

Heaven

Lesson #1 "Are You Looking Forward to Heaven?"

- Read Preface, Introduction and Chapters 1-2 and answer the following questions from pages XIII-22.

John 14:1-3 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

- 1) Why does Alcorn believe his conclusions will hold up even if it departs from current Christian teachings?

- 2) What does God use suffering and impending death to accomplish in us?

- 3) What should energize and comfort us as we journey through this life?

- 4) How can Edwards fulfill his resolution, 'Resolved, to endeavor to obtain for myself as much happiness, in the other world, as I possibly can?'

- 5) What has God promised in the next life to those who follow Jesus Christ?

- 6) What causes us to think so little about Heaven?

- 7) What did **A.J. Conyers** believe the 'North Star' of the last 2,000 years that governed society was?

- 8) What sources are people using to come to their conclusions of what Heaven is like?
- 9) What does the author believe is the cause of the people of God vague and uninspired view of Heaven?
- 10) How does Satan rob us of our joy and comfort of Heaven?
- 11) 'The disease of _____ has _____ us to God and _____, which are _____ yet unseen.'
- 12) What is another source of our misunderstanding of Heaven?
- 13) What happens when we surrender to naturalistic assumptions?
- 14) What should we fuel our imagination regarding Heaven with?
- 15) Where can we find a reliable source for our understanding of Heaven?

1 Corinthians 2:9-10 But as it is written: "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." 10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

Philippians 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Philippians 1:23 For I am hard pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.

9) What do we have to do to go to Hell?

10) What must we do to be forgiven of our sins?

11) On the cross what did Jesus experience?

12) How should we view self-righteous people? Why?

13) What are the marks of a good church?

14) What were we made for?

Quote: "We must not believe Satan's lie that it's unloving to speak to people about Hell."

Quote: "All roads do not lead to Heaven. Only one does: Jesus Christ."

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Acts 4:12 "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Matthew 7:21-23 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. **22** "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' **23** "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'."

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Lesson #3 "The Nature of the Present Heaven?"

- Read Chapters 5 and answer the following questions from pages 41-49.

Revelation 21:1-3 " Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. **2** Then I, John, 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 heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.

- 1) The intermediate state is a period of time between what two events?

- 2) What is the difference between the present versus eternal Heaven?

- 3) Explain the Yes and No answer to ‘will we be with God in the same place that Heaven is now’?

- 4) Explain why when believers die they will not go to the Heaven where they will live forever?

- 5) What does the Bible promise regarding our eternal home?

- 6) What do books on Heaven often fail to distinguish?

- 7) What is the difference between the present Heaven and the eternal Heaven?
- 8) What is the difference between eternal Heaven and the New Earth?
- 9) “God’s _____ plan- not to take us up to live in a _____ made for _____, but to come _____ and _____ with us in the _____ He _____ for us.”
- 10) What happens to the body and soul of believers when they die?
- 11) What is meant by the phrase, ‘judgment of faith’?
- 12) What is the purpose of the ‘judgment seat of Christ’ for believers?
- 13) When will the final judgment be for unbelievers?

Romans 10:10-12 But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. **11** For it is written: "As I live, says the LORD, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God." **12** So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

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Lesson #4 “Is the Present Heaven a Physical Place?”

- Read Chapters 6 and answer the following questions from pages 51-63.
- 1) Why are we so resistant to the idea that Heaven could be physical?
- 2) How did the church come to neglect the Biblical teaching of a resurrected Heaven and people?
- 3) What do the verses in Hebrews suggest regarding the blueprint of Earth?
- 4) What is the meaning of the word “*Paradise*” in **Luke 23:43**?
- 5) What does it mean to be fully human?
- 6) Why is our bodily resurrection an absolute necessity as recorded in **1 Corinthians 15:12-32**?
- 7) What is considered as a fundamental truth of the Christian faith?

- 8) What is the significance of Enoch and Elijah in this discussion?

