

## Heaven Part 6: God's Renewal Plan

Sunday night May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011

It is very important to note that just as Jesus has an eternal plan to redeem mankind and make them new again so I believe He has a plan to take this old sin infected world and renew it again. To prove that point God has given us a number of promises and insights regarding that intention.

Again in Chapter 66 verse 22 of that same book Isaiah declares, "As the new heavens and the new earth that I make will endure before me" declares the Lord, "so will your name and descendent endure."

Peter writes in 2 Peter 3:13 "In keeping with His promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of the righteous."

Revelation we read in chapter 21:1 "Then I saw a new heaven and a new heaven and a new earth for the first heaven and the first earth passed away."

Steven Lawson had excellent insight into this when he stated, "Whatever sin has touched and polluted, God will redeem and cleanse. If redemption does not go as far as the curse of sin, then God has failed. Whatever the extent of the consequences of sin, so must the extent of redemption be."

Jesus did not come to this earth to make the best of a bad situation. He died so that mankind, Earth, and the universe itself could be and would be renewed to forever proclaim His glory.

God has never given up on his original creation. There are a ton of words in the Bible that clearly indicate that. Such words as reconcile, redeem, restore, recover, return, renew, regenerate, resurrect. Each of those Biblical words begins with the re-prefix suggesting a return to an original condition that was ruined or lost.

I love what Albert Wolters wrote in his book Creation Regained, this is what he said, "God hangs on to His fallen original creation and salvages it. He refuses to abandon the work of His hands. In fact, He sacrifices His own son to save His original project. He continues, "Humankind, which has botched

its original mandate and the whole creation along with it, is given another chance in Christ, we are reinstated as God's managers on earth. The original creation is to be restored."

He has no plans to relinquish any of it to any one and especially to His enemy the devil. Please, don't ever forget that.

Randy Alcorn writes regarding this when he states, "What lies behind the notion that God is going to destroy the earth and be done with it? I believe he declares, "That it is a weak theology of God. God has a magnificent plan, and he will not surrender Earth to the trash heap.

In Acts 3:21 Peter preached that Christ, "must remain in Heaven until the time comes for God to **restore** everything, as He promised long ago through His holy prophets." That word "everything" in an inclusive promise

So, will this old earth as we know it come to an end? Yes, it will, but not to a final end. Rev. 21:1 says the old Earth will pass away. But when people pass away, they do not cease to exist. As we will be raised to be a new people, so the Earth will be renewed to be a New Earth.

Matthew 19:27, 28. There Peter hoping to be praised or commended pointed out to Jesus that he and the other disciples had left everything to follow Him. Jesus did not rebuke Peter instead He spoke these words, " At the renewal "regeneration" or a "new world" of **all things**, when the Son of Man sits on

To wrap up this part it is God restoring mankind to what we once were, what He designed us to be—fully embodied, righteous beings, immortal spirits in a glorified body. And restoring the entire physical universe to what it once was. I think in many aspects it is going to be much like what the Garden of Eden once was except it will be world wide not just a single spot or location like the Garden was at that time.

Our present and eternal purpose is inseparable from God's stated eternal purpose for us to rule the earth forever as His children and heirs. That is at the very center of the Westminster Catechism when it declares "man's chief purpose is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever." We will glorify God and find joy in Him as we do what He has made us to do: serve Him as resurrected beings and carry out His plan for developing a Christ-centered,

resurrected culture in a resurrected universe. All Praise to His Holy Name!!!!!!