

## **“It’s life, Jim, but not as we know it” the new Heaven & the new Earth**

(Part 1) By Paul Herring - Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2007

*The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire....*

*Everything will be destroyed in this way... That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. (2 Peter 3:5-13)*

### **Overview:**

All of us have our likes and dislikes, our own passions and desires of our hearts. In recent times, I have gained a much greater passion for the Coming Age after the return of Messiah Jesus and a desire to share its wonder with my brothers and sisters. I wish to uplift and encourage you today as I have been so uplifted and encouraged by my personal deeper knowledge of our future time in the Kingdom of God.

“Seek first the KoG” (Matt 6:33, Luke 12:31)— why? – if you don’t know what the KoG is and what its value is why would you – I wish to try to answer this question today so you will desire to be obedient to this scripture.

**I do not wish at this time to focus at all on any issues of Amillennialism (the argument that the KoG is already here) or the so-called Millennial reign and all the associated theological debate over this poorly understood time after the initial return of our Messiah. I have studied and debated these issues at some length but I really see them as a distraction from the more important end-point and new beginning,**

**Whether there is a Millennial Reign; whether it will be 1000 years long or not; who will live and die during this time, etc are fascinating questions but I posit; distractions from the crucial object of our expectation.**

**Instead I wish to focus on the time AFTER the ‘new heavens and new earth’ have been created and we inhabit them without end. Much of what I share about our transformed natures may also be valid during the transitional time (the Millennial Reign) but by trying to focus on the ‘new heaven and new earth’ I hope to eliminate some of the less well supported arguments.**

I wish to take a look at what the Bible does tell us about this time and to do so I wish to step back for a moment and look at how I believe we got here, both from an understanding derived from the Holy Scriptures and well as from God’s natural revelation. This reflection will help us see some of the certainty that lies before us. I also hope it will serve the purpose of increasing the level or degree of awe we have about our Creator God.

Some of you here today, perhaps many, may believe that the Bible teaches a Young Earth. That is, that the Earth is less than 10,000 years old and that Adam and Eve were created only some 6000 odd years ago. I deeply respect that for many of you this position has been taken because you believe it is the only one consistent with a proper interpretation of genealogies in the Bible. I am not trying to convince you otherwise, but simply to show you my perspective.<sup>1</sup> [To investigate this issue further I recommend: Are There Gaps in the Biblical Genealogies? William Henry Green -1890]

Many may also think that the Bible only has a few chapters that tell us about the creation of the universe and man.

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<sup>1</sup> The Genesis Genealogies by Dr. John Millam. Understanding the Genesis genealogies requires a systematic understanding of the nature, style, and purpose of genealogies in the Bible. Even a cursory study of Biblical genealogies shows that Biblical genealogies are very different from their modern counterparts. Looking closer, we find that Biblical genealogies are commonly telescoped by leaving out less important names and that it is usually impossible to tell if a genealogy is complete simply by looking at it. While genealogies are typically skimmed over or ignored by most people, the Genesis genealogies have generated controversy because of their supposed connection to the age of the universe and the creation of man. The interpretation that the Genesis genealogies are telescoped and that Adam and Eve were created a few tens of thousands of years ago is no less a literal interpretation of scripture than Ussher’s interpretation.

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Here is a list which shows that this is not the case: (From 'Creation as Science' by Dr Hugh Ross)

