

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE NEW
EARTH

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WHEN YOU'RE
ASKED ABOUT A
NEW HOME

WHAT COMES
TO YOUR MIND?



THE BIBLICAL FOUNDATION

DOCTRINE #28 - THE NEW EARTH

- ❖ Important verses that describe the new earth
- ❖ 2 Peter 3:12-13
- ❖ Isaiah 65:17,20-25
- ❖ Revelations 21:1-5
- ❖ Revelations 22:1-5



COMMON QUESTIONS

- ❖ What will heaven be like - It will be something totally new
- ❖ How different will it be from Earth - There will be NO suffering
- ❖ Who gets to go - Only the saints will be there
- ❖ Who will be there - God will be with us
- ❖ When will it be established- After the judgment and the death of death
- ❖ How long will it last - It will be eternal
- ❖ What will we do - We will worship God

GENERAL SUMMARY

- ❖ It will be something totally new - 2 Peter 3:12-13 / 1 Cor 2:9
- ❖ There will be NO suffering - Rev 21:4 ; 7:16-17
- ❖ Only the saints will be there - Rev 21:8,27, 22:15
- ❖ God will be with us - Rev 22:3-4 / John 14:2
- ❖ It will be after the judgment and the death of death - Rev 20: 14-15 / Psa 37:9,29 / Isa 66:16-19,23
- ❖ It will be eternal - Rev 22:5 / 1 Tess 4:16-17
- ❖ We will worship God - Isa 66:20,23 / Rev 15:2-5

WHAT IT MEANS TO ME

- ❖ How does my knowledge of the new earth change how I approach my daily struggles?
- ❖ Is my belief in the earth important or special to me?
- ❖ If I didn't know or believe in the new earth how would my life be different?

DECEPTIONS AND CONFUSION

IT ISN'T REAL

- ❖ It is impossible to empirically prove that there is anything after death, much less a celestial realm of bliss. Those that have claimed to have visited someplace like “heaven” during near death experiences have mostly withdrawn their claims. And even to those that haven't, science has proven by studying brain activity that our minds display for us at a time of death that which we wish to see or believe in, be it family, heaven, Valhalla or whatever has place in our imagination
- ❖ Answers: 1 Cor 1:25-30 ; 3:19

PROFILE: SKEPTIC

It is nearly useless to quote the Bible to discuss these sort of topics with unbelievers as they don't believe in God or his Word. Easiest deconstruction of arguments seek absolutes and simplifications but this will *not win* them over. It is best to lead to a **deeper conversation** and **the cause of their rejection**

1. Find commonalities
2. Explore background
3. Seek their most revered beliefs
4. Show respect

This will not always yield results in the form of conversions but will keep lines open

“NOBODY CARES HOW MUCH YOU
KNOW, UNTIL THEY KNOW HOW
MUCH YOU CARE.”

—Theodore Roosevelt

IT WILL BE A SPIRITUAL HEAVEN - NOT A PHYSICAL ONE

- ❖ We know that heaven is filled with angels. This spirit realm was created by God, who is immaterial. The notion that in such a setting, material beings like ourselves will exist is contrary to the logic of the scriptures. Repeatedly the Bible states that the things of this world, the flesh and the letter are in opposition to God and his kingdom, referred to often as “the things of the spirit” or spiritual things.
- ❖ Mingling doctrine with philosophy has produced a very carnal and terrestrial view of heaven. The priority of being in communion with God is almost entirely gone from the idea of heaven and given way to a pleasure focus and escapism from the tribulations of the Christian walk.
- ❖ Answers: Rev 2:7; 22:14 (More answers in The Resurrection - 1 Tess 4:15-17)

PROFILE: GNOSTIC

- ❖ Believing that salvation is only of the spirit and not of the body makes it tricky to preach heaven as it doesn't have appeal or significance. Those who believe in the immortality of the soul fall within this profile.
- ❖ This point of view can be "supported" by some bible verses (1 Cor 15:35-58, Phil 3:20-21, John 4:24) and therefore it is best to not contradict but rather seek to learn what they know and start from there to bring balance.
- ❖ As with all others who are in darkness, no amount of reasoning will bring them to the truth if not by the spirit, so instead of approaching to correct or teach we must seek to bridge the gap and know them as individuals. The first approach will cause strife whereas the second will leave a permanent door opened

ONLY THE ELECT (144,000) WILL ENTER.

- ❖ Christ said it very clearly that while many are called only a few are elect. This means heaven is not open to all but only to those who have been predestined for salvation
- ❖ God's grace is only effective in those that have chose to walk a path of holiness. Heaven is not the place where we go to become holy but rather the reward for walking in the truth in this life.
- ❖ ANSWER: Rev. 2:7,11,17,26-28; 3:5,12,21; 7:9



PROFILE: EXCLUSIVIST

- ❖ This is nearly anyone from a fundamentalist denomination. Most churches claim to have “the truth” and consequently claim to have exclusive access to salvation. This creates a very proud and self-assured Christian who will not even consider other beliefs or dare to challenge his own.
- ❖ The approach to this person it is imperative to seek to learn their beliefs. Many will try to bring in their “teachers” but if directed properly to teach themselves, gaps will appear in their religious constructs.
- ❖ Doctrinal errors should never be pointed out as it will shut down the dialogue. If encountered, questions should be raised regarding the inconsistencies but the best approach is to return to the basic gospel and let them contradict the words of Jesus and his love for all.

