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Study #4
“The Future Heaven”- Part 1
[Hebrews 11:13-16]
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- 3  **Some clues God has given us to help us envision the New earth**
 - Heb. 11:10; 13:14 - We are told that Heaven is a city!
 - Heb. 11:16 - Heaven is also described as a country!
 - I Cor. 15:40-44 we are told we will have resurrection bodies
 - Rev. 14:13 says we will “rest” in heaven!
 - Rev. 22:3 - We are told that we will “serve Christ” on the New Earth!
- 4  **God has not abandoned “Plan A”**
 - “God hangs on to his fallen creation and salvages it. He refuses to abandon the work of his hands - in fact he sacrifices his Son to save his original project. Humankind, which has botched its original mandate and the whole creation with it, is given another chance in Christ; we are reinstated as God’s managers on earth. The original good creation is to be restored.”
- Albert Wolters
- 5  **God has not conceded defeat and handed the creation over to the devil**
 - “*The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it*” - Psa. 24:1
- 6  **Scripture clearly teaches that when God determines a thing in His mind, nothing can prevent the carrying out of His plans**
 - *I am God, and there is no other;*
 - *I am God, and there is none like me.*
 - *I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come.*
 - *I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.”* - Isa. 46:9-10
 - “[God] surrenders no territory to the enemy.” - R.A. Torrey
- 7  **The language and vocabulary of Scripture affirm that Christ’s work of redemption involves a sweeping restoration which will reach to the limits of creation**
 - “It is quite striking that virtually all of the basic words describing salvation in the Bible imply a return to an originally good state or situation. Redemption is a good example. To ‘redeem’ is to ‘buy free,’ literally to ‘buy back.’ ... The point of redemption is to free the prisoner from bondage, to give back the freedom he or she once enjoyed.” - Albert Wolters
- 8  **Statements by leading Pastors, Teachers and Theologians which concur with this thinking about the future New Earth**
 - “... The total work of Christ is nothing less than to redeem this entire creation from the effects of sin. That purpose will not be accomplished until God has ushered in the new earth, until Paradise Lost has become Paradise Regained.” - Anthony Hoekema
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- 11  **“Will the old earth be destroyed ... or renewed?”** - Chapter title in Alcorn’s book
 - **Clarification is important on this point**
 - There are some Scriptures which seem to suggest that the earth will be destroyed [Psa. 102:25-26; Luke 21:33; II Pet. 3:10; Rev. 21:1].
 - Other Scriptures speak of the earth remaining forever [Eccl. 1:4; Psa. 78:69].
 - **Since Scripture also says there will be “New Heavens and a New Earth” in the future eternity, there are only two possibilities:**
 - 1. The present earth will be utterly destroyed
 - 2. Or, the “destruction” could be limited to a thorough “Purging” of the present earth
- 12  **The chief passage which seems most troublesome on this subject is II 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.*”
 - “*He must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets.*” - Acts 3:21
- 13  **The strong comments by leading theologians, pastors and teachers on this subject**
 - “In his redemptive activity, God does not destroy the works of his hands, but cleanses them from sin and perfects them, so that they finally reach the goal for which he created them. Applied to the problem at hand, this principle means that the new earth to which we

look forward will not be totally different from the present one, but will be a renewal and glorification of the earth on which we now live." -
Anthony Hoekema

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