- 9) What event sheds light on Moses and Elijah in reference to the present Heaven?

- 10) How can we know that Abraham, the rich man and Lazarus maintain their identity in **Luke 16**?

- 11) In the story of the rich man and Lazarus what would suggest they possibly possess transitional physical forms?

- 12) What is the problem of taking all of **Luke 16:19-31** in a strictly literal interpretation?

- 13) What is the problem of taking all of **Luke 16:19-31** in a strictly figurative interpretation?

- 14) Until the final resurrection what does Scripture teach us about those in the present Heaven and Hell?

Quote: “the hills and valleys of Heaven will be to those you now experience not as a copy is to an original, nor as a substitute is to the genuine article, but as the flower to the root, or the diamond to the coal.” **C.S. Lewis**

Quote: “Paradise was not generally understood as mere allegory, with a metaphorical or spiritual meaning, but as an actual physical place where God and His people lived together, surrounded by physical beauty, enjoying great pleasures and happiness.” **Randy Alcorn**

- 8) Why do we often not receive God's intended meaning in a given verse or passage?
- 9) What was the Scholastic writer's view of Heaven?
- 10) How did the Scholastic theologians come to interpret the Biblical text?
- 11) What did Aquinas faulty interpretation do to our understanding of Heaven?
- 12) What historical account helps us to understand our lives in the New Earth in **Revelation 21-22**?
- 13) What doctrine should guide us in our understanding of the eternal state?
- 14) What principle can help us whether to interpret a passage literally or figuratively?
- 15) How do we violate **Revelation 22:18-19** in 'taking away' or 'adding' to Scripture?

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Lesson #6 "What is Life Like in the Present Heaven"

- Read chapter seven and answer the following questions from pages 65-73.

Revelation 9:9-11 When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. 10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" 11 Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.

- 1) Which of the 21 observations from **Revelation 6:9-11** stood out the most to you and why?
- 2) What demonstrated direct continuity that our identity on Earth and Heaven are the same?
- 3) Will people in Heaven continue to learn?
- 4) In Present Heaven do the saints have a disinterest in the things happening on the Earth?
- 5) What determines our positions of authority and treasures in Heaven?
- 6) "Heaven _____ us but _____ not _____ or extinguish our _____ or history."
- 7) What does Samuel contribute to discussion of life in the Present Heaven?
- 8) What does the 'great cloud of witnesses' in **Hebrews 12:1** teach us?

9) Why is Earth such an important stage to those in Heaven?

10) In **Luke 15:10** who is doing the rejoicing in Heaven?

11) Do people in Heaven pray?

12) Why is the statement 'saints in Heaven cannot be happy if they are aware of what is happening on Earth,' not a valid statement?

13) Will there ever be a time when there will be no more pain, sorrow and tears? When?

14) Happiness in Heaven is based upon what?

15) "Those who _____ in the presence of _____ find _____ joy in _____ God and living as _____ beings in _____ fellowship in a _____ environment."

Quote: "Those on Earth may be ignorant of Heaven, but those in Heaven are not ignorant of Earth."

Luke 15:7 "I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.

Luke 15:10 "Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

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Lesson #7 "The Redemption of Planet Earth"

- Read chapters 8 & 9 and answer the following questions from pages 77-99.

Acts 3:21 "whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.

Ephesians 1:10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth in Him.

- 1) What do we truly and deeply long for?
- 2) Why do we have death, suffering and war in this world?
- 3) What kind of future home has God promised His people?
- 4) How has the Earth been damaged?
- 5) Where is the best place to start in understanding what the New Earth will be like?
- 6) Where did the idea of the "New Earth" come from?
- 7) What must we understand in order to comprehend God's future plan regarding the New Earth?

8) God's redemptive plan climaxes with what?

9) Why did God ordain to redeem back His creation?

10) What was God's purpose in redeeming sinners and restoring the Earth?

