

GENESIS

Lesson 4

Before The Beginning Part 2 – Our Eternal Home

Our eternal home, God's coming creation, will be completely different in every way from His first creation (i.e., our current earth and universe). Most importantly, sin will not be present in the new creation, and God will be at its center.

What do the following verses tell you about our coming eternal home?

1. Isaiah 65:17: "See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind."
2. 2 Peter 3:13: "But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and new earth, where righteousness dwells."
3. John 14:1-3: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."
4. Revelation 21:1-3: "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.'"
5. Revelation 21:22-26. List all of the things that make the new creation so much different from our current one:

All of this was, and is, a part of God's eternal plan. When He, through Jesus, created all of this, He already had a plan for our eternal home—including that He, Jesus, the Creator, would have to come in human form, suffer and die, and be resurrected, in order for His eternal plan to be complete. All of this was pre-ordained before Day One of creation.

Now, consider the following:

6. When was Christ slain, when did Christ die for us? This is perhaps one of the most important questions that you need to answer before we take another step toward studying the creation story. (See Revelation 13:8.) What else happened before the foundation of the world was laid? (See also John 17:24, Ephesians 1:4, and 1 Peter 1:20.)

7. Was Christ present at creation? What do John 1:1-5, 14; and Colossians 1:15-17 tell us?

I know that this is a lot for many of you to absorb, and I encourage you to read back through this lesson again before we begin our study of Genesis Chapter 1 in our next lesson. I interpret the first three chapters of Genesis much differently today, knowing all that occurred before Day 1 of creation; and it gives me a much deeper understanding of God's eternal plan when creation began. It shows us that there is more to God's vision for us than simply providing us with this short life on earth. As we go, along we'll see that God has a real purpose for us that gives meaning to our lives beyond our day-to-day existence.

For now, my prayer is that through this lesson the Holy Spirit has opened your eyes to God's plan for each of us—His eternal plan, all of which he knew before he created anything, including us.

In Christ,

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