

# SESSION 6

## What Will Our Heavenly Bodies Be Like?

Rom. 8:18 For I consider that our present sufferings cannot even be compared to the coming glory that will be revealed to us.

Rom. 8:23b ...we ourselves also, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we eagerly await our adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

2 Cor. 5:2 (ESV) For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling.

1 John 3:2b (NIV) But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

Phil. 3:20-21 (NIV) But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

### Jesus, the Firstfruits

1 Cor. 15:20 But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the **firstfruits** of those who have fallen asleep.

1 Cor. 15:23 But each in his own order: Christ, the **firstfruits**; then when Christ comes, those who belong to him.

Rev. 1:5b Jesus Christ—the faithful witness, the **firstborn** from among the dead, the ruler over the kings of the earth.

Col. 1:18 He is the head of the body, the church ...the **firstborn** from the dead, so that he himself may become first in all things.

## **Jesus' New Body – The Firstfruits (and Firstborn)**

1. He had a physical form (not spirit).
  - a. Luke 24:39 (ESV) See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.”
2. He looked fully human (Luke 14:15)
3. He was recognized by the disciples and His followers. (John 20:16)
4. He could be touched and felt (Matt. 28:9)
5. He remembered the past (Luke 24:44)
6. He could eat normally
  - a. Luke 24:42-43 So they gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate it in front of them.
7. He had the same body which the nails had been driven into (John 20:19–20)
8. He could enter closed doors (John 20:19)
9. He was able to disappear (Luke 24:30-31)
10. He never needed rest (inferred from his regular ministry) (Acts 1:3)
11. He ascended into Heaven (Acts 1:9-11)

## **Further Resurrection Body Characteristics**

1. Imperishable (1 Cor.15:42)
2. Glorious (1 Cor.15:43)
3. Powerful (1 Cor.15:43)
4. Godly / Spiritual (1 Cor.15:44)
5. Will not be hungry or thirsty (Isa. 49:10)
6. It will be fully healed from past disabilities (Isa. 35:5-6)

## **The Heavenly Body's Seed**

1 Cor. 15:37-38 And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare seed—perhaps of wheat or something else. But God gives it a body just as he planned, and to each of the seeds a body of its own.

1 Cor. 15:40 And there are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies. The glory of the heavenly body is one sort and the earthly another.

# **What Will We Do in Heaven?**

## **Worship the Lord**

Rev. 5:13 Then I heard every creature—in heaven, on earth, under the earth, in the sea, and all that is in them—singing: “To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be praise, honor, glory, and ruling power forever and ever!”

## **Feast, Eat, and Drink (With the Saints of Old)**

Isa. 25:6 The Lord of Heaven’s Armies will hold a banquet for all the nations on this mountain. At this banquet there will be plenty of meat and aged wine—tender meat and choicest wine.

Matt. 8:11 I tell you, many will come from the east and west to share the banquet with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.

Luke 22:30 that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

## **Be United with Other Believers in Heaven**

## **Enjoy God’s Amazing, Renewed Creation**

See Revelation 21-22

1 Cor. 2:9 Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.

## **We Shall Know Fully**

1 Cor. 13:12 For now we see in a mirror indirectly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know in part, but then I will know fully, just as I have been fully known.

No secrets, no shame, nothing hidden. After the Bema Seat judgment, all past sins and guilt will be completely done away with. We’ll relish knowing and being known.

## Enjoy the Kingdom That Was Prepared for Us

Matt. 25:34 Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

Note: this is promised to a different group (explained later), but, by extension, we know that it applies to us too.

## Both Rest and Work

Rev. 14:13b “Yes,” says the Spirit, “so they can rest from their hard work, because their deeds will follow them.”

Additionally, work gives purpose and meaning. We’ll have opportunity to build, grow, serve Jesus and serve each other.

Rev. 22:3 And there will no longer be any curse, and the throne of God and the Lamb will be in the city. His **servants** will worship him.

Gen. 2:15 The Lord God took the man and placed him in the orchard in Eden to care for it and to maintain it.

Sin made work difficult, but it wasn’t the original way. Genesis 3:17–19

John 5:17 So he told them, “My Father is working until now, and I too am working.”

Randy Alcorn says: “We’ll also have work to do, satisfying and enriching work that we can’t wait to get back to, work that’ll never be drudgery”<sup>1</sup>

## Rule and Reign with Christ

Rev. 5:10 You have appointed them as a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and **they will reign on the earth.**”

Rev. 22:26 And to the one who conquers and who continues in my deeds until the end, **I will give him authority over the nations.**

There will be different levels of authority given. Consider the parable of the talents in Matthew 25.