11) What did Christ birth, death and resurrection secure for the people of God?

12) What was the two fold purpose of Christ mission in coming to Earth?

13) How will God change the sinful uses of "good things?"

Quote: "God promises us a home that will not be destroyed, a kingdom that will not fade, a city with unshakable foundations, an incorruptible inheritance."

Quote: "The earth matters, our bodies matter, animals and trees matter, *matter* matters, because God created them and intends them to manifest His glory."

C.S. Lewis said of Milton's *Paradise Lost*, "Reading [it] makes us feel what it is like to live in a universe where every square inch, every split second, is claimed by God and counterclaimed by God."

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Lesson #8 "As Far As the Curse is Found"

- Read chapter 10 and answer the following questions from pages 101-108.

"No more let sins and sorrows grow"

"Nor thorns infest the ground;"

"He comes to make His blessings flow"

"As far as the curse is found."

By Isaac Watts "Joy to the World"

Matthew 25:34 "Then the King will say to those on His right hand, Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:"

- 1) Where is the first implicit promise of the New Earth found?
- 2) What is the promise in **Matthew 25:34**?
- 3) What is God's plan for the ages?
- 4) Who will reign over the New Earth?
- 5) What will ultimately happen to Satan and those who reject God?
- 6) What will permeate every aspect of the new creation?
- 7) What did Christ resurrection accomplish?

- 8) What is meant by the phrase “already but not yet?”
- 9) What did Jesus do to Satan in **Hebrews 2:14** and **1 John 3:8**?
- 10) What did Satan try to do regarding God’s creation?
- 11) What happened to the human culture under the curse of Genesis three?
- 12) What does it mean for God to remove the curse?
- 13) How can we compromise the doctrine of the Fall and Redemption?

Quote: “When Christ says “take your inheritance, that kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world,” it’s as if he’s saying, “This is what I wanted for you all along. This is what I went to the cross and defeated death to give you. Take it, rule it, exercise dominion, enjoy it; and in doing so share my happiness.”

Quote: “Christ has already undone some of the damage in our hearts, but in the end he will finally and completely restore his entire creation to what God originally intended (**Romans 8:19-21**).”

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Lesson #9 "Why is the Resurrection So Important?"

□ Read chapter 11 and answer the following questions from pages 111-124.

Job 19:26 "And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, That in my flesh I shall see God,

1) Based on **1 Corinthians 15:17, 19** why did Paul say the resurrection was absolutely necessary?

2) "The _____ resurrection of _____ Christ is the _____ of redemption _____ for _____ and for the _____."

3) Why is it important to both affirm and understand the doctrine of the resurrection?

4) When did Adam become a "living being?"

5) What were resurrected bodies intended to do?

6) "It is our _____ resurrection that will _____ us to _____ to an _____ life this time _____ from sin and the curse."

7) What does the Westminster Larger Catechism of 1647 say about our future bodies?

- 8) What does **1 John 3:2** teach us about our resurrected bodies?

- 9) What did Jesus' 40 days of living in His resurrected body teach us?

- 10) What two things do we learn about our resurrection by observing Christ's resurrection?

- 11) What point proves the body that Christ died with is the same body He raised from the dead with?

- 12) What did the author mean by "the 'heavenly' transcends 'earthly' but does not negate it?"

- 13) In **1 Corinthians 15:51-57** not only focus on a believers new state and life but what else?

- 14) What does "flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God" from **1 Corinthians 15:50** mean?

Quote: "We will not be disembodied spirits in the world to come, but redeemed spirits, in redeemed bodies, in a redeemed universe." **R.A. Torrey**

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Lesson #10 "Why Does All Creation Await Our Resurrection?"

- Read chapters 12-13 and answer the following questions from pages 125-139.

