:1-13

3. You will be rewarded for your faithfulness to Christ. II Cor. 5:10 Ro. 14:10-12

I Cor. 3:13-14 4:5 II Ti. 2:12 4:8 Rev. 2:26-28 3:21 14:13 19:7-8 Luke 19:17

Mt. 6:19-21 19:21 Luke 12:33 19:17,19 I Ti. 6:19

C. Your hope of heaven enables you to endure the trials of this fallen and sinful world.

John 14:1-2 II Cor. 4:16-18 Rom. 8:18,35,38 Heb. 11:16 I Pe. 1:6 Lu. 6:22-23

10:20

D. Your knowledge of the realities of the afterlife should move you to seek the salvation of the lost.

IV. Concluding applications. Rev. 22:17

Discussion questions

1. Why is the present world such a mess?
2. What is the relationship between your present body and your resurrected body?
3. What is the relationship between your present body and the resurrected Christ?
4. What will your resurrected body be like?
5. What is the relationship between the present earth and the new earth?
6. Why must God renew and restore this earth?
7. What will the new earth be like?
8. What will you do in heaven?
9. Why should we think about heaven often?
10. How will thoughts of heaven transform your life?