**HEAVEN…BACK TO THE BEGINNING…**

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Isa 65:17 For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

Isa 66:22 For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain.

2 Peter 3:13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

**INTRO.:**

 **A.** A few years ago, my wife left me for another man…The MAN Christ Jesus. It wasn’t because she loved me less, but that she loved Him more, because He died to save her. She had known Him since she was only 8 years old, and only knew me since she was 22 …and then came suffering in her earthly body. It was also because she needed a new beginning, a new body and a new pain-free life. She was longing for Him and Heaven!

 **B.** Ever since she has gone, and I have grown older, I also long to go to Heaven. So, I have been on a quest to find out whatever I can about where she is and where I want to go. I hope you too are excited to go to see our Savior and Heaven and all our future as believers in the Scriptures, and for all He has promised to us...

 **TEXT:** 1Cor. 15:42-44 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in in-corruption: 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. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

**I. CORRUPTION VS. INCORRUPTION: V.42**

 **A.** Earthly Body, Corruption = Morally Depraved:

 **1.** We have all been born with a depraved and corrupt nature and with a sinful body and one that seeks and delights in immoral and sinful activity.

 **2.** As depraved and corrupt we deserve hell.

 3. But because of Christ’s bloody payment on Calvary, we do not get what we deserve, but what He paid for there, as sent by His Father in Heaven.

 **B.** Spiritual Body, Incorruption = Cleansed for Eternal Existence:

 1. Note the word “body”…too often we think we will have some sort of ethereal or incorporeal existence.

 **2.** But the Scriptures uses this word to describe that we will have a real body without a sin nature.

 **3.** This will be a corporeal but sinless body, it will still have real substance!

 **a.** The word “spiritual” does not mean incorporeal or without physical substance.

 **b.** It will be like our Savior’s resurrection body, which could be touched, eat and be free from death.

 **c.** It will be our permanent and eternal body, physical and indestructible.

 **II. DISHONOR VS. GLORY: v. 43**

 **A.** Earthly Body, Dishonorable = Shameful or Disgraceful

 **1.** Sown in dishonor: Our minds, body and will are all corrupt and engage in shameful and disgraceful actions.

 **2.** Job says it is so disgraceful that it will be good only for worms to feast on.

Job 19:26 And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God.

 **a.** We can attempt to make it attractive, but it will continue to deteriorate.

 **b.** I have found that there is no cure for old age, but death, and I am really OLD!

 **c.** We can pamper it, attempt to beautify it, hide its flaws, dress it nicely, but all to no avail.

 **d.** Doctors can’t continue to repair it and medicines, therapy and exercise can’t cure it.

 **B.** Resurrected Body: Incorruptible

 **1.**  The Bible uses the term “raised in glory”.

 **2.** We will have glorified bodies: free from corruption, disease, temptation, age and death.

 **3.** The word “glory” means splendor or majesty…glory will be “imputed” (given to us by our Savior).

 **4.** We will share in Christ’s majesty due to our position as His Bride and a part of His family by the new birth.

**III. WEAKNESS VS. POWER: V.44**

 **A.** Earthly Body: Weakness & Sinful:

 **1.** We will ultimately live on the New Earth or New Eden.

 **2.** I believe that the original Eden was the prototype for the New Earth…think of Eden before the Fall.

 **a.** First, we will go to Heaven (the New Jerusalem or third heaven), then to the New Heaven and New Earth.

 **b.** Apparently, we will be aware of the present earth as being a part of the “great cloud of witnesses”: resulting in tears which will not be wiped away until after the Great White Throne Judgment of the lost and Satan.

 **1)** Will our loved ones in Heaven witness our sins and the horrors of the Tribulation, Armageddon, etc.?

  **2)** Will we do the same while in Heaven until our tears are wiped away?

Rev. 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

 **B.** Heavenly Body: Powerful & Sinless

 **1.** The power of Christ’s renewal of earth and heaven will affect all of the universe.

 **2.** Ultimately the wolf will lie down with the Lamb, the Tree of Life will nourish us, the sinless world will be beautiful and restored to Edenic perfection.

**ILLUS.:** Think of Eden’s beauty, perfection and how once terrifying animals, birds, insects, etc. will no longer be a threat, and food will be abundant, our digestion system will be transformed, fruits and vegetables will be abundant without needing cultivation or weeding, roses will have no thorns, beauty will surround us.

 **3.** Our Savior will be King of Kings and Lord of Lords and we will be constantly aware of His presence (unlike our often unawareness of the indwelling Holy Spirit in our earthly existence, presently.)

**IV. NATURAL VS. SPIRITUAL: v. 44**

 **A.** Natural Body: Weakness & No Power

  **1.** As long as we live, we are spiritually weak and will become weaker the longer we live.

 **2.** Our physical weakness leads to spiritual weakness as well, and we are prone to sin all our lives.

 **B.** Spiritual Body: Powerful & Eternal

 **1.** A Spiritual Body cannot be tempted to sin.

 **2.** A spiritual Body will be constantly aware of God’s presence.

  **a.** In our natural body, the Spirit of God lives within us, but we often ignore His presence.

 **b.** It is when our old nature controls our thought life and our bodies, and leads us to sin.

 **c.** In our spiritual body we will never sense or yield to the lust of the eyes, flesh or pride of life.

**CONCL.:** So, let’s come back to our present earthly existence, and examine whether we be in the faith or saved, and begin to live as if Heaven is a reality and the promises of the Bible belong to us. Let’s live down here on this old sin-ravaged earth, looking for the New Heavens and the New Earth wherein dwelleth righteousness forever.

2 Peter 3:13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

If you are not 100% convinced of your eternal destiny, come to Christ NOW!