

An Eternal Home to Look Forward To with Anticipation

2 Peter 3:13; Romans 8:18–25 (Leviticus 25:5b–7)

April 20, 2014

Sermon Outline

Notes:

I. Children’s Sermon: Life after Death

John 11:25–26

²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, ***though he die, yet shall he live,*** ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me ***shall never die.*** Do you believe this?”

I have come home at last! This is my real country! I belong here. This is the land I have been looking for all my life, though I never knew it till now. The reason why we loved the old Narnia is that it sometimes looked a little like this. ¹

2 Peter 3:13

...according to ***his promise*** (Jesus’ promise to return) ***we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth*** in which ***righteousness dwells.***

Key Idea

Everything good in this life is but a mere shadow of the life we will enjoy with Jesus in eternity.

II. What will the New Heaven & Earth be Like?

- A. It will be Without Sin
- B. It will be Physical
 - 1. Creation

Genesis 1:29–30

²⁹ And God said, “***Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food.*** ³⁰ ***And to every beast of the earth*** and ***to every bird of the heavens*** and ***to everything that creeps on the earth,*** everything that has the breath of life, ***I have given every green plant for food.***” And it was so.

¹ Lewis, C. S. (2008-10-29). *The Last Battle: The Chronicles of Narnia* (Kindle Locations 1980-1982). HarperCollins. Kindle Edition.

2. Fall

Genesis 3:17–19

“...*cursed is the ground because of you*; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; ¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground...”

3. New or Re-Creation

Leviticus 25:5b–7

...It shall be a year of solemn rest *for the land*. ⁶ The Sabbath of the land *shall provide food for you*, for yourself and for your male and female slaves and for your hired worker and the sojourner who lives with you, ⁷ and for your cattle and for the wild animals that are in your land: *all its yield shall be for food*.

Sabbath Year also has a typological aspect. It was a portent of the great time of rest that was coming. ... It looked forward to a time when no one had to toil in a cursed earth to bring forth food; rather, all shared equally the abundance of God's provisions.²

4. The Resurrection Body of Jesus

Luke 24:36–43

³⁶ As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, “Peace to you!” ³⁷ But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. ³⁸ And he said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹ See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For *a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have*.” ⁴⁰ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹ And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and *he took it and ate before them*.

² **Ross, A. P.** (2002). *Holiness to the Lord: A Guide to the Exposition of the Book of Leviticus* (454). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.

Anthony Hoekema writes, If the resurrection body were non-material or non-physical, the devil would have won a great victory, since God would then have been compelled to change human beings with physical bodies such as he had created into creatures of a different sort, without physical bodies (like the angels). ... Therefore the goal of God's redemption is the resurrection of the physical body, and the creation of a new earth on which his redeemed people can live and serve God forever with glorified bodies. Thus the universe will not be destroyed but renewed, and God will win the victory.³

C. It will be Like/Unlike the Old Creation

Romans 8:19–22

¹⁹ For *the creation waits with eager longing* for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ 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. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.

D. It Will be Our True Home

Romans 8:23–25

²³ 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*. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

So look out a window. Take a walk. Talk with your friend. Use your God-given skills to paint or draw or build a shed or write a book. But imagine it— all of it— in its original condition. The happy dog with the wagging tail, not the snarling beast, beaten and starved. The flowers unwilted, the grass undying, the blue

³ **Anthony A. Hoekema**, *The Bible and the Future* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1979), 249. Cited from: Alcorn, Randy (2011-12-08). *Heaven* (Kindle Locations 8470-8476). Tyndale House Publishers. Kindle Edition.

sky without pollution. People smiling and joyful, not angry, depressed, and empty. ... Think of friends or family members who loved Jesus and are with him now. Picture them with you, walking together in this place. All of you have powerful bodies, stronger than those of an Olympic decathlete. You are laughing, playing, talking, and reminiscing. You reach up to a tree to pick an apple or orange. You take a bite. It's so sweet that it's startling. You've never tasted anything so good. Now you see someone coming toward you. It's Jesus, with a big smile on his face. You fall to your knees in worship. He pulls you up and embraces you. At last, you're with the person you were made for, in the place you were made to be. ⁴

III. Waiting with Eager Longing

A. Eternity is Worth the Sufferings

Romans 8:18

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

B. Set Your Mind on Christ (who is your life)

Colossians 3:1–4

¹ If then you have been raised with Christ, *seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.* ² *Set your minds on things that are above,* not on things that are on earth. ³ For you have died, and **your life is hidden with Christ in God.** ⁴ When **Christ who is your life** appears, then *you also will appear with him in glory.*

Key Idea

Everything good in this life is but a mere shadow of the life we will enjoy with Jesus in eternity. Come quickly Lord Jesus!

⁴ **Alcorn, Randy** (2011-12-08). Heaven (Alcorn, Randy) (Kindle Locations 573-582). Tyndale House Publishers. Kindle Edition.