Old Testament:			
Genesis 1-11	Job 22:12	Psalm 1.19:64	Isaiah 55:10
Genesis 14:19-22	Job 28:1-11	Psalm 134:3	Isaiah 60:18-21
Genesis 15:5 Genesis 22:17	Job 33:4-6	Psalm 135:6-7	Isaiah 50:2
Genesis 32:1.2	Job 34:10-22	Psalm 136:3-9	Isaiah 64:4
Exodus 7:18	Job 35:5-13	Psalm 1.39:1-18	Isaiah 65:17-25
Exodus 8:13	Job 36:5-16	Psalm 146:6	Isaiah 66:22
Exodus .10:17	Job 36:24-4.1:34	Psalm 147	Jeremiah 4:23-28
Exodus 20:8-11	Psalm 8	Psalm 148	Jeremiah 5:22
Exodus 31:14-17	Psalm 19:1-6	Proverbs 3:19-20	Jeremiah 10:12-13
Exodus 35:2	Psalm 24:1-2	Proverbs 6:6-8	Jeremiah 23:23-24
Leviticus 23:3	Psalm 33:6-9	Proverbs 1:33	Jeremiah 27:5
Leviticus 25:3-4	Psalm 50:6	Proverbs 8:22-31	Jeremiah 32:17
Deuteronomy 5:12-15	Psalm 51:5	Proverbs 24:30-34	Jeremiah 33:2
Deuteronomy 11:21	Psalm 65:5-13	Proverbs 30:18-19	Jeremiah 33:25
Joshua 10:1-15	Psalm 72:5-7	Proverbs 30:24-28	Jeremiah 51:15-16
Judges 4-5	Psalm 74:12-17	Ecclesiastes 1; 3; 8-12	Ezekiel 28:12-17
Jeremiah 33:22	Psalm 89:5-12	Isaiah 11:4-9	Daniel 12:3
2 Kings 20:8-1.1	Psalm 90:2-6	Isaiah 34:2-5	Hosea 3:4-5
1 Chronicles 16:30-34	Psalm 93:1-2	Isaiah 38:7-8	Hosea 6:1-3
2 Chronicles 6:10	Psalm 37:2	Isaiah 40:12	Joel 2:30-31
Nehemiah 9:6	Psalm 95:4-5	Isaiah 40:21-22	Amos 5:8
Job 5:9	Psalm 95:11	Isaiah 40:25-28	Amos 9:5-6
Job 8:16-19	Psalm 97:6	Isaiah 42:5	Micah 6:2
Job 9:3-12	Psalm 98:2-3	Isaiah 44:2	Habakkuk 2:14
Job 1.2:7-1.0	Psalm 102:25-27	Isaiah 44:24-25	Habakkuk 3:3
Job 1.4:5,7-12	Psalm 104	Isaiah 45:7	Habakkuk 3:6
	Psalm 105:29	Isaiah 45:12	Habakkuk 3:8-10
		Isaiah 45:18	Haggai 2:21
			Zechariah 12:1
New Testament:			
Matthew 2:1-16	Romans 8:37-39	Hebrews 7:26	
Matthew 5:18	Romans 14:5-8	Hebrews 9:11-14	
Matthew 19:4-6	1 Corinthians 2:9-11	Hebrews 9:22-28	
Matthew 22:23-32	1 Corinthians 3:12-15	Hebrews 10:1-18	
Matthew 24:35	1 Corinthians 4:9	Hebrews 11:3	
Matthew 25:41,46	1 Corinthians 6:3	Hebrews 12:22-23	
Mark 10:6	1 Corinthians 6:13	Hebrews 12:26-29	
Mark 12:25-27	1 Corinthians 8:4-6	1 Peter 1:20	
Luke 3:35-37	1 Corinthians 11:8-12	2 Peter 3:3-13	
Luke 13:1-4	1 Corinthians 15:20-28	1 John 1:1-2	
Luke 20:34-38	1 Corinthians 15:35-58	1 John 2:17	
John 1:1-2	2 Corinthians 3:7-11	1 John 3:2-3	
John 1:10	2 Corinthians 4:10-12	1 John 3:8	
John 2:6-10	2 Corinthians 4:16-18	Revelation 3:12	
John 14:2-4	2 Corinthians 5:1-4	Revelation 3:14	
John 16:7-11	2 Corinthians 5:14	Revelation 4:11	
Acts 4:24	Ephesians 1:4	Revelation 5:13	
Acts 14:17	Colossians 1:15-20	Revelation 7:13-17	
Acts 17:24-28	1 Timothy 4:3-4	Revelation 10:6	
Romans 1:18-23	2 Timothy 1:9	Revelation 11:17-18	
Romans 2:12-16	Titus 1:2	Revelation 14:7	
Romans 5:12-17	Hebrews 1:1-12	Revelation 17:8	
Romans 8:18-25	Hebrews 4:1-11	Revelation 20-22	
Romans 8:28-30	Hebrews 4:13		

This is a summary of the Bible passages on creation.

