

Sermon Quotes
January 20th, 2008

Eternity and Eternal Things- New Heaven and New Earth

*“The Bible speaks of the new heavens and the new earth...New doesn't mean fundamentally different, but vastly superior...A new car doesn't mean a vehicle without a steering wheel, seats, doors, and tires. If it didn't have those, it wouldn't be a car. The new car is **a better version of what you already have.**”*

—Randy Alcorn

1 John 3:2 ESV “Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when He appears **we shall be like Him...**”

*“God will make the New Earth his dwelling place...Heaven and earth will then **no longer be separated** as they are now, but **they will be one.**”*

—Anthony Hoekema

*“Our **destiny is an earthly one**: a New Earth, an earth redeemed and transfigured. **An earth reunited with heaven**, but an earth, nevertheless.”*

—Paul Marshall

“We are homesick for Eden. We're nostalgic for what is implanted in our hearts. It's built into us, perhaps even at a genetic level. We long for what the first man and woman once enjoyed—a perfect and beautiful Earth with free and untainted relationships with God, each other, animals, and our environment... We long for a return to Paradise—a perfect world, without the corruption of sin, where God walks with us and talks with us in the cool of the day. Because we're human beings, we desire something tangible and physical, something that will not fade away. And that is exactly what God promises us—a home that will not be destroyed, a kingdom that will not fade, a city with unshakable foundations, an incorruptible inheritance.”

—Randy Alcorn

“...If the eternal Heaven will be a New Earth, doesn't that suggest that the current Earth must be bursting with clues about what Heaven will be like?...If we can't imagine our present Earth without rivers, mountains, trees, and flowers, then why would we try to imagine the New Earth without these features?...If the word Earth in this phrase means anything, it means that we can expect to find earthly things there—including atmosphere, mountains, water, trees, people, houses—even cities, buildings, and streets. (These familiar features are specifically mentioned in Revelation 21–22.)”

—Randy Alcorn

2 Pet 3:13 “But according to His promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth **in which righteousness dwells.**”

1 John 4:17-18 ESV “By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but **perfect love casts out fear...**”

Psalms 104 ESV “You make springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills; they give drink to every beast of the field; the wild donkeys quench their thirst. Beside them the birds of the heavens dwell; they sing among the branches. From your lofty abode you water the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work. You cause the grass to grow for the livestock and plants for man to cultivate, that he may bring forth food from the earth...The young lions roar for their prey, seeking their food from God...O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom have you made them all; **the earth is full of your creatures.** These all look to you, to give them their food in due season. When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things. **When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. When you send forth your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground.**”

Romans 8:18-21 ESV “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For **the creation waits with eager longing** for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that **the creation itself will be set free** from its bondage to decay and **obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.**”

“If God brings our pets back to life, it wouldn’t surprise me. It would be just like Him. It would be totally in keeping with His generous character...Exorbitant. Excessive. Extravagant in grace after grace. Of all the dazzling discoveries and ecstatic pleasures heaven will hold for us, the potential of seeing Scrappy would be pure whimsy—utterly, joyfully, surprisingly superfluous...Heaven is going to be a place that will refract and reflect in as many ways as possible the goodness and joy of our great God, who delights in lavishing love on His children.”

—Joni Eareckson-Tada

“The Biblical doctrine of the New Earth implies something startling: that if we want to know what the ultimate Heaven, our eternal home, will be like, the best place to start is by looking around us. We shouldn’t close our eyes and try to imagine the unimaginable. We should open our eyes, because the present Earth is as much a valid reference point for envisioning the New Earth as our present bodies are a valid reference point for envisioning our new bodies. The idea of the New Earth as a physical place isn’t an invention of shortsighted human imagination. Rather, it’s the invention of a transcendent God, who made physical human beings to live on a physical Earth, and who chose to become a man Himself on that same Earth. He did this that He might redeem mankind and Earth. Why? In order to glorify Himself and enjoy forever the company of men and women in a world He’s made for us.”

—Randy Alcorn