Colossians 1:16-20 " For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. **17** And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. **18** And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. **19** For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, **20** and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

- 1) How do we limit our understanding of the breadth and depth of Christ redemptive work?
- 2) How far does Christ redemptive work extend?
- 3) Where did Martin Luther say that God had written his promise of the resurrection?
- 4) Where in the Bible does it teach Creation longs for the resurrection?
- 5) Why did God curse the earth along with man because of the Fall of Adam?

6) “Adam and Eve’s _____ did not merely _____ a _____ catastrophe or a _____, Edenic catastrophe; it was a catastrophe of _____ not just _____ proportions.”

7) According to the author what was not part of the original world?

8) Why is **Romans 8** considered a profound theological statement?

9) According to Paul what was the good news that followed the bad news?

10) From **1 Corinthians 15:58** why do we know our labor in the Lord is not in vain?

11) What has been our error in reference to the extent of God’s redemption?

12) How do we fail to think Biblically?

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

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Lesson #11 "Where and When Will Our Deliverance Come?"

- Read chapters 14-15 and answer the following questions from pages 143-157.

Acts 3:21 "whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began."

- 1) What hope thrilled expectant believers about God's future rule?
- 2) What does the Old Testament teach about the Present and Eternal Heaven?
- 3) How has the Millennial Kingdom confused the Biblical promise of Christ's reign on the New Earth?
- 4) When will the New Earth begin?
- 5) "It is common for prophetic _____ to have _____ fulfillment in one _____ and _____ fulfillment in another."
- 6) Why do we believe the second coming of Christ is a literal coming?
- 7) What did Anthony Hoekema believe that an annihilated old earth communicated?

- 8) What caused Alcorn to have no problem in believing that God could renew the old earth?
- 9) “According to Scripture the _____ world will _____ continue _____ nor will it be _____ and _____ by a totally new one.”
- 10) What does **Acts 3:21** teach us of Gods’ purpose in the second coming of Christ?
- 11) How does the context of **2 Peter 3:10** help us understand if the old earth is destroyed or restored?
- 12) What is meant by “continuity between the Present Earth and the New Earth?”
- 13) What is the meaning of “New” in New Heaven and New Earth?
- 14) What do all the events since the Fall of Genesis Three lead to?

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Lesson #12 "What Will It Mean to See God?"

□ Read chapters 16-17 and answer the following questions from pages 159-181.

Job 19:25-27 "For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth; 26 And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, That in my flesh I shall see God, 27 Whom I shall see for myself, And my eyes shall behold, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!"

15) What do we really want?

16) What corrects the heresy of believing God's plan has failed?

17) What does Rene' Pache think the future Heaven is like?

18) How does our understanding of the New Earth free us from loving this world?

19) From **Revelation 21:1**, "The Word for 'first' is *prōte*, suggesting a _____ connection between the _____ Earths. The first _____ serves as the prototype or _____ for the New Earth. There's _____ between _____ and new."

20) Why is it not inappropriate to think of Heaven in earthly terms?

21) What did Alcorn mean when he states that we can have experiences that give us a foretaste of Heaven?

22) “His presence brings _____; His absence brings _____ and _____.
Our _____ for Heaven is a longing for _____.”

23) Define “Beatific” vision.

24) What will be the primary way we will see the Father on the New Earth?

25) How has our vision of creation been hampered?

26) What did Alcorn mean by “every other joy will be derivative?”

27) Why should we have a heartfelt gratitude to God for all the joys of life?

28) Why will Heaven never become stale or boring?

29) Of all the glories and beauties of the New Heaven, what will be the single greatest attraction?

Augustine called God “the end of our desires... You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.”

7) What is the essence of Heaven?

8) What did Alcorn mean by “seeing God will be dynamic, not static?”

9) All that we _____ will be an _____ of _____. We’ll _____ full and _____ fellowship with Christ.”

10) Why will we never get enough of God in Heaven?

11) What happens when you have tasted true worship?

12) What will be the primary means that God will reveal Himself and His love to His people?

