

New Heaven, New Earth

EXPLANATION (*Definition*)

The emphasis in Scripture is that the heavens and the earth will be made "new". The typical understanding of this concept is that the present heavens and earth will disappear, being annihilated and replaced by different elements, but this is not what Scripture teaches. The biggest reason for this belief is in the use of the phrase "pass away", appearing twice, but these mean "to come to an end" (2 Peter 3:10) and "to go away" (Revelation 21:1).

The Hebrew word (O.T.) for "new", *chadash* (#2318) describes that which is **renewed, repaired - fresh**; such as fresh moons (each month) and fresh months (each year), and a "new" sword is one that is sharpened. The Greek word (N.T.) for "new", *kairos* (#2537) describes that which is **fresh, unaccustomed**; such as a "new" man (new in character), "new" tongues (new to the speakers) and "new" song (not newly written). Not new in time, but new in quality.

EXPECTATION (*Responsibility*)

People read their Bibles with the teaching that all creation will one day vanish, but Scripture makes it clear that the sun and moon will never go away (Psalm 89:36-37), neither will the earth (Psalm 78:69; 104:5; Eccles.1:4) or the stars (Psalm 72:5-7; Daniel 12:3). Creation will be refreshed in amazing ways when Christ returns, but it will never disappear.

EXAMINATION (*Scripture*)

Isaiah 65:17-25

- (1) **Renewal** - "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth" (v.17a)
- (2) **Remembrance** - "the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind" (v.17b)
- (3) **Rejoicing** - "I create Jerusalem for rejoicing, and her people for gladness" (v.18)
- (4) **Relief** - "...no longer heard in her the voice of weeping and the sound of crying" (v.19)
- (5) **Range** - "No longer...an infant or an old man who does not live out his days" (v.20 [22])
- (6) **Response** - "before they call, I will answer; and while...still speaking, I will hear" (v.24)
- (7) **Rest** - "The wolf and the lamb shall graze together, and the lion shall eat straw..." (v.25)

Isaiah 66:22-24

- (1) **Remain** - "the new heavens and the new earth...will endure...so your offspring" (v.22)
- (2) **Reflect** - "they shall...look on the corpses of the men who have transgressed..." (v.24)

Romans 8:18-23

- (1) **Revealing** - "...the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God" (v.19)
- (2) **Repressed** - "For the creation was subjected to futility..." (v.20)
- (3) **Released** - "the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption" (v.21)
- (4) **Realization** - "waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body" (v.23)

2 Peter 3:7-13

- (1) **Reserved** - "present heavens and earth...are being reserved for fire..." (v.7)
- (2) **Released** - "the present heavens will pass away [come to an end]...the elements will be destroyed [rearranged]... the earth and its works burned up [consumed]" (v.10)
- (3) **Refreshed** - "...we are looking for new heavens and a new earth..." (v.13)

Revelation 21:1

- (*) **Refreshed** - "I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away [departed], and there is no longer any sea" (v.1)