

# *Heaven*

Jim Hoffman

Lesson #5

# Extra Topics

- **What are the rewards for the believer?**
  - Imperishable Crown 1<sup>st</sup> Cor 9:24-25 (for those who competed in the Christian life)
  - Crown of Rejoicing 1<sup>st</sup> Thes 2:19 (for those who evangelized)
  - Crown of Righteousness 2<sup>nd</sup> Tim 4:8 (for those who look forward to His coming again)
  - Crown of Glory 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5:4 (for those who were Godly leaders and examples to the flock)
  - Crown of Life Rev 2:10 (For those who endure patiently through trials)

# Extra Topics

- What about the people outside the gates in Rev 21:26-27? Nothing evil will be allowed to enter, nor anyone who practices shameful idolatry and dishonesty—but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.
- Applying the only time line I have, I do not think any of the evil people described are around. (Rev 21:8)
- I think it's like a double assurance of the righteous atmosphere of Heaven. If John had written nothing, perhaps one might ask a “what if” question.

# Microcosm of Redemption

Still bottles, but no longer marred by dirt.

They have been redeemed and can be used again for the intended purpose.



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# Redemption

- 1 John 3:8 He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. NIV
  - Rev 5:9 And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. 10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth ." NIV
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# Redemption

- “Redemption is not a matter of an addition, or of a spiritual or supernatural dimension to creaturely life that was lacking before; rather it is a matter of bring new life and vitality to what was there all along.”

Albert Wolters

- The only thing added is the remedy for sin.
  - We were made to be eternal beings in the image of God and that is exactly what the redeemed will be.
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# Redemption

- **Matt 19:27** Peter answered him, "We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?" 28 Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. NIV
  - Not at the abandonment of all things, or at the destruction of all things, but at the 'renewal' of all things.
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# Redemption

- “Renewal” NT:3824 paliggenesia This Greek word is made up of two Greek words that mean ‘new’ and ‘genesis’.
  - Salvation will restore man back to God’s original design and purpose; to have dominion under God over the earth.
  - The fall led to death, and the redemption will include the removal of death.
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# Redemption

- It was never God's intention that we would live forever in a world that is filled with sin, hate, disease, and rebellion.
  - His desire is for us to serve and glorify Him in a world where there is nothing to distract us from that purpose.
  - Man fell, but God will pick him up, clean him up, and put him back on course as though nothing ever happened.
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# God's Intentions

- Isa 65:17 "Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. NIV
  - 2 Peter 3:13 But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. NIV
  - Rev 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away NIV
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# God's Intentions

- **“If God’s plan were just to take us to the present heaven (the intermediate state) or a place of just spirit beings there would be no need for a new heaven or new earth.” Randy Alcorn**
  - **Jesus did not die to make the most of a bad situation, he died to redeem us, and to restore all things.**
  - **The Devil threw mud on God’s creative canvas, but God will do more than just wipe it clean. He will completely restore it.**
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# God's Intentions

- Reconcile, redeem, restore, return, renew, regenerate, and resurrect all point to a restoration and not an alternative plan.
  - This explains to a great extent why God is always viewing us as what we can be more so than what we are.
  - We are fallen people living in a fallen world; we will be redeemed people living in a redeemed world and that is what both parties long for.
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# God's Intentions

- If God wanted to start over after the fall he could have sent Adam and Eve to hell and made Bill and Barb.
  - That might be what we would think of doing, but one who has the power to redeem and restore to an original state does not have to start over.
  - Satan struck a blow at God's handiwork, but he did not destroy his work to a place beyond redemption.
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# This world is not our home; or is it?

- We have been given many clues about what the new earth will be like from this earth.
- Plants, animals, streams, and people of every imaginable shape, size and color.
- “While many of the world’s religions portray heaven as a mystical place, Christianity does not give up on humanity or earth” Randy Alcorn

# This world is not our home; or is it?

- It is as if God has planted a longing to return to Eden in our hearts ..... We've never been there, but it sounds like home.
- Many of the 'movements' of our time are rooted in this sense God places within us.
- Save the planet, animal rights, and human rights all originate with what God has placed within us.

# **This world is not our home; or is it?**

- So while our ancestors (Adam and Eve) came from the homeland we are forced to live in a place that does not feel like home.**
- It's the same earth Adam and Eve lived on, but it has been seriously marred by sin.**
- We would love an earth that is peaceful, stable, and inhabitable ..... Not coincidentally, that is just what God has promised.**

# This world is not our home; or is it?

- **God has not promised a 'non-earth', he promises a 'new earth'. Randy Alcorn**
- **In Rev 21 and 22 we read of a city, buildings, streets, streams, a mountain, and plenty of people. Does that not sound very much like the earth we know?**
- **Rev 21:5 He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" NIV**

# This world is not our home; or is it?

- **Rev 22:3 No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. NIV**
- **There will be work in heaven. (his servants will serve him)**
- **Work is good for us, it allows us to do something measureable, and can be used to glorify God. (work will continue in heaven)**

# Heaven is a real place.

- **Heb 11:10** For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. **11** By faith Abraham, even though he was past age — and Sarah herself was barren — was enabled to become a father because he considered him faithful who had made the promise. **12** And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore. **13** All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. **14** People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. **15** If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. **16** Instead, they were longing for a better country — a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them. NIV

# Heaven is a real place.

- **Other religions, other people and many books tell us that heaven is more of a state of existence than a place, but there is ample evidence to the contrary.**
- **The intermediate state, perhaps, but not our final home.**
- **We need to stop trying to spiritualize everything we cannot understand and start believing what we read in the bible.**

# Heaven is a real place.

- **“Stop closing your eyes trying to imagine the unimaginable. Open your eyes and imagine this earth without the effects of sin”. Randy Alcorn.**
- **We are living on the same earth as Adam and Eve. Look at the beauty that is still ours to enjoy and look at the best intentions of men that are still seen.**
- **It is no accident that most of the people we meet are relatively nice people ..... That was God’s original design!**

**Questions / Comments**