13) “Our _____ of what God has _____ us should be _____ from worshipping, _____, and appreciating him. God is _____ by our thankfulness, _____, and enjoyment of him”

Steven Lawson “God’s glory will fill and permeate the entire new Heaven, not just one centralized place. Thus, wherever we go in Heaven, we will be in the immediate presence of the full glory of God. Wherever we go, we will enjoy the complete manifestation of God’s presence. Throughout all eternity, we will never be separated from direct, unhindered fellowship with God.”

Jonathan Edwards, “God is the highest good of the reasonable creature, and the enjoyment of Him is the only happiness with which our souls can be satisfied. To go to heaven fully to enjoy God, in infinitely better than the most pleasant accommodations here. Fathers and mothers, husbands, wives, children, or the company of earthly friends, are but shadows. But the enjoyment of God is the substance. These are but scattered beams, but God is the sun. These are but streams, but God is the fountain. These are but drops, but God is the ocean.”

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Lesson #14 “Ruling in God’s Kingdom?”

□ Read chapters 20-21 and answer the following questions from pages 207-224.

Revelation 11:15 “Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!”

- 1) What did Jesus mean by “His kingdom was not of this world?”

- 2) What is the difference between “worldly” and “earthly?”

- 3) “Salvation does _____ rescue us from the _____ world, but from _____, and from the _____ of the Curse.”

- 4) Why did God create mankind in His image, as creators and rulers?

- 5) How should we respond to all suffering and injustice in our lives?

- 6) According to Ridderbos, what is the goal of Christ redemptive work?

- 7) What will God's future kingdom do to the old Earth?
- 8) When will human kingdoms cease rising and falling?
- 9) What did Bible believing Jews get right regarding the Messiah?
- 10) If God owns everything, how do Christians come to rule the Earth?
- 11) "But if we do understand our _____ in God's _____, we'll realize that He would not _____ us from _____ to live forever in a _____ realm."
- 12) Why do we share in Christ suffering now on Earth?
- 13) How will our responsibilities in God's kingdom be evaluated?
- 14) How do we often miss the plain meaning of Scripture?
- 15) How does Dallas Willard explain our "entering into the joy of the Lord?"

Anthony Hoekema “we must see (history) as moving toward the goal of a finally restored and glorified universe.”

Richard Mouw, “Over and over again the Scriptures make this plain: the political power which has been so corrupted and twisted in the hands and hearts of sinful rulers must be returned to its rightful source.”

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Lesson #15 “How Will We Rule God’s Kingdom?”

□ Read chapter 22 and answer the following questions from pages 225-235.

Matthew 5:5 “Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.”

1 Peter 1:4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

1) What are we saying if we reject the idea that God has called us to rule on the New Earth?

2) What does Jonathan Edwards say is the purpose of why God created the world?

3) What were God’s intentions for us as humans on the Earth?

4) “The _____ as it was, and the world as it _____ be, is exceedingly _____. The world as it is _____, inhabited by _____ as we are now, is _____.”

5) What will God put to an end of in **1 Corinthians 7:31**?

- 6) What kind of kingdom was Israel looking for?

- 7) What is a common but serious mistake that some make regarding the kingdom of God?

- 8) What causes us to hunger for God's righteous rule?

- 9) "God's _____ who suffered _____ ungodly earthly _____ will _____ take their _____ as earthly kings."

- 10) Describe God's reign both now and in the future?

- 11) What does history teach us about man building his kingdom without God?

- 12) What kind of people will God use as rulers in His Kingdom?

8) What does being a citizen of a city involve?

9) God was the architect and builder of which city that Abraham was looking for?

10) What happens to us as we explore God's creation?

11) What is the center piece of the New Jerusalem?

12) What does the need for food, water, and health giving vegetation suggest?

13) Just as our resurrection _____ will be better than our _____ ones, the New Earth's natural _____ will presumably be _____ spectacular than those we now know. We can expect _____ magnificent _____ and more beautiful lakes and _____ than those on this earth."

