

Theme: The new heavens and new earth will exhibit both continuity and discontinuity with the present heavens and earth.

## I. Intro – “it’s all gonna burn”

- A. We used to say this
- B. Is everything really going to burn?
- C. Only souls of men and Word to last?

## II. New Heavens & Earth – Discontinuity

- A. Recap last week (curse; sin; consummation)
- B. Old Creation is greatly altered
  - 1. 2 Pet 3:10 – heaven destroyed by fire
  - 2. 2 Peter 3:7,11 – reserved for fire; destroyed
  - 3. Rev 20:11 – Earth and sky flee
  - 4. Psalm 102:25-28 – wear out; discard
- C. OT background – day of the Lord
  - 1. 2 Peter 3:10 – day of the Lord
  - 2. Joel 1:15 – destruction from Almighty
  - 3. Joel 3:14-16 – roar; tremble, etc.; refuge
  - 4. Mal 4:1-2 – burn like a furnace; revere - good

## III. New Heavens & Earth – Continuity

- A. Lexical– H&E; (2 Co 5:17) - kainos; parechomai
- B. Analogy/link with human salvation
  - 1. Analogy – 2 Co 5:17 – renew; not start over
  - 2. James 1:18 – salvation; firstfruit of all creation
  - 3. Ro 8:19-23 – link; freedom; redemption body
  - 4. Mat 19:28 – renewal of all things (Titus 3:5)
- C. The teaching of 2 Peter 3 – (v7, 10-11)
  - 1. Figurative/symbolic language (Day of Lord)
    - a. Is 13:1; 9-10, 13 – Babylon; not literal
    - b. Is 34:4-5 – Edom; not literal – apocalyptic
  - 2. Analogy of Flood; ungodly (vv5-7)
    - a. Flood, ungodly - vv5-7
    - b. Same word – v7
  - 3. The fire is one of judgment of sin (v10)
    - a. v10 – laid bare – judgment
    - b. Nowhere to hide; all will be seen

## IV. Application

- A. Do we see great changes to come? (NEW earth)

1. World will not go on forever in its present state
  2. This is a hope that should energize us
  3. Energized slaves, persecuted, Heb 11 heroes
- B. Do we see the continuity? (new EARTH)
1. We will live on a new Earth – our home
  2. New H&E will feel perfectly like home
  3. This, not an ethereal heaven, is what we long for
  4. Wittmer, pages 15-16 (more next time)
- C. Do we see that what we do now matters?
1. There is great continuity – not souls, Word
  2. Not “polishing ships bell on Titanic”
  3. What we do now echoes in eternity (next part)
  4. Live for Christ – now!

## The New Heavens and the New Earth (Part 2)

2 Peter 3:10; Matthew 19:28

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1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel." Mat 19:28

11 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. **Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them.** Rev 20:11

"In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. 26 They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. Like clothing you will change them and they will be discarded. 27 But you remain the same, and your years will never end. 28 The children of your servants will live in your presence; their descendants will be established before you." Psalm 102:25-28

15 Alas for that day! For the day of the LORD is near; it will come like destruction from the Almighty. Joel 1:15

Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. 15 The sun and moon will be darkened, and the stars no longer shine. 16 The LORD will roar from Zion and thunder from Jerusalem; the earth and the sky will tremble. But the LORD will be a refuge for his people, a stronghold for the people of Israel. Joel 3:14-16

1 "Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and that day that is coming will set them on fire," says the LORD Almighty. "Not a root or a branch will be left to them. 2 But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings. And you will go out and leap like calves released from the stall." Malachi 4:1-2

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! 2 Corinthians 5:17

18 He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, **that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.** James 1:18

The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. 20 For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. 22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. Romans 8:19-23

28 Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, **at the renewal of all things**, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel." Mat 19:28

5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, Titus 3:5

1 An oracle concerning Babylon that Isaiah son of Amoz saw: ... 9 See, the day of the LORD is coming--a cruel day, with wrath and fierce anger-- to make the land desolate and destroy the sinners within it. 10 The stars of heaven and their constellations will not show their light. The rising sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light... 13 Therefore I will make the heavens tremble; and the earth will shake from its place at the wrath of the LORD Almighty, in the day of his burning anger. Isaiah 13:1, 9-10, 13

4 All the stars of the heavens will be dissolved and the sky rolled up like a scroll; all the starry host will fall like withered leaves from the vine, like shriveled figs from the fig tree. 5 My sword has drunk its fill in the heavens; see, it descends in judgment on Edom, the people I have totally destroyed. Isaiah 34:4-5