

HEAVEN

MESSAGE: NATHAN BAIRD

MUSIC: DAN GILLETTE & REBECCA FRENCH

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HEAVEN: A Resurrected Earth for A Resurrected Humanity

Creation...

...is made and valued by God.

Gen. 1:1 *In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth...**31** And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.*

...displays God's unseen traits.

Rom. 1:20 *For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So, they are without excuse.*

...is loved and sustained by God.

Luke 12:24 *Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds!*

Heb. 1:3 *[The Son] is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.*

Creation's destiny is linked to humanity's destiny

1. **Earth is the realm of human purpose and activity.**

Gen. 1:26 *Then God said, "Let us make humanity in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."*

2. **Earth was cursed as a consequence of human rebellion.**

Rom. 8:19 *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...*

3. **Earth anticipates its eventual renewal at the resurrection.**

Rom. 8:20 *...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.*

In the New Earth, God addresses our deepest longings

The New Earth...

1. ...will be both different and familiar.

Rev.21:1 *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more...*

Rev.21:5 *And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new."*

2. ...will be united with Heaven, the presence of God.

Rev. 21:2 *And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.*

3. ...will be free from death, decay, grief, and scarcity.

Rev. 21:4 *He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."*

Rev. 22:2b *on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month...*

4. ...will be multicultural, harmoniously unified by the light of Christ.

Rev. 21:23 *And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. 24 By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, 25 and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. 26 They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations.*

Rev. 22:2c *...The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.*

5. ...will never again be threatened with sin, evil, or deception.

Rev. 21:27 *But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.*

Rev. 22:3 *No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him.*

Reflection & Discussion

1. In the New Earth's description in Revelation 21, which details grab your heart? What is your deepest longing that God will meet in the renewed Earth?
2. How does hope in a harmonious future with God, other people and creation shape how you live as you patiently wait for the appearing of the Savior?
3. How might a biblical vision of life in eternity present a compelling case for the gospel to unsaved friends and neighbors?

SONGS

"THE LION AND THE LAMB" – Brenton Brown, Brian Johnson, Leeland Mooring

"EXALTED OVER ALL" - Andi Rozier, Jason Ingram, and Jess Cates

"HOSANNA" – Brooke Fraser

"O PRAISE THE NAME" - Dean Ussher, Marty Sampson, Benjamin Hastings

BUDGET

GIVING WEEK 1 (Jan. 1-2): \$ 14,517.42

GIVING WEEK 2 (Jan. 3-9): \$ 51,136.10

YTD GIVING: \$ 65,653.52

YTD GENERAL NEED: \$ 72,186.24