Alcorn, "Imagine moving through the city to enjoy the arts, music, and sports without pickpockets, porn shops, drugs, or prostitution. Imagine sitting down to eat and raising glasses to toast the King, who will be glorified in every pleasure we enjoy."

Alcorn, "Wherever we go and whatever we do, we'll never leave the presence of the King. For although he dwells especially in the New Jerusalem, he will yet be fully present in the far reaches of the new universe in which every subatomic particle will shout his glory."

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Lesson #17 “What Will the Resurrected Earth Be Like? Part 2”

□ Read chapters 26-27 and answer the following questions from pages 261-277.

1 Peter 3:13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

- 1) “God’s _____ place isn’t _____ but _____ when the New Jerusalem is brought _____ to the _____ Earth.”

- 2) What do the final two chapters of the Bible make clear?

- 3) We know the universe will go on forever based on what?

- 4) The doctrine of the resurrection is an emphatic statement for what?

- 5) Will we become infinite in Heaven?

- 6) What happens when we reduce the resurrected life to a mere symbol?

7) From the list on pages 267-268 which one was the most compelling to you?

8) Is “time” part of the Curse? Why or why not?

9) Why will there be no need for the sun and moon in the New Heaven and New Earth?

10) Why will we be able to tolerate things in the New Earth what we could not in the old Earth?

11) How do you harmonize “no more seas” in **Revelation 21** and “wealth of the seas” **Isaiah 60**? (Hint: answer not found in the book)

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Lesson #18 "What Will Our Lives Be Like in Heaven?"

- Read chapters 28-30 and answer the following questions from pages 281-309.
- 1) What fact teaches us that we will be the same people in Heaven as we were on Earth?
- 2) What statement from Heaven's view point shows the uniqueness of each person?
- 3) Will we become angels in Heaven? Why or why not?
- 4) What are emotions and where did they come from?
- 5) Are feelings as result of the Curse?
- 6) What do the doctrines of eternal judgment and rewards depend upon?
- 7) "If we saw _____ and Eve as they were in _____. They would likely take our _____ away. If _____ would have seen us as we are now, they _____ would have been _____ with _____ and _____."

8) Will we have our five senses in Heaven?

9) What proofs does Alcorn use to support there will be male and female distinctions in Heaven?

10) Will resurrected bodies eat? (Support with Scripture)

11) What did John Calvin say the purpose of eating food was?

12) Was there death before the sin of Adam and Eve?

13) “To be _____ from sin, death, and bondage on the New _____ will _____ that we’ll _____ more _____, not fewer. And the God who _____ in our pleasures will be _____ in our grateful praise.”

Randy Alcorn, “What we *should* do will at last be identical with what we *want* to do. There will be no difference between duty and joy.”

Randy Alcorn, “The best-tasting food we’ve ever eaten wasn’t nearly as good as it must have tasted in Eden or as it will on the New Earth.”

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Lesson #19 "What Will Our Lives Be Like in Heaven? Part 2"

- Read chapters 31-33 and answer the following questions from pages 311-336.
- 1) How was our inability to sin in Heaven purchased and validated?
- 2) Why will Heaven be completely void of any hint of evil?
- 3) What is the difference between “innocence” and “righteousness”?
- 4) What is the difference between “perfect” and “infinite”?
- 5) What will be the greatest deliverance in Heaven?
- 6) What is the meaning of having “full knowledge” as stated in **1 Corinthians 13:12**?
- 7) What does **Ephesians 2:6-7** teach us about learning?

8) What will happen as we come to understand the greatness and majesty of God?

9) Will there ever be a time we stop learning in Heaven? Why or why not?

10) “He (God) made us with fertile, _____ minds so that we might _____ truth and find _____, our greatest _____ of pleasure. In Heaven our intellectual curiosity will surely _____ and be _____ only to surface and be satisfied _____ and again.”

