

# Examining the Cosmos

## Session 15

### *The New Heavens and the New Earth*

#### Reference Document 22.

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## The New Heavens and the New Earth God's Next Creation Week?

### ***Revelation 21:1-2***

*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.*

**At some point in the future, God will begin to create again when he creates the “new heavens” and “new earth.”**

- Related Scripture:

***Isaiah 66:22*** “As the *new heavens and the new earth that I make* will endure before me,” declares the LORD, ‘so will your name and descendants endure.’”

**Related Scriptures describing the physical characteristics of the “next” creation:**

***Isaiah 65:17-25*** “Behold, *I will create new heavens and a new earth*. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy. I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in my people; the sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more. Never again will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his years; he who dies at a hundred will be thought a mere youth; he who fails to reach a hundred will be considered accursed. They will build houses and dwell in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit. No longer will they build houses and others live in them, or plant and others eat. For as the days of a tree, so will be the days of my people; my chosen ones will long enjoy the works of their hands. They will not toil in vain or bear children doomed to misfortune; for they will be a people blessed by the LORD, they and their descendants with them. Before they call I will answer; while they are still

speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, but dust will be the serpent's food. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain,' says the LORD."

**Romans 8:18-23** "I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons 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 glorious freedom of the children of God*. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, *the redemption of our bodies*."

**1 Corinthians 2:9-10a** "However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, *no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him*"—but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit.

**1 John 2:17** "The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God *lives forever*."

**Revelation 21:4** "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*."

- "Death" and "pain" are the result of the 2<sup>nd</sup> law of thermodynamics (entropy).

**Revelation 21:16-17** "The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He measured the city with the rod and found it to be *12,000 stadia in length, and as wide and high as it is long*. He measured its *wall and it was 144 cubits thick*, by man's measurement, which the angel was using."

- Stadia: a unit of measurement; 1 stade = 200 yards
- Cubit: a unit of measurement; 1 cubit = 17 1/2" to 18"
- This description of the new creation is impossible according to the present law of gravity.

- **Scientific Predictions:**

1. The laws of physics of this universe will someday come to an end and be replaced with different laws of physics (e.g., no pain, no death, no gravity).
2. There will be some continuity between the human body of this creation and the human body in the next creation.
3. There will also be some discontinuity between the human body of this creation and the human body in the next creation (e.g., not capable of dying, spiritual capacity similar to Christ's resurrection body).