

Theme: In the new heavens and earth, God's purposes for creation will be fulfilled, and our deepest longings and desires will be satisfied.

## I. Intro – Review

- A. In new H&E – curse is removed
- B. In new H&E – God's purposes fulfilled
- C. In new H&E – continuity and discontinuity
- D. Today – some descriptions of life in new H&E

## II. Life in the New Heavens and Earth

- A. Basic premise – continuity of all not sinful
  - 1. The name – declares continuity!
  - 2. Curse removed – back prior to fall
  - 3. Fulfillment of covenant motto
  - 4. Fulfillment motif from early Genesis
- B. The new H&E is a place for
  - 1. Feasting (Rev 19:9; Is 25:6-8; Mt 8:11; Luk 13:29)
  - 2. Delight & joy (Ps 16:11; Ps 36:8; Jude 24)
  - 3. Diversity to serve God (Rev 5:9-10; 7:9-10; 21:24-26)
    - a. Nations & kings (Rev 5:9-10; 7:9-10; 21:24-26)
    - b. I believe even unique personality, gifts survive

- 4. Relationships (Gen 15:15; 35:29; Mt 8:11; Edwards; (Gen 2:18))
- 5. Animals (Is 11:6-9; 65:25; original creation)
- 6. Meaningful work (Rev 21:24-26; Rev 22:5)
- 7. Summary: Continuity and expansion (Venema & Milne)

## III. New Heavens and Earth: Seeing God

- A. We shall see God (Job 19:26; Mt 5:8; 1Co 13:12; 1Jn 3:2; Rev 22:4)
- B. We shall bear the weight of glory (2Cor 4:17 ESV)
  - 1. The play on words glory and weight
  - 2. CS Lewis – Weight of Glory

## IV. Conclusion & Summary

- A. Do we have a biblical view of new H&E?
  - 1. Ethereal, spiritual world of harps? (Gnostic)
  - 2. Real world of life, activity – Biblical
- B. Do we long for new H&E?
  - 1. No sin, no curse, no pain, no death
  - 2. All deep longings fulfilled
- C. Do we long to see God and be filled by Him?
  - 1. Our future – to see & be filled w/ His glory

2. We must begin to cultivate this now

D. Communion – filled by Christ (Bernard)

## Life in the New Heavens and Earth

Revelation 21:1-4

September 16, 2007

Communion

Psalm 20

9 Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!'" And he added, "These are the true words of God." Revelation 19:9

6 On this mountain **the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine-- the best of meats and the finest of wines.** 7 On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; **8 he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces;** he will remove the disgrace of his people from all the earth. The LORD has spoken. Isaiah 25:6-8

11 I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places **at the feast** with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob **in the kingdom of heaven.** Matthew 8:11

29 People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places **at the feast in the kingdom of God.** Luke 13:29

11 You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand. Psalm 16:11

8 They feast on the abundance of your house; you give them drink from your river of delights. Psalm 36:8

24 To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and **with great joy--** Jude 24

9 And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your **blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.** 10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth." Revelation 5:9-10

9 After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, **from every nation, tribe, people and language,** standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. 10 And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." Revelation 7:9-10

24 The nations will walk by its light, and **the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it.** 25 On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. 26 **The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it.** Revelation 21:24-26

15 You, however, will **go to your fathers** in peace and be buried at a good old age. Genesis 15:15

29 Then he breathed his last and died and was **gathered to his people,** old and full of years. And his sons Esau and Jacob buried him. Genesis 35:29

11 I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take **their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob** in the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 8:11

No inhabitants of that blessed world will ever be grieved with the thought that they are slighted by those that they love, or that their love is not fully and fondly returned... There shall be no such thing as flattery or insincerity in heaven, but there perfect sincerity shall reign through all in all. Everyone will be just what he seems to be, and will have all the love that he seems to have. Jonathan Edwards

6 The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. 7 The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. 8 The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child put his hand into the viper's nest. 9 They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. Isaiah 11:6-9

25 "The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, but dust will be the serpent's food. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain," says the LORD. Isaiah 65:25

24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. 25 On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. 26 The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. Revelation 21:24-26

5 There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. **And they will reign for ever and ever.** Revelation 22:5

Every legitimate and excellent fruit of human culture will be carried into and contribute to the splendor of life in the new creation. Rather than the new creation being a radically new beginning, in which the excellent and noble fruits of humankind's fulfillment of the cultural mandate are wholly discarded – the new creation will benefit from, and be immensely enriched by its receiving of these fruits. Cornelius Venema

The one who is Lord of the whole of life was never going to bring us at the end into an eternal existence of mental constriction, or of emotional and creative impoverishment. Creativity will surely be valued, for such an anticipation must be in keeping with the nature of Him who set the morning stars a-singing when He created them at the beginning, and whose joyful cry echoes across the battlements of the new creation. "See I am making everything new!"... What creative possibilities await us in the unfolding of the eternal ages no present imagination can begin to unravel.

Bruce Milne

26 And after my skin has been destroyed, yet **in my flesh I will see God**;  
Job 19:26

8 Blessed are the pure in heart, **for they will see God**. Matthew 5:8

12 Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; **then we shall see face to face**. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.  
1 Corinthians 13:12

2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, **for we shall see him as he is**. 1 John 3:2

4 **They will see his face**, and his name will be on their foreheads.  
Revelation 22:4

17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 2 Corinthians 4:17 (ESV)