The Voice of 'Nature':

Job 10:8-14	Psalms 8	Psalms 104	Acts 14:17
Job 12:7	Psalms 19:1-6	Psalms 139	Acts 17:23-31
Job 34:14-15	Psalms 33:4-9	Proverbs 8:22-31	Romans 1:18-25
Job 35:10-12	Psalms 50:1-6	Ecclesiastes 3:11	Romans 2:14-15
Job 36:24-25	Psalms 85:11	Isaiah 40:21-28	Romans 10:16-18
Job 37:5-7	Psalms 97:6	Isaiah 45:18-24	
Job 38-41	Psalms 98:2-3	Habakkuk 3:3	

As a result of these scriptures as well as the list above which speak of how God reveals Himself through His world, we may infer following principles regarding our Creator God:

1. The Creator's attributes (truth, love, wisdom, power, and so on) ensure the harmony of His creative works (nature) with His inspired Scriptures.
2. The natural world fulfills the Creator's stated and implied purposes.
3. The Creator transcends the creation; the realm of nature has a beginning and an end, a before and an after.
4. The Creator's involvement in the natural world can be ascertained via close and careful study of the creation.

20<sup>th</sup> Century cosmologists have confirmed the following facts that the Bible first revealed about the Universe:

1. The universe has a beginning in finite time  
- Genesis 1:1; 2:3-4; Psalm 148:5; Isaiah 40:26; 42:5; 45:18; John 1:3; Colossians 1:15-17; Hebrews 11:3
2. The beginning of space and time coincides with the beginning of the physical universe  
- Genesis 1:1; Titus 1:2;
3. The material universe was made from that which is immaterial  
- Hebrews 11:3
4. The universe has been continuously expanding from the beginning of space and time  
- Job 9:8; Psalm 104:2; Isaiah 40:22; 42:5; 44:24; 45:12; 48:13; 51:13; Jeremiah 10:12; 51:15; Zechariah 12:1
5. The expansion of the universe appears precisely guided for the benefit of life  
- Job 9:8; Isaiah 44:24; 45:12; 48:13
6. The expansion of the universe resembles the spreading out and setting up of a tent  
- Psalm 104:2; Isaiah 40:22
7. The universe functions according to fixed physical laws  
- Jeremiah 33:25; Psalm 104:19
8. The entire universe is subject to those physical laws  
- Romans 8:20-22
9. The universe has an ending in finite time  
- Job 14:12; Ecclesiastes 12:2; Isaiah 34:4; 51:6; 65:17; 66:22; Matthew 24:35; Hebrews 1:10-12; 12:27-28; 2 Peter 3:7,10-13; Revelation 21:1-5
10. At its end, the universe will roll up like a scroll and vanish in a burst of extreme heat  
- Isaiah 34:4; 2 Peter 3:7,10; Revelation 6:14

Statements 4, 7, and 8 imply that the universe must get colder as it grows older.

Statement 6 may suggest that just as a tent is a surface with no physical center, so too the universe has no physical center or anything either interior or exterior to its surface.

These are just some of the amazing instances where thousands of years previous to any scientific speculation or research into big bang cosmology, the Bible predicted all of the fundamental attributes of a 'hot big bang' universe. The term 'big bang' is not necessarily a helpful one but it has been commonly accepted as the generic term to refer to the currently most well accepted models of the Universe's beginning.

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Scripture even implies, in its account of the demise of the cosmos, what kind of big bang universe this is!