IT WILL BE GOD'S KINGDOM ON EARTH

- ❖ One of God's objectives in his plan of salvation is to restore the world to the way he created back in Eden. This will be accomplished when Christ returns and establishes his kingdom on earth. Once the antichrist is defeated, we christians will fulfill the prophecies of the OT Israel and bring all the world to the faith in Christ at the new Jerusalem that Revelation predicts
- ❖ ANSWER: 2 Peter 3:12-13 / 1 Cor 2:9 (More answers in the Millennium)



PROFILE: POPULIST

- ❖ A widely popular view in most futuristic evangelicals it is something that they don't know how to defend biblically for the most part (they get it from movies and books). Therefore it is an soft target and great conversation starter as it usually not revered as a pillar of the faith and should not create contention.
- ❖ Never should we overwhelm folks with scripture just because it supports our point, as we lose effectiveness. It is best rather to select a few choice passages that best illustrate the truth and study them thoroughly.
- ❖ It it is crucial to create room for self-discovery. No amount of proselytizing will have the inspirational effect of allowing people to find out for themselves. This requires wisdom and tact but can be done with the power of the Spirit.

GOD'S TRANSFORMING MERCY

- ❖ As in the parable of the vineyard and the laborers many who on this earth didn't live in obedience to God's law will receive mercy on judgment day and be saved to reach sanctification in heaven as examples of God's grace to the undeserving.
- ❖ As in the parable it might seem unfair to those who lived faithfully but God's transforming mercy is too bountiful to condemn all his creatures.
- ❖ ANSWER: Isa 66:16-19



PROFILE: UNIVERSALIST

- ❖ This has become a popular belief, especially for younger generations. In watering down the fundamental doctrines, “progressive Christians” have preached that hell isn’t real or physical because a loving God cannot put his creatures through such punishment.
- ❖ This view is derived from a *misunderstanding* of God’s nature and because it is not caused by ignorance, bible verses alone will rarely correct it. God’s nature is almost always part of the worldview taught to a person through *stories* and not systematic study and therefore a deconstruction of respected figures or past “experiences” is needed to clear the fog about the perfect balance of God’s absolute mercy and absolute justice.
- ❖ Helpful bible examples of judgment to explore this topic are Sodom, the Flood, the tower of Babel, the judgment of Israel in Judges and Annanias and Zaphira in the NT

GOD'S JUSTICE FINALLY MANIFESTED

- ❖ As wonderful as eternity will be for those who are saved, a just God will extend the corresponding level of punishment to those who refuse to obey him. According to the scriptures, the lost will burn in eternal fire because of their rejection of grace.
- ❖ It is people who chose eternal separation from God, so it is not on Him that they will spend it in hell. It is only eternal because it must remind the universe of what Jesus' blood saved them from.
- ❖ ANSWER: Rev 21:4, 8

BACKGROUND OF THE LIE

- ❖ This lie is almost universally sustained in the Christian world today. Originally eternal hell was imported from the Greco-Roman worldview when the early roman catholic church assimilated the pagan masses of the Roman Empire into Christianity. Eventually, it evolved into a complex system that served as a weapon to exact obedience to the roman catholic authorities. Protestants despite vehemently rejecting purgatory and clerical dispensation of salvation, didn't dare uproot the idea of hell out of fear of losing appeal and authority.
- ❖ Only in the past 300 years has a proper defense of eternal hell been edified by pseudotheologians and only because of mistranslations. It would have been nearly impossible to create such a defense with previous faithful translations. Not that it was ever publically challenged before the separation of church and state.

PROFILE: REVENGER

- ❖ Most of the adherents have at some point feared the idea of hell and now uphold it as either a hope for vindication against their enemies or because they have very little reason besides it to live righteous lives...basically they still fear it.
- ❖ As with other fear tactics, it is difficult to debunk because it has been foundational for the psyche of the believer, and removing it will partially destroy their understanding of God and justice. It is necessary to address it from a viewpoint of grace rather than trying to correct the misinterpretations of the scriptures
- ❖ From the grace approach, they'd have to take Satan's side accusing God of being vengeful and unforgiving and disproof God's promise of no more pain.

IT WILL BE BORING

- ❖ Heaven is a place of worship, not a paradise of pleasure. The enjoyable things of this world will not be present in heaven as they often lead to sin here on earth.
- ❖ Understanding this means one will experiment and live life fully before heaven.
- ❖ Answer: 1 Jn 2:15-17 ; 1 Cor 2:9; Gen 1:28 ; Eccl 3:14-15



PROFILE: CARNAL

- ❖ This thought is secretly held by many people. The Christians of thorny soil who have their eyes on this world cannot conceive a land without the pleasures of this life or at least not like they understand it. There are also those who can't imagine what heaven will be like and doubt they will find satisfaction in the unknown.
- ❖ This is not something that can be combated with bible verses because it is a mindset. A real experience with Christ is the only thing to save this person. Ultimately heaven is not about the experience but rather about spending eternity with our savior. Any other motivation to reach heaven is superficial or misplaced

WILL YOU BELIEVE, TEACH AND
DEFEND
THE TRUTH OF THE NEW EARTH?