

Living in light of the New Creation

- Live Godly lives in the knowledge this world is not all there is
- Invest in the ‘work of the Lord’ – building up the church
 - We have good news to tell people!
- The New Creation is going to be good, so long for it!
 - Know that this world is not as good as it gets
 - Pray for the new creation to come
 - Have hope and confidence that it will come

In what ways has this morning made you more excited to enter the new creation?

What effects on your life do you think having a stronger longing for the new creation might have?

Specifically when things are going well?

When things are tough?

Additional Reading

- *1 Corinthians 15, 2 Corinthians 5:1-10*
- *Isaiah 25, 65:17-26, Revelation 21, 22*
- *Romans 8:22-25, 2 Peter 3:10-18*

- *Graham Beynon, Last Things First, Chapter 4*
- *Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology, Chapter 57*

TheoB Next Term – Spiritual Disciplines

The Future: The New Creation

What comes to mind when you think of ‘heaven’?

How does the idea of the ‘New Heavens and New Earth’ relate to your idea of heaven?

What is Heaven?

“This is what the LORD says:
‘Heaven is my throne, ... ’ (Isaiah 66:1)

“This, then, is how you should pray:
‘Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,’ (Matthew 6:9)

- Heaven is where God dwells

“This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.” (Acts 1:11)

- Heaven is where the risen Jesus is now

“Truly I tell you; today you will be with me in paradise.”
(Luke 23:43)

“I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far”
(Philippians 1:23)

- When Christians die they leave their bodies, and go to be with Jesus in Heaven

The New Heavens and the New Earth

How do these passages help us understand the New Creation?

“On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare
a feast of rich food for all peoples,
a banquet of aged wine –
the best of meats and the finest of wines.
On this mountain he will destroy
the shroud that enfolds all peoples,
the sheet that covers all nations;
he will swallow up death for ever.
The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears
from all faces;
he will remove his people’s disgrace
from all the earth.
The Lord has spoken.”

(Isaiah 25:6-8)

“But Christ has indeed been raised from the death, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man, For as in Adam all died, so in Christ all will be made alive. ... The Body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.”
(1 Corinthians 15:20-22, 42-44)

“Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. 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. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.”

(Revelation 22:1-5)

A Physical and Renewed Place

- God has promised to return creation to its former glory, to renew it all
 - Restoring of Eden
- This is a physical restoration: including our earthly bodies
 - Touchable, recognizable, *more* physical
- Affirms the goodness of the physical world

A Perfected People

- Humanity is the pinnacle of the New Creation
- A community of people perfected in their godliness
 - Free from Sin

The Best Place

- Main point of the passages: **it will be good!**
- Perfection of our relationship with God
- The Place where God dwells in all His fullness
- The place where we experience God in all His fullness

	Now	After Death	In The New Creation
In The Body	✓	✗	✓
With Christ	✗	✓	✓
	Hard	Better	Best