In Isaiah 34:4 we read “All the stars of the heavens will be dissolved and the sky rolled up like a scroll”

This description fits with a possible scenario involving quantum fluctuations in some models of big bang cosmology known as ekpyrotic models (which involves the 10 dimensional flat universe folded into a U shape where there is a reasonable probability over a 10-20 billion year period of the two parts touching each other and imploding).

What the latest research, especially in the last 10 years has pointed to is a universe created some 13.7 billion years ago for the express purpose of creating a suitable environment for humanity; an environment ready, only at the virtual end of life creation; and only suitable for a very short period of time (in cosmological timeframes) before the universe ends.

And furthermore, scientists are increasingly finding much evidence that the universe was designed in an incredible way to enable them to discover and learn about it.

Scientists have learned that as the universe expands at an ever increasing speed, it will eventually fly apart too fast and too far for metabolic reactions to occur thus causing all life to cease.

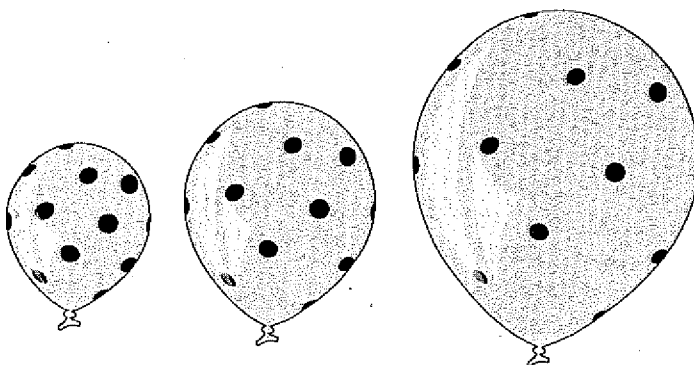
Astronomers are able to look back in time by looking deeper and deeper into outer-space so as to learn more and more about the creation and evolution of the universe almost back to the first moments of that creation. *[Evolution here is not used in the same way as when referring to biological events.]*

Astronomers use both Earth-based and space-based telescopes to look back in time across the entire electromagnetic spectrum to observe the total sweep of cosmic history from its beginning 13.73 billion years ago to the present moment. As they aim their telescopes at progressively more distant objects, they directly observe the past. The velocity of light serves as a time machine. Since light takes a finite time to travel a certain distance, scientists can directly map the state of the universe at any epoch they desire simply by observing an object at the appropriate distance.

Scientists have learned that the initial expansion of the universe occurred at many times the speed of light. After that very short initial period the universe expansion went back to a much slower but gradually increasing rate of expansion. This expansion is also unusual in that every galaxy or cluster of galaxies is observed to be moving away from every other galaxy and at an increasing speed.

Think of it like these balloons.

Balloon analogy:



As it turns out mankind is at a unique time in this expansion when we can look back and see almost all of this history – to use the balloon analogy, we can see almost all the surface of the balloon from where we are located. As the universe continues to expand at an accelerating rate this view will diminish overtime.

In fact, the continual expansion of the universe is one of the most frequently described feature of the cosmos found in the Bible (Job 9:8; Ps 104:2; Is 40:22; 42:5; 44:24; 45:12; 48:13; 51:13; Jer 10:12; 51:15; Zec 12:1).

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This is also the last era in cosmic history when such light and radiation will be visible.

Dark energy causes the universe's expansion to speed up as the cosmos ages. This space energy density already has accelerated this expansion so much that objects formed just after the creation event are moving away from human observers at nearly the velocity of light. Soon dark energy will cause the expansion to accelerate beyond light's velocity. Then, distant objects will no longer be visible from Earth's vantage point.

As the universe expands at a progressively faster rate under the influence of dark energy, humans will see less and less of the universe. Humanity lives at the only moment in cosmic history when the first-formed stars, the galaxies, and even the cosmic background radiation can be observed.

