

THE RENEWAL OF ALL THINGS

DISCUSS THIS

How do these passages relate to each other:

As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. Mark 1:10.

The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. Matthew 27:51

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new Earth,” for the first heaven and the first Earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.’” He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Revelation 21:1-5

*Revelation 5:10, “You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and **they will reign on the Earth**.”*

DISCUSS THIS

In the New Creation, what will serve as the temple of God?

“It looks as though God intends to flood the universe with Himself; as though the universe, the entire cosmos, was designed as a receptacle for his love.” N.T. Wright

DISCUSS THIS

What is the problem with The Last Judgment by Michelangelo in the Sistine Chapel?

What is the problem with the hymn I’ll Fly Away?

Why is Joy to the World a better hymn?

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found.

DISCUSS THIS

*Heaven must receive him until the time comes for God to **restore everything**, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets. Acts 3:21*

“Behold, I make all things new” Revelation 21:5.

THE NEW CREATION

DISCUSS THIS

God is not going to destroy this creation and make a new one. Instead, The New Creation is the Old Creation, healed and transformed.

For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. (Verses 19-21)

DISCUSS THIS

What does it mean that the New Creation will have *been brought into the freedom and glory of children of God*?

What does it mean that the New Creation will have *been liberated from its bondage to decay*?

What does it mean that in the New Creation *there will be no more sea (Revelation 21:1)*?

OUR NEW BODIES

DISCUSS THIS

Where did these ideas come from about us becoming disembodied spirits floating around up in Heaven?

*“We groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of **our bodies**.” Romans 8.*

DISCUSS THIS

What will our new bodies be like?

In what way will they be similar to our current bodies?

But now Christ is risen from the dead and has become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.” 1 Corinthians 15:20

In what way will they be different than our current bodies?

Romans 6:9 For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him.

*“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we eagerly await the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will **transform our** lowly body so that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able to subdue all things to Himself.” Philippians 3:20-21.*

So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, 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. And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we bear the image of the heavenly man. 1 Corinthians 15:42-44, 49

What is the significance of the following:

The scene where the door is locked in the upper room and Jesus nevertheless suddenly appears before His disciples.

Or the various places where we see Jesus's resurrection body appearing and disappearing from human sight, at will.

DISCUSS THIS

*What we will be **has not yet been made known**. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. 1 John 3: 2*

DISCUSS THIS

When will our bodily resurrection and transformation occur?

“For since by a man came death, by a man also has come the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order, Christ the first fruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.”

THE INTERMEDIATE STATE

DISCUSS THIS

What is “the intermediate state”?

DISCUSS THIS

2 Corinthians 5:1-8

“For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands...”

“Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.”

“Now the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. Therefore, we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. For we live by faith, not by sight. We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.”

DISCUSS THIS

Philippians 1:21-24

“For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”

“For if I live on the flesh this will mean fruit for my labor. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. For I am hard pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. Nevertheless, to remain in the flesh is more needful for you.”

“Today you will be with me in paradise.” Luke 23:43

DISCUSS THIS

What will the experience of death be for a Christian?

DISCUSS THIS

What will we be doing in the intermediate state?

Will we be able to see what is going on down on Earth?

(END OF AUDIO SEGMENT ONE)

(START OF AUDIO SEGMENT TWO)

THE LOST

DISCUSS THIS

What are three views regarding the fate of the unrepentant that we discussed in the talk?

1.

2.

3.

DISCUSS THIS

Does God desire that people go to Hell?

God wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. 1 Timothy 2:4.

*‘Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.’ “‘Sir,’ the servant said, ‘what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.’ “Then the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes **and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full.***

DISCUSS THIS

What are some problems with universalism?

You refuse to come to me to have life. John 5:39-40.

In the end, God says to the lost, as CS Lewis put it, “Thy will be done.”

DISCUSS THIS

What is the significance of the destruction of the temple by the Romans in 70AD?

And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, "Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation."

Luke 19:41-44

DISCUSS THIS

Why do people refuse "The Great Banquet?"

The stupidity of wickedness at the madness of folly (Ecclesiastes 7:25),

The light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. John 1:5

DISCUSS THIS

What is the definition of idolatry discussed in the talk?

"People are slaves to whatever has mastered them." (2 Peter 2:19)

DISCUSS THIS

How does idolatry relate to Hell?

DISCUSS THIS

When we discussed The Great Divorce by C.S. Lewis, how did it show that for some, "the light of Heaven is hotter than the fire of Hell?"

DISCUSS THIS

What will happen to the damned at the resurrection of the dead?

“...there shall be a resurrection both of the just and unjust,” Acts 24:15

“For the hour cometh in which all that are in the tombs shall hear his voice, and shall come forth: they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of judgment,” John 5:28- 29

DISCUSS THIS

Why does God judge the damned?

Is condemning and punishing evil things a good thing to do? What about just ignoring them?

DISCUSS THIS

How does the cross allow God to be both just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus. Romans 3:26

DISCUSS THIS

Why are the sins of the lost not covered by the cross?

DISCUSS THIS

What will happen when the lost are judged?

What about the good things they have done?

DISCUSS THIS

Are all sins equally bad?

*John 19: Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the **greater sin.**”*

DISCUSS THIS

Will there be degrees of punishment in Hell?

*“The servant who knows the master’s will and does not get ready or does not do what the master wants will be beaten with many blows. But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.
Luke 12:47-48*

*Capernaum... if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Sodom, it would have remained to this day. But I tell you that it will be more bearable for Sodom on the day of judgment than for you.”
Matthew 11:24*

DISCUSS THIS

What are two reasons that people often fail to realize the extent of their depravity?

1.

2.

DISCUSS THIS

What are the arguments in support of annihilationism?

They are like brute beasts, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like beasts they too will perish.

2 Peter 2:12

DISCUSS THIS

What are the arguments against annihilationism?

Where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.

Mark 9

DISCUSS THIS

The Bible describes Hell various ways in various places. For instance:

Outer darkness. Destruction. Loss. Ruin. Fire. The worm. Weeping. Gnashing of teeth.

How do we know that these are metaphorical, poetic and figurative, and not literal descriptions?

DISCUSS THIS

How can it be fair that people be given an unending punishment for a finite amount of sins that were committed?

1.

2.

DISCUSS THIS

Why is Hell a never-ending descent into the sub-human? Into loss?

DISCUSS THIS

Why does God tell the lost *Depart from me (Matthew 7:23)*?

They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might. 2 Thessalonians 1:9

They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain. Isaiah 11:9

DISCUSS THIS

Although it is painful, what are some reasons it is helpful to think about Hell as a Christian?