## Restoration Period - 45 Days

Occurs immediately after the Reclamation period (30 days), after the great battle of Armageddon. This period will be used to restore the earth and separate the inhabitants of the earth to prepare for the Millennium.

From what we either see or infer from Scripture, the key events that will occur during the Restoration period are:

1. Mount Zion will be restored (Is. 2:2; Mic. 4:1; Rev 16:19-20)
  - a. It was split into three parts Rev. 16:19 at the 7<sup>th</sup> bowl judgment
2. Restoration of Israel to her own land (Is. 4:1, 3, 5-6, Is. 10:20-22)
  - a. The last promised to the nation through Abraham more than 4,000 years ago
3. Gentile survivors will be brought to Mount Zion (Is. 66:16, 18-19; Mich. 7:10, 16-17)
4. Christ rebuilds His temple on the summit of the new Mount Zion (Zech. 6:12-13; Ez. 41:1; 43:7; Is. 4:2-4)
5. The anointing of the “most holy” (Dan. 9:24; 7:11-14)
  - a. Christ will receive the reign over earth from Almighty God the Father
  - b. The rule of earth is restored to its rightful ruler, Jesus Christ, for the first time since the beginning of Satan’s cosmic conflict with God Almighty
6. The Sheep and Goat Judgment (possibly the first day of the Millennium)

## The New Landscape

The seventh bowl will completely change the landscape of the entire earth. Jerusalem will have been split into three parts, the cities of the nations collapsed, and the mountains were not found (Rev. 16:19, 20). This doesn’t mean that every mountain was completely flattened because we know that the battle of Armageddon will be fought in the hills (and plains) of Israel. We are also told in Scripture that Mount Zion will be raised up, possibly higher than any other mountain.

Zech. 14:10a All the land will change and become like the rift valley (be changed into a plain) from Geba (means ‘hill’) to Rimmon (‘height’), south of Jerusalem. Jerusalem will be raised up and will stay in its own place.

Isa. 2:2 In future days the mountain of the Lord's temple will endure as the most important of mountains and will be the most prominent of hills. All the nations will stream to it.

Micah 4:1 And in future days the Lord's Temple Mount will be the most important mountain of all; it will be more prominent than other hills. People will stream to it.

## **Restoration of Israel**

Jeremiah 31:10b-13 For the Lord will rescue the descendants of Jacob. He will secure their release from those who had overpowered them. They will come and shout for joy on Mount Zion. They will be radiant with joy over the good things the Lord provides, the grain, the fresh wine, the olive oil, the young sheep, and the calves he has given to them. They will be like a well-watered garden and will not grow faint or weary any more. The Lord says, 'At that time young women will dance and be glad. Young men and old men will rejoice. I will turn their grief into gladness. I will give them comfort and joy in place of their sorrow.

Further study: Isaiah 10:20-21, Isaiah 10:22-23, Isaiah 43:1,2,5,6, Isaiah 51:11

## **Surviving Gentile Peoples Go to Mount Zion**

Isa. 66:16, 18 For the Lord judges all humanity with fire [Day of the Lord] and his sword [Battle of Armageddon]; the Lord will kill many. ... So I am coming to gather all the nations and ethnic groups; they will come and witness my splendor. [on Mount Zion]

Isa. 56:6-8 As for foreigners who become followers of the Lord and serve him, who love the name of the Lord and want to be his servants—...I will bring them to my holy mountain; I will make them happy in the temple where people pray to me. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my temple will be known as a temple where all nations may pray."

## **Restoration Of the Temple**

Zech. 6:13a Indeed, he [Jesus] will build the temple of the Lord, and he will be clothed in splendor, sitting as king on his throne.

Many other Scriptures (including those mentioned above) refer to the new temple. Ezekiel 40-48 gives specific dimensions and details of the millennial temple, which will be huge in size.

We're told in Rev 21:22 that there won't be a temple in the new Jerusalem as it descends to earth. This could either be that it's already on earth and the new Jerusalem will settle on top of it, or it will be placed in a larger holy allotment that is part of the greater new Jerusalem but outside of the new Jerusalem city center.

## Restoring Christ's Rule Upon Earth

Dan. 7:27 Then the kingdom, authority, and greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be delivered to the people of the holy ones of the Most High. His kingdom is an eternal kingdom; all authorities will serve him and obey him.'

