

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth which remained until the flood in the time of Noah. The flood caused astronomical changes in both the heaven and the earth. The world we know today is the result of the devastating flood. Yet, another heaven and earth is promised in the future which will begin when Jesus the Christ returns to earth. Hence, the Bible speaks of three distinct heavens and earths.

The first was God's original creation which terminated with the flood. The second began after the flood and continues today. It will be destroyed at the end of this current age. The third is promised to come and remains our Hope.

Isaiah 65:17

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

The third heaven and earth shall remain forever.

Isaiah 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.

From Adam to Noah (the first heaven and earth) there was a negative evolution where mankind and the earth were corrupted. From Noah until the final judgment (the second heaven and earth), there has been, and will continue to be, a negative progression. From Christ's return until the new Eden (the third heaven and earth), there will be a very positive evolution for mankind and the earth.

The evil influences that are in the world have ill-effected not only man but also the heaven and the earth. Our world is physically decaying around us. As technology has advanced, so have its devastating influences on the environment. The whole creation needs restoration.

Romans 8:22 and 23

For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only *they*, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves

groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, *to wit*, the redemption of our body.

The redemption which will be provided is going to effect not only man but both heaven and earth and everything in it. Before the regeneration begins, first must come God's judgment. The judgment will cause great destruction but also the genesis of the new heaven and earth. Some cataclysmic events such as an atomic explosion, cause waste and unreconcilable desolation. However, other catastrophes cause immediate damage but ultimate good. A forest fire ruins the forest but causes the soil to become exceedingly rich. God's judgment will be by fire. Fire indeed can be destructive, but also very cleansing, and the springboard for new rejuvenated life. All of creation is in need of a complete twofold overhaul. First must come the elimination of evil with its corrupting influences, and second the complete restoration of life.

Jesus Christ is currently seated in the heavenlies, but God promises to send him in the times of restoration.

Acts 3:21

Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution [restoration] of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

This time is also called regeneration in Matthew 19:28 and Titus 3:5. The regeneration is the production of a new life – recreation. The changes are going to be radical and encompass everyone and everything. The undesirable and unproductive geographic features of the earth will be changed. Valleys will be exalted and mountains will be brought low.

Isaiah 40:4

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:

Deserts and wilderness will flourish with water and vegetation.

Isaiah 35:7

And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, *shall be* grass with reeds and rushes.

Isaiah 41:18 and 19

I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water. I will plant in the wilderness the cedar, the shittah tree, and the myrtle, and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the fir tree, *and* the pine, and the box tree together:

Isaiah 43:19

Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, *and* rivers in the desert.

When Christ reigns as King upon the earth, the weapons of war will be burned with fire for seven years.

Ezekiel 39:9

And they that dwell in the cities of Israel shall go forth, and shall set on fire and burn the weapons, both the shields and the bucklers, the bows and the arrows, and the handstaves, and the spears, and they shall burn them with fire seven years:

All war will end, there will be a multilateral disarmament, and the weapons will be molded into tools of agriculture.

Isaiah 2:4

And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Micah 4:3

And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

In the beginning of the first heaven and earth, God planted a garden in Eden and had Adam dress and keep it.

Genesis 2:8

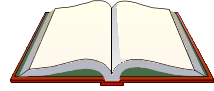
And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

Verse 15

And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

The next heaven and earth will be similar to the Garden of Eden. Since the uninhabited and uncultivated wastelands will be flourishing with vegetation, we will need the agricultural tools to dress and keep the garden. An incredible amount of the earth's surface is now covered with wastelands. Deserts alone spread across

millions of miles. The Sahara Desert covers almost 3.5 million square miles, the Australian Desert 1.3 million square miles, the Arabian Deserts 1 million square miles and the Turkestan Desert 750,000 square miles.



The most agriculturally rich nation, the U.S., has 500,000 square miles of desert. Numerous smaller deserts are also scattered across the globe. Yet, we are told all of this will be changed because the deserts will have flowing rivers and pools of water. The earth is going to be transformed into an Eden-like environment.

For more information, read *A New Heaven and Earth*