

The Doctrine of End Times and Last Days
The New Heavens and New Earth
Dr. Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology
Randy Alcorn, Heaven

We will live eternally with God in new heavens and a new earth After final judgment, believers enter into the full enjoyment of life in God's presence forever. (Mt 25:34; Rev 22:3)

A. Christians often speak of living with God "in heaven" forever, but biblical teaching is much richer: new heavens and a new earth. (Isa 65:17; 2 Peter 3:13; Rev 21:1-3)

1. What Is Heaven?

Heaven is the place where God most fully makes known his presence to bless. (Is 66:1; 1 Pe 3:22; Mt 6:9)

2. Heaven is a place, not just a state of mind (Acts 1:11; Acts 7:55-56; John 14:3)

3. The physical creation will be renewed and we will continue to exist and act in it (Rom 8:19-21; Heb 1:11-12; Heb 12:26-27; 2 Peter 3:10-13; Re 20:11; Re 21:1)

4. Our resurrection bodies will be part of the renewed creation

- A. In the new heavens and new earth there will be a place and activities for our resurrection bodies, which will never grow old or become weak or ill.
- 1A. We will eat and drink at "the marriage supper of the Lamb" (Rev 19:9).
- 2A. Jesus will once again drink wine with his disciples in the heavenly kingdom (Luke 22:18).
- 3A. The "river of the water of life" will flow "from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city" (Rev 22:1).
- 4A. The tree of life will bear "twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month" (Rev 22:2).
- 5. The new creation will include an unending succession of moments. Though the New Jerusalem will never experience night, Revelation relates many actions that involve a sequence of events. (Rev 21:24-26; Rev 22:2)
 - A. The new creation will be a place of great beauty and abundance and joy in the presence of God (Rev 21:1-27; Rev 22:5)
 - B. The most important feature of the heavenly city is that we will be in the presence of God and enjoy unhindered fellowship with him. Rev 21:23; Rev 22:3-4; Ps 16:11)
 - ²³ And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, f or the glory of God has illuminated it, and its lamp *is* the Lamb

³ There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him; ⁴ they will see His face, and His name *will be* on their foreheads.

Psalm 23:6, Certainly goodness and faithfulness will follow me all the days of my life,

And my dwelling will be in the house of the LORD forever.