Further Study: Dan. 7:11-14

## Sheep and Goats Judgment

The second of the three major judgments is the Sheep and Goats judgment. This is a judgment just for the Gentile nations that survived the seventieth week. The Greek word for "nations" is *ethnos* which can be translated as "nations", "heathen", or "peoples". It was used by Jews to refer to any non-Jewish people.

Read Matthew 25:31-46

### Who This Doesn't Apply To:

**Jews:** By this point, the Jews will have already come to a saving knowledge of Jesus, their messiah. This took place within the first few days of the Reclamation period, just after the seventieth week.

**Those that took the mark:** Those with the mark of the beast would have already had judgment poured out on them. Revelation 14:9-10 If anyone worships the beast and his image, and takes the mark on his forehead or his hand, that person will also drink of the wine of God's anger that has been mixed undiluted in the cup of his wrath.

**Believers in their resurrected bodies:** We will have already received our immortal, heavenly bodies, and have already been purified during the Bema Seat judgment.

## The Millennium

During the Millennium, Jesus will reign over the entire earth in a world that has been restored back to it was in the garden of Eden, before the fall. This length of 1000 years is mentioned six times in Revelation.

Animals will live in harmony, and carnivores will become Herbivores. This is described for the new Jerusalem specifically, but likely applies to the whole earth.

Isa. 11:6-9 A wolf will reside with a lamb, and a leopard will lie down with a young goat; an ox and a young lion will graze together, as a small child leads them along. A cow and a bear will graze together, their young will lie down together. A lion, like an ox, will eat straw. A baby will play over the hole of a snake; over the nest of a serpent an infant will put his hand. They will no longer injure or destroy on my entire royal mountain. For there will be universal submission to the Lord's sovereignty, just as the waters completely cover the sea.

Isa. 65:25 A wolf and a lamb will graze together; a lion, like an ox, will eat straw, and a snake's food will be dirt. They will no longer injure or destroy on my entire royal mountain," says the Lord.

Mortals and immortals will both live on the earth. Mortals—those still in their original bodies—will live and procreate on the earth. Jesus will rule as King of the entire earth, while King David will rule Israel (Jer. 30:9). The resurrected and raptured saints will also rule and reign throughout the world.

Mortals will have extended lives, like before the fall. However, they can both die and sin.

Isa. 65:20 Never again will one of her infants live just a few days or an old man die before his time. Indeed, no one will die before the age of one hundred; anyone who fails to reach the age of one hundred will be considered cursed.



## **Marriage Supper of The Lamb**

The wedding has already occurred prior to the millennium since the bride is called the *wife* of the Lamb before Jerusalem comes down to earth.

Matt 26:29 I tell you, from now on I will not drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

The great feast:

Rev. 19:9a Then the angel said to me, "Write the following: Blessed are those who are invited to the banquet at the wedding celebration of the Lamb!"

Isaiah 25:6 The Lord of Heaven's Armies will hold a banquet for all the nations on this mountain. At this banquet there will be plenty of meat and aged wine—tender meat and choicest wine.

## **Satan's Last Hurrah**

Read Revelation 20:7-10

## **Great White Throne Judgment**

The third judgment is for the sinners/unbelievers. This is also called the second death, and is the second resurrection.

John 5:28b-29 "A time is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and will come out—the ones who have done what is good to the resurrection resulting in life, and the ones who have done what is evil to the resurrection resulting in condemnation.

Read Rev 20:12-15

The Lamb's book of life is seen eight times in the Bible. In addition to being used at the Great White Throne judgment, it used for entry into the new Jerusalem. Rev 21:27.

## New Heavens and New Earth

Isa. 65:17-19 For look, I am ready to create new heavens and a new earth! The former ones will not be remembered; no one will think about them anymore. But be happy and rejoice forevermore over what I am about to create! For look, I am ready to create Jerusalem to be a source of joy, and her people to be a source of happiness. Jerusalem will bring me joy, and my people will bring me happiness. The sound of weeping or cries of sorrow will never be heard in her again.

Rev. 21:1-4 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and earth had ceased to exist, and the sea existed no more. And I saw the holy city—the new Jerusalem—descending out of heaven from God, made ready like a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying: “Look! The residence of God is among human beings. He will live among them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death will not exist any more—or mourning, or crying, or pain, for the former things have ceased to exist.”

2 Peter 3:12b-13 Because of this day, the heavens will be burned up and dissolve, and the celestial bodies will melt away in a blaze! But, according to his promise, we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness truly resides.

This will be a renovation or reconstruction rather than a complete replacement. God renovates the surface of the earth and the atmosphere. *New* doesn't mean new in kind, but rather, new in quality.