To help convince you that these arguments are what today's leading scientists are advocating here is a quote (the conclusion) from a recent Astrophysics paper:

***The Return of a Static Universe and the End of Cosmology*** by Lawrence M. Krauss and Robert J. Scherrer (Dated: June 27, 2007)

*The remarkable cosmic coincidence that we happen to live at the only time in the history of the universe when the magnitude of dark energy and dark matter densities are comparable has been a source of great current speculation, leading to a resurgence of interest in possible anthropic arguments limiting the value of the vacuum energy. But this coincidence endows our current epoch with another special feature, namely that we can actually infer both the existence of the cosmological expansion, and the existence of dark energy.*

***Thus, we live in a very special time in the evolution of the universe: the time at which we can observationally verify that we live in a very special time in the evolution of the universe!***

*Observers when the universe was an order of magnitude younger would not have been able to discern any effects of dark energy on the expansion, and observers when the universe is more than an order of magnitude older will be hard pressed to know that they live in an expanding universe at all, or that the expansion is dominated by dark energy. By the time the longest lived main sequence stars are nearing the end of their lives, for all intents and purposes, the universe will appear static, and all evidence that now forms the basis of our current understanding of cosmology will have disappeared.*

### Perfectly Placed:

Humanity's arrival is not only perfectly timed but also perfectly placed. At virtually any other location in the Milky Way Galaxy, gas, dust, nearby stars, star clusters, and/or galactic arms would block a spectator's view. And, in almost every other medium-large spiral galaxy like ours (the size required for life), nearby galaxies and/or galaxy clusters would obscure the view of a distant universe. Knowledge of the deep history of the universe would be hidden. Somehow, we have been given the perfect 'window-seat' to observe our universe or to put it another way; the perfect place to observe that 'the heavens declare His glory'.

The existence of planets and solar-type stars is possible only if the universe continuously expands--and does so at a just-right rate for a just right duration. A universe that expands too slowly produces only neutron stars and black holes. A universe that expands too rapidly produces no stars at all and thus no planets.

Three thousand years ago, a psalmist depicted God's stretching out the universe as the unfolding of a tent.

Ps 104:2 *"You are clothed with splendor and majesty, covering yourself with light as with a garment, stretching out the heavens like a tent."*

Isaiah used the same imagery 2,700 years ago, saying God stretches out the heavens as one would stretch out a tent to live in it.

Isaiah 40:22 *"He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in."*

These biblical word pictures for the universe imply that, like a tent, the physical cosmos is a surface. Such a concept for the universe stood radically apart from the cosmologies of the other religions, philosophies, and sciences of the pre-20th-century world.

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Astronomers believe that approximately 10 billion years represents the minimum time required for the formation of a stable planetary system with the minimal chemical and physical conditions to support any form of life. Another approximately 4 billion years represents the minimum time required for a planet in that system to accumulate adequate biomass and biodiversity to support the activities that define civilization. Thus a total of around 13.7 billion years is needed to prepare this universe for mankind. This includes the necessity of the 9000 billion galaxies, etc so that all the star factories, etc are present to create the correct proportions of elements needed.

The convergence of "just-right" conditions for an advanced species to thrive and civilize in so short a time as 13.73 billion years reflects extraordinary, even miraculous, efficiency.

Researchers also point out that the astrophysical, geophysical, and biological conditions necessary to sustain an intelligent civilized species do not last indefinitely.

They are subject to disruption. The sun, like all other hydrogen-burning stars, continues to brighten during its most stable burning phase. At the same time, Earth's rotation period lengthens, plate-tectonic activity declines, and atmospheric composition varies. Earth can retain its advanced life-support capability for no more than an additional 10 million years, at best and the time window for civilization-support is much narrower. Any similar planet would experience similar life-challenging changes.

Solar instability can impact civilization severely. Although the sun has burned with extraordinary stability for the past 50,000 years, this stability can last only about another 50,000 years.