11) What did the Curse do to “work”?

12) What will we do throughout eternity to glorify God?

13) What does **John 14:2** teach us about the place Christ is preparing for His people?

Paul Helm, “The freedom of heaven, then, is the freedom from sin; not that the believer just happens to be free from sin, but that he is so constituted or reconstituted that he cannot sin. He doesn’t want to sin, and he does not want to want to sin.”

Jonathan Edwards, “Even the very best of men, are, on earth, imperfect. But it is not so in heaven. There shall be no pollution or deformity or offensive defect of any kind, seen in any person, or thing; but everyone shall be perfectly pure, and perfectly lovely in heaven.”

8) What concerns did Alcorn have regarding the doctrine of “infant salvation”?

9) What will not happen in our relationships in Heaven?

10) What is the one thing that human relationships will not do in Heaven?

11) Why will knowledge of those in Hell not spoil our joy of Heaven?

12) What does Jonathan Edwards think we will learn from the misery of the wicked?

13) What does every unbeliever reject?

14) What does Alcorn say will help knit us all together in Heaven?

Randy Alcorn, “But the beauty is that Heaven will bring as many new developments as Earth ever did, and eventually for more. We won’t begin to run out of things to think about or talk about. The reservoir won’t run dry. It will be replenished daily, forever expanding.”

Heaven

Lesson #21 "What Will Our Relationships Be Like in Heaven? Part 2"

- Read chapters 37-38 and answer the following questions from pages 367-383.

Revelation 5:9-10 And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, 10 And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."

- 1) All of our relationships in the New Earth will be rooted in what?

- 2) "Any vision of the _____ that doesn't involve a _____ of human _____ in meaningful relationships _____ God's decree that it isn't _____ for human beings to be _____ others of their kind."

- 3) Why was Jonathan Edwards looking forward to the joyful relationships in Heaven?

- 4) Will everyone in the New Heaven and New Earth be equal?

- 5) **Jim Elliot**, "He is no _____ who _____ what he cannot _____ to _____ what he cannot _____."

- 6) Our role as creators and our human creations are a reflection of what?

- 7) All human advancements in the New Heaven and New Earth will be used for what?

8) What will our resurrected bodies preserve?

9) What is the cure to all the racial and national hostilities known to man throughout history?

10) In Heaven will we have a common or multiple language(s)?

11) Who made the nations of the world?

12) **Cornelius Venema**, “Nothing of the _____ of the nations and peoples, their _____ products, languages, arts, _____, literature, and technology so far as these are _____ and _____ will be _____ upon life in the new creations.”

13) What will each cultural and ethnic group contribute to in the New Heaven and New Earth?

John Bunyan, “He who is most in the bosom of God, and who so acts for Him here, he is the man who will be best able to enjoy most of God in the kingdom of Heaven.”

Ephesians 2:14-16 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, **15** having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, **16** and

6) “We should _____ the New Earth to be a _____ where we’ll _____ our calling to be _____ rulers and _____ of animals.”

7) “The New Earth is the new _____—Paradise _____, with the _____ of the first Adam _____, transformed into the _____ of the last Adam.”

8) Did Christ die for animals? Why or why not?

9) From **Romans 8:21-23** what does our resurrection bring?

10) What three things could God do regarding animals in the New Earth?

11) Why does Alcorn avoid the term ‘resurrection’ in reference to animals?

12) What can we assume will happen to animals on the New Earth?

Joni Eareckson Tada, “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 to His children.”

Randy Alcorn, “Who made these endearing qualities in animals? God. Who made us to be touched by them? God. Do we love animals because of sin and the Curse? No. We love animals because God created us and them to love each other. We can turn people into idols, but it doesn’t mean it’s wrong to love people. The same is true of animals.”

8) Where will we see the wonders of God in the New Earth?

9) Reading and writing are the result of what?