Matthew 19:28 Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth: In the age when all things are **renewed**, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on 12 thrones, judging the 12 tribes of Israel.

Compare to the flood which is described as destroying the earth.

2 Peter 3:6-7 Through these things the world existing at that time was destroyed when it was deluged with water. But by the same word the present heavens and earth have been reserved for fire, by being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

The flood brought total destruction and a new earth, even though it's the same earthly foundation as before the flood. Likewise, the new heaven and new earth

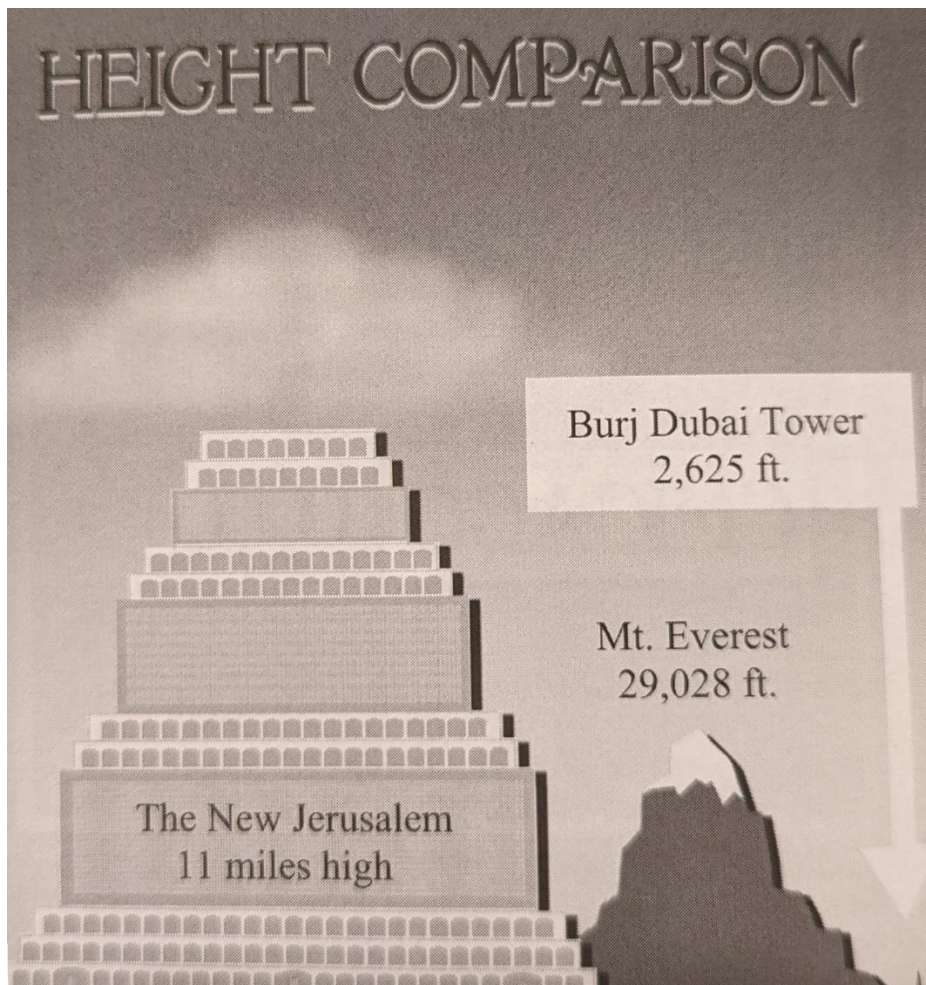
doesn't meet a complete replacement. Instead, it's referring to a completely renovated or reconstructed heaven and earth.

## The New Jerusalem

### Does the New Jerusalem Already Exist?

Revelation 12:22-23a But you have come to Mount Zion, the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, to the assembly and congregation of the firstborn, who are enrolled in heaven.

