

NEW HEAVENS AND A NEW EARTH

(2 Peter 3:10-13)

I. The passages where the phrases are found.

- a. These two phrases are found in only four passages.
- b. Two in the book of Isaiah and two in the New Testament.
- c. Isaiah 65:17 and Isaiah 66:22.
- d. 2 Peter 3:13.
- e. Revelation 21:1 – this passage is why I mention phrases – because heaven is singular in this verse only.
- f. There are other passages that are brought up when discussing this idea of a new heavens and a new earth.
 - i. Some use Matthew 19:28 – because of the word “regeneration”.
 - ii. John 14:2-3 – which is a passage that should give us a hope of heaven.
 - iii. Romans 8:18-22 – especially verse 22.
 - iv. Hebrews 12:26-29 – because there are things shaken and something not shaken.

II. The context of these passages.

- a. This is something that may sound different to you, but the passages in Isaiah have nothing to do with the return of Jesus.
 - i. Read Isaiah 65:1 beginning.
 - ii. Isaiah 66:22 refers back to the mention of what God would make or create in 65:17.
 - iii. What is being discussed here is the bringing in of the New Law and the doing away with the Old Law.
 - iv. There is nothing in this text that is even remotely relevant to the second coming of Jesus.
 - v. If anything, it is referring to what will take place when Jesus would come the first time.
- b. 2 Peter 3:13 must be viewed from the beginning of this section in verse 1.
 - i. Peter was inspired to begin this section with a reminder to be aware of the words spoken by inspired men.
 - ii. He then mentions that there will be those who scoff at the idea of a return of Jesus and will be willfully ignorant of the fact God had at one time destroyed the earth with a flood.
 - iii. Christians are not to be ignorant of that fact, nor the fact that the Lord will return because He has promised He will.
 - iv. When He returns, the earth and universe in which the earth resides are going to pass away with a great noise, melt with a fervent heat, and the works be burned up.
 - v. All these things will be dissolved.
 - vi. Because of that fact, Christians are to look for new heavens and a new earth.
- c. Revelation 21:1 fits in with the verses beginning with Revelation 20:11.
 - i. Here is the judgment scene.
 - ii. All those not found in the book of life are cast in the lake of fire where the devil had been cast earlier in the text.
 - iii. At this point, John was allowed to see a new heaven and a new earth where there was no sea.

- iv. John sees the new Jerusalem, which is the church in a glorified state, coming down being readied to be presented to the Father.
- v. God would now dwell with the church side by side, where He will do away with all pain, suffering, and sorrow.

III. The meaning of the phrases.

- a. We must remember that any meaning a passage has cannot dispute other clear passages.
- b. The New Testament teaches that Jesus will come again and judge mankind and take the church back to the Father to present her to Him.
 - i. 1 Corinthians 15:24; Ephesians 5:27.
 - ii. These passages are clear.
- c. 2 Peter 3:10-13 is clear that the heavens and earth which now exist are going to be totally dissolved.
 - i. Notice Revelation 20:11.
 - ii. There will be no place found for the old ones.
- d. There is going to be a new heavens and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness.
- e. The New Testament is clear that Christians are going to heaven (1 Peter 1:4).
 - i. Jesus said He was preparing a place to which He would bring His disciples after He left earth (John 14:2-3).
 - ii. This place is heaven.
- f. We now live in an environment known as heaven and earth.
 - i. This environment is going to pass away.
 - ii. We've stated that over and again.
- g. Our future environment is referred to figuratively as the new heavens and the new earth, which is an allusion to heaven itself.
- h. The old adage is things equal to the same thing are equal to each other.
 - i. $2 + 2 = 4$ and $3 + 1 = 4$ so they are equal to each other.
 - ii. You and I are promised heaven as our final dwelling place and we are also promised a new heavens and a new earth.
 - iii. Thus, the new heavens and the new earth is the same state as heaven.
- i. What these phrases, a new heaven and a new earth, and a new heavens and a new earth, are, are symbols of heaven itself.

Much of this material came from an article by Wayne Jackson