**‘The New Creation’ – Theology Breakfast, 14/03/18**

* Question: What comes to mind when you think of ‘Heaven’?
* Question: How does ‘The New Creation’ related to your idea of ‘heaven’?

**Heaven (‘Paradise’)**

* The place where God dwells is frequently called ‘heaven’
  + Isaiah 66:1 – “Heaven is my throne”
  + Matthew 6:9 – “Our father in Heaven”
  + 1 Peter 3:22 – “[Jesus] has gone into heaven, and is at the right hand of God”
  + Acts 1:11 – “This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven”
* Where Christians go when they die
  + Philippians 1:21-23 – if Paul were to die He we depart to be with Christ, who is in Heaven.
* What goes on there
  + Worship
* The place where God most fully makes known His presence to bless

**The New Heavens and the New Earth**

* Current Heaven is not the ultimate hope
  + Temporary, not the final destination
  + Instead: the new creation
* What John sees in His vision at the end of revelation
  + After Jesus return
  + After rapture, millennium, resurrection
* Question: what do these passages tell us about the new creation?
  + Isaiah 25:6-8
  + Revelation 21:1-4
  + Revelation 22:1-5
* A Physical Place
  + Eating and drinking (Rev 19:9, Isaiah 25:6-8)
  + A place with trees and animals and walls
  + Imagery of Eden (Rev 22:1-2)
  + No reason to say these are merely symbolic: we have experienced some of the goodness of these things now, pointing us to their goodness in heaven
  + Example of Jesus body
    - Physical
    - Recognisable
    - *More* real than things currently are
* A Perfected People
  + The new Jerusalem as a picture of God’s people
  + We will also be perfected
* A Good Place!
  + Primary point of the passages
  + Holy (Rev 21:2), Prepared as a bride for he husband (21:2)
  + Swallow up death, wiping away tears (Isaiah 25)
  + Will stay good (“Nothing unclean will enter it” Rev 21:7)
  + **The place where God dwells** (Rev 21:3)
    - Question: how is God shown to be present in the city? (Rev 21:11, 22-24, 22:1-5)
    - Enjoying unhindered communion with God
    - God’s presence everywhere in the city
    - Definition of heaven
      * Current heaven is temporary – this is the ultimate heaven
    - Fulfilment of entire bible
    - Ultimate blessing of heaven: seeing God’s face (Rev 22:4)
    - Psalm 16:11
    - Pslam 27:4
* How we live now:
  + Long for it (Romans 8:19-23)
  + Look forward to that day, so live holy and godly lives (2 Pet 3:11-16)
    - Be on guard
* Question: Sometimes people have thought that they would be bored in the life to come. What is a good answer to the objection that the eternal life will be boring?
* Question: In what ways has this chapter made you more existed about entering the heavenly city?
  + What effects on your Christian life do you think would come about because of a stronger longing for the life to come?