10) Will there be laughter in Heaven?

11) What is one of Satan's great lies?

12) What are we to do when we face difficulty and discouragement in this life?

13) "But in _____, there will be no _____ in us to _____ out."

14) Can you have good without evil? Why or why not?

15) Why do we enjoy exhilarating experiences?

Heaven

Lesson #24 "What Will We Do in Heaven Part 2"

□ Read chapters 43-44 and answer the following questions from pages 431-451.

- 1) How can we overcome an "I have missed out on the best of life" mindset?

- 2) "He doesn't _____ wipe away tears; He _____ those _____ with corresponding joys."

- 3) What will be the most fulfilling relationship in Heaven?

- 4) How will Christians regain lost opportunities?

- 5) What did Alcorn mean by death is a doorway?

- 6) Has any Christian passed their peak?

- 7) How should we look at our future suffering, decline and eventual death?

- 8) Will “*Plus Ultra*” (More Beyond) ever cease to be true in the New Earth?
- 9) “God’s instructions and his _____ in the gifts He _____ to people to accomplish these tasks make _____ what we should _____ in Heaven: _____ works of craftsmanship and construction, _____ by sin and death.”
- 10) What will the purpose of homes, food and drink be if we do not “need” them?
- 11) What tarnishes all human accomplishments and achievement today?
- 12) Why is the New Earth not a return to Eden in its primitive sense?
- 13) Why in the New Earth will we be able to do and enjoy all the things we wished for?

Nanci Alcorn, “Life is closing in on him, but he’s headed in the right direction.”

Randy Alcorn, “When the Elderly and handicapped recognize that their experiences on the New Earth will be far better than the best anyone else is experiencing here and, it brings anticipation, contentment, consolation, and the ability to fully rejoice in the activities of the young and healthy, without envy or regret.”

Randy Alcorn, “We’ll constantly enjoy the wonders of the New Earth, but we’re promised the new heavens too, including stars, planets, and cosmic wonders that will thrill us.”

Heaven

Lesson #25 “Living in Light of Heaven”

□ Read chapters 45-46 and answer the following questions from pages 455-473.

- 1) “But our true _____ in Heaven will have all the _____ things about our _____ homes, _____ many times, but _____ of the _____.”
- 2) Why does a vague, spiritual only existence in Heaven hurt us?
- 3) What will be the ultimate party?
- 4) “The _____ things of life are souvenirs from _____, appetizers of the New Earth. There’s _____ enough of them to _____ us going, but _____ enough to make us _____ with the _____ as it is, or ourselves as we are.”
- 5) “This _____ life, then, is _____ our last _____ to eat, drink, and be merry rather, it is the _____ time our eating, drinking, and merrymaking can be _____ by _____, death, and the _____.”
- 6) What is the only foundation for optimism in life?
- 7) What does it mean to be a Christian realist?

8) In the midst of suffering what can give us a hopeful perspective on life?

9) What helped Job during his sufferings and heartaches?

10) What is death?

11) What will last for eternity from this life?

12) List as many benefits as you can that comes from thinking upon Heaven?

13) “The most _____ moment on the New Earth will be _____ than the
_____ perfect _____ in this life.”

14) What were we created for?

John Newton, “When I get to heaven, I shall see three wonders there. The first wonder will be to see many there who I did not expect to see; the second wonder will be to miss many people who I did expect to see; the third and greatest of all will be to find myself there.” Page 456

Randy Alcorn, “As Christians, we should indeed eat, drink, and be merry and also sacrifice, suffer, and die all to the glory of God. In doing so, we’re preparing for an eternal life in which we will eat, drink, and be merry, but never again die.” Page 459

Randy Alcorn, “The apostles didn’t enjoy suffering, but they rejoiced in the midst of it, because they trusted God’s sovereign plan and they looked forward to Christ’s return, their bodily resurrection, and the redemption of all creation.” Page 460