

Heaven and Hell, pt.3

The Final Resurrection and the New Earth

Why is the resurrection of Christ important?

- The Bible calls this “the first resurrection”
- Christ conquered sin
- Christ conquered death, overcoming the curse
- His resurrection verifies his victory over sin and death

But *wait*.....there's more!

- Christ's resurrection is the prototype for OUR resurrection
- The resurrection is the guarantee that the whole of creation will be redeemed, that it will rise again as well

- 1 Corinthians 15:12-23- If the dead are not raised, then we are only objects of pity
- Our spirits and our bodies were MEANT to be joined together
- Heaven was for us to be both spiritually and physically all that we were meant to be, free from the curse

- Genesis 3:17 The Fall affected creation as well
- Romans 5:12- All of the creation fell through the sin of Adam
- Romans 8:19-23 All of creation groans in anticipation of the resurrection
- As all of the earth fell, all of the earth will rise again

The Effects of the Resurrection

- Our bodies will be redeemed
- Our labors will be redeemed
 - Psalm 90:17- our works will be established (made permanent)
 - 1 Corinthians 15:58
- Our vocabulary will be redeemed-
 - Forever
 - Holy
 - Curse

Will the old earth be burned up or refined?

- Burned up?
 - Psalm 102.25-26
 - 2 Peter 3:10
 - Revelation 21:1
- Refined, remaining forever?
 - Ecclesiastes 1:4
 - Psalm 78:69

The Answer- both (or neither)

- 1 Corinthians 3:12-15
- Understanding 2 Peter 3:10 by looking at the flood in 3:6-7
 - Devastating and cataclysmic, but it didn't utterly destroy it
 - It was cleansing, not utter obliteration

“According to scripture, the present world will neither continue forever nor will it be destroyed and replaced by a totally new one. Instead it will be cleansed of sin and re-created, reborn, made whole. While the kingdom of God is first planted spiritually in human hearts, the future blessedness is not to be spiritualized. Biblical hope, rooted in incarnation and resurrection, is creational, this-worldly, visible, physical, bodily hope. The rebirth of human beings is completed in the glorious rebirth of all creation, the New Jerusalem whose architect and builder is God himself.”

—Herman Bavinck

“The new heavens and earth....will involve the rental of all things, not the creation of all new things....the life to come in the new creation will be as rich and full of activity in the service of the Lord as was intended at the beginning.”

—**Cornelius Venema**

What will the New Earth be Like?

- Familiar, but better
 - Free from the effects of the curse
- Not a total return to Eden
 - A Garden City
 - Revelation 21-22 describes both the purity of Eden and the advancement of a city
- Daniel 2, 7, Isaiah 60, 65, 66 give prophetic glimpses of it

Why Do we Struggle to Grasp This?

- The struggle to grasp what we have not fully seen
- We think what we can see or touch now must be the true reality
- Satan's deception
 - Convincing us of a lower view of Heaven and eternity

- Which is real, and which is the copy, or shadow?
- Today is the shadow of eternity
- The New Heavens and New Earth is the *real* Earth
- The beauty and perfection of Eden
- All the creative expression of God, plus all that is good in the creative expression of mankind, brought together in the Garden City of the New Jerusalem