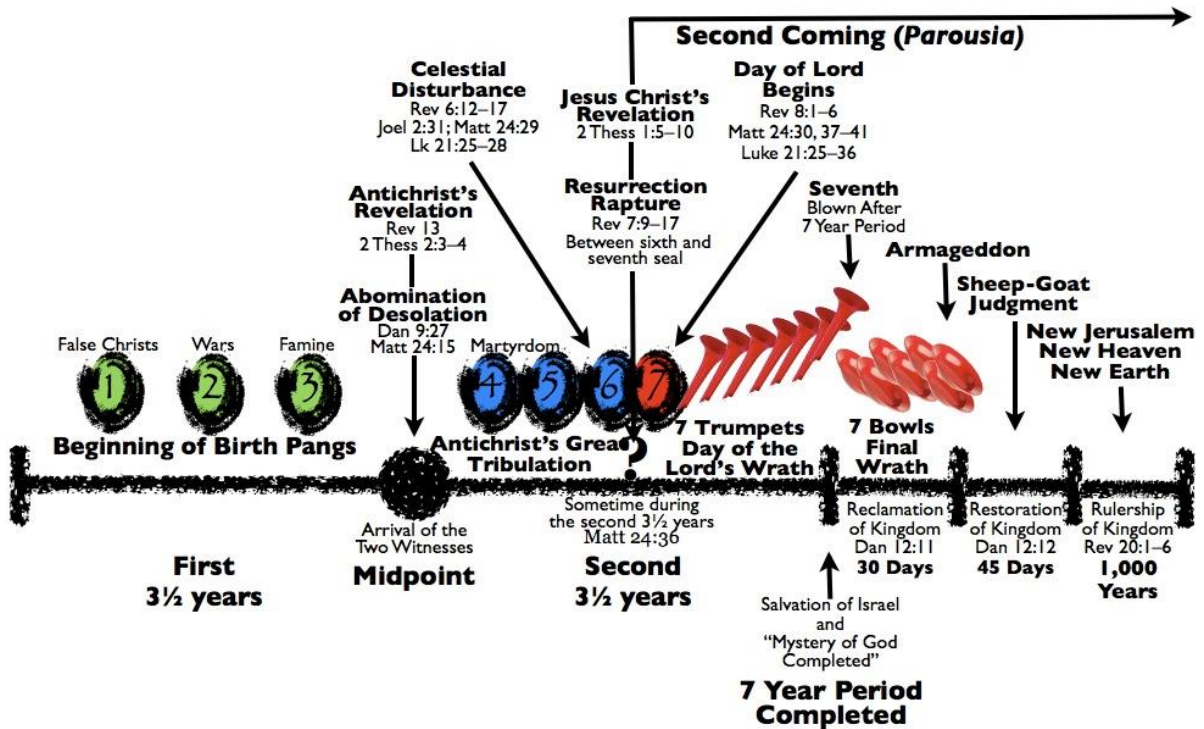
1,342 (12,000 stadia) *cubed*. This is about 11 miles square.



What on Earth is Heaven Like? Janet Willis (Pg.52)

Read Rev. 21:9-22:5

## Prewrath Timeline from Alan Kurschner's Study Guide<sup>2</sup>:



## Outline of the Book of Revelation

### PROLOGUE AND RECIPIENTS

1. Prologue
- 2-3. The Seven Churches

### BEFORE THE DAY OF THE LORD

4. A Vision of Heavenly Worship
5. The Seven-Sealed Scroll and the Worthy Lamb
6. Opening the Six Seals
7. Protected: 144,000 Jews Sealed and an Innumerable Multitude Delivered

## THE DAY OF THE LORD

8. Seventh Seal Opened: First Four Trumpet Judgments
9. Fifth Trumpet / First Woe; Sixth Trumpet / Second Woe

## SEVEN-YEAR PERIOD COMPLETED

10. Mighty Angel and the Mystery of God Completed
- 11:1–13. Completion of Ministry of the Two Witnesses
- 11:14–19. Seventh Trumpet / Third Woe and God’s Kingdom Reclaimed

## PARENTHESIS 1: COSMIC CONFLICT

12. Panorama of Satan’s Schemes
13. Loyalty to the Antichrist or Jesus Christ?
14. Redeemed 144,000 Jews; Impending Judgments; Harvests of the Earth

## THE DAY OF THE LORD COMPLETED

15. Prelude to the Bowl Judgments
16. Seventh Trumpet / Third Woe Continued in the Seven Bowl Judgments

## PARENTHESIS 2: THE FALL OF BABYLON AND ANTICHRIST

17. The Great Prostitute and the Beast’s Authority
18. Destruction of the Great City of “Babylon”
- 19:1–10. God Glorified from Heaven; Marriage Supper of the Lamb
- 19:11–20:3. Defeat of the “Three Adversaries of God”

## BEGINNING OF THE MILLENNIUM AND RENEWAL

- 20:4–6. Types of Resurrection
- 20:7–15. Satan and the Ungodly Perish
- 21–22:5. New Heaven, New Earth, New Jerusalem
- 22:6–21. Epilogue<sup>2</sup>

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1. Heaven by Randy Alcorn. p. 331
2. Alan Kurschner The Basics of the Prewrath Rapture Study Guide