

# Heaven – Part Three

## Redeeming All Creation

### Romans 8:19-23

*For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. <sup>23</sup> And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.*

### Colossians 1:16-20

*For by <sup>[1]</sup> him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. <sup>19</sup> For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup> and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.*

- Humanity and the earth are inseparably linked.
- We fell together in the Garden and together we shall be resurrected and restored.
- God's redemption for us through Christ has also redeemed creation from the curse.
- Everything effected by the fall (man and earth) will be restored to its original condition.
- John 3:16 – God so loved the “world”.
- Genesis 1-2 God creates the heavens and the earth; Revelation 21-22 He does it again.
- We were made from the earth to live on the earth.
- Jesus became a man and lived on the earth; He will return as King to reign on the earth.

### John 5:28-29

*Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice <sup>29</sup> and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.*

- All will be resurrected.
- All will be judged based on how they lived their lives on earth.
- There two different eternal destinations.

### I Corinthians 3:12-15

### Revelation 14:13

- Our works will be judged by fire.

- Works of wood, hay and stubble are destroyed by the fire.
- Works of gold, silver, precious stone are refined by the fire and preserved.
- Our righteous works will follow us to eternity.
- Matthew 10:42 – even a cup of water is not forgotten.

Hebrews 11:13-14; 16 – a better country.

### **Old Testament View of a New Earth**

- Isaiah 11:1-10
- Isaiah 62:11
- Isaiah 65: 17-19, 21, and 25
- Isaiah 66:22-23
- Jesus' reign will be on earth.
- Not, “up there”, but “down here on earth.”

### **David's Throne**

- Isaiah 9:7
- Luke 1:32-33
- It's eternal.
- It's on the earth.

### **Messiah's Earthly Kingdom**

- Zechariah 9:10
- Psalm 72:11
- Isaiah 60:21

### **Is The Old Earth Destroyed or Renewed?**

- Psalm 102:25-26
- Luke 21:33
- 2 Peter 3:10
- Revelation 21:1
- The earth will be cleansed from all effects of sin and the curse.
- The earth will be delivered from Satan's rule and come under Jesus' rule.
- The Flood was a judgment upon the earth but did not destroy the earth.

“The earth's death will be no more final than our own. The destruction of the old earth in God's purifying judgment will immediately be followed by its resurrection to new life. Earth's fiery “end” will open straight into a glorious new beginning. And as we'll see later. It will just keep getting better and better.” (Page 157)

## Regarding the Millennial Reign of Christ on Earth.

### Revelation 20:1-10

*Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit<sup>[a]</sup> and a great chain. <sup>2</sup> And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, <sup>3</sup> and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while.*

*<sup>4</sup> Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. <sup>5</sup> The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. <sup>6</sup> Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.*

*And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison <sup>8</sup> and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea. <sup>9</sup> And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven<sup>[b]</sup> and consumed them, <sup>10</sup> and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*

- Satan is bound for 1000 years.
- For 1000 years the nations are no longer deceived.
- The saints come to life and reign with Christ for 1000 years.
- The rest of the dead do not come to life until after the 1000 years.
- The saints will be kings and priests for 1000 years.
- Satan will be loosed and there is a final battle and rebellion.
- God intervenes and there is the final defeat of Satan.

Poses some questions about when the New Earth and New Heaven are actually created. Much debate and conversation through church history with three main views.

**Amillennialists** believe we are *presently* living in the millennial kingdom, which is characterized by the simultaneous experiences of gospel victory and suffering for the gospel. This obviously indicates amillennialists interpret “one thousand” figuratively. The gospel is victorious because Satan is bound, rendering him incapable of preventing the spread of the gospel; yet he is not utterly powerless from persecuting the Church. Just before the end, Satan will again be permitted to deceive the nations and persecution will increase dramatically.

Important to the amillennialist understanding is the tension of “already/not yet.” Christians presently live in the inaugurated kingdom, as Christ reigns from heaven; yet, they await the kingdom’s full realization, when Christ will reign on Earth eternally.

**Postmillennialism** holds to the view Christ will return after the millennium. Postmillennialism is that view of the last things which holds that the kingdom of God is now being extended in the world through the preaching of the gospel and the saving work of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of individuals, that the world eventually is to be Christianized and that the return of Christ is to occur at the close of a long period of righteousness and peace commonly called the millennium.

Postmillennialism expects that eventually the vast majority of men living will be saved.”<sup>15</sup> This will lead to “a time in history prior to Christ’s return in which faith, righteousness, peace, and prosperity will prevail in the affairs of men and of nations.”<sup>16</sup> This increased percentage of the population who become believers who seek to live according to God’s will, which naturally leads to greater and greater degrees of peace and justice within their respective communities. It is important to note that this prosperity is a result of a large percentage of the population of the world living according to God’s word.

**Premillennialism** the doctrine stating that after the Second Coming of Christ, [Christ] will reign for a thousand years over the earth before the final consummation of God’s redemptive purpose in the new heavens and the new earth of the Age to Come.

This interpretation assumes, in contrast to the amillennialist and postmillennialist, that the events described in [Revelation 19](#) and 20 are chronologically successive.

Christ will return to earth to establish a millennial kingdom. At the second coming there will be a resurrection of believers and a public rapture. These resurrected believers reign with Christ, who will, “be physically present on the earth in his resurrected body, and will reign as King over the entire earth. During this period, Satan is “bound and cast into the bottomless pit so that he will have no influence on the earth during the millennium. After the millennium, Satan is released for a brief time, during which he leads astray a portion of the world’s population in rebellion to Christ. Christ destroys this rebellion, judges the world, then ushers in the eternal state