Such events as a nearby supernova eruption, an asteroid collision, a mass extinction of one or more supporting species, a declining birth rate, or the accumulation of negative genetic mutations could easily send humanity back to the Stone Age within 20,000 years or less.

What's more, these events could even lead to human extinction.

This evidence shows that the maximum survival-time for advanced physical life is actually very short. The total time for civilization as we know it may be less than 100,000 years.

For the Creator to invest so much and for so long in a creation that can last only for such a brief time period (astronomically speaking) speaks of both high value and high purpose.

Human civilization appears to exist "on purpose," with all enormous significance that extends beyond the limits of the cosmos. Further, that purpose apparently will be fulfilled in a relatively brief time frame. Rapid fulfillment of a profoundly significant purpose for humanity is a scenario straight from the pages of the Bible.

Researchers in recent years have made many incredible scientific discoveries about creation, such as:

- Adequate dimensionality, in addition to length, width, height, and time, to account for the pervasive coexistence of gravity and quantum mechanics (a total of 10 dimensions in all)
- Continuous cooling of cosmic background radiation from near infinite temperature
- The decline (by a factor of five) in Earth's heat from radioactive decay
- The sun's dimming (by 15 percent) during its first 1.5 billion years"
- The sun's brightening (by 15 percent) during the past 3 billion years
- The Cambrian explosion (many advanced life forms all created about 540 million years ago)<sup>2</sup>
- The frequency and magnitude of mass speciation events
- The frequency and magnitude of mass extinction events
- The rapidity of life's recovery from mass extinction events

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<sup>2</sup> A new study provides evidence that the Cambrian explosion-biology's big bang-was a real event as described by the fossil record. Around 540 million years ago, approximately 50 to 80% of all animal phyla to ever exist appeared explosively over a short period of time (less than 5 million years in duration). Antonis Rokas, Dirk Krüger, and Sean B. Carroll, "[Animal Evolution and the Molecular Signature of Radiations Compressed in Time](#)," *Science* 310 (2005): 1933-38.

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- The sudden recent cessation of speciation
- The timing of Earth's petroleum production peak<sup>2</sup> ('we' arrived at the optimal "fossil-hydrocarbon moment.")
- The timing of Earth's petroleum storage peak
- Radioactive Peak<sup>3</sup>

### THE PERFECT COLLISION

*When primordial Earth was only 30 to 50 million years old, a planet between 11 and 14 percent the mass of Earth (~ Mars = 0.107 Earth masses) smashed into Earth at a 45-degree angle. The speed of the planet upon impact was surprisingly low (less than 4 kilometers per second). This crash resulted in a planet with its surface gravity, surface temperature, atmospheric composition, atmospheric pressure, iron abundance, tectonics, volcanism; rotation rate, rate of decline in rotation rate, and stable rotation axis tilt all in the just-right range to support advanced life.*

*Just some of the results of this astonishing collision are:*

- Replaced Earth's thick, life-suffocating atmosphere with one thin enough (~100x) for light to pass through & have just the right chemical composition to foster life.
- Boosted Earth's mass & density just enough to allow a large quantity of water vapour to be retained for billions of years
- Played a major role in salting Earth's interior with an abundance of long-lasting radioisotopes, the heat from which drives most of earth's tectonic activity and volcanism.
- Gradually slowed Earth's rotation rate so that a wide variety of lower life-forms could survive long enough to provide the resources needed for the existence of advanced life-forms. This slowing was also directly significant to advanced life, which cannot survive the high wind velocities of a more rapid rotation rate.
- Stabilized the tilt of Earth's rotation axis, protecting the planet from rapid and extreme climatic variations.
- Created the Earth's moon! Without the Moon, Earth could not sustain advanced life. Only a massive, solo moon has the gravitational strength to stabilize the tilt of a Planet's rotation axis for an extended period. However, with a mass only 2 percent larger (a radius just 11 km longer), the moon would have pulled the tilt of Earth's rotation axis out of stability. And the gravity of a moon with only 2 percent less mass would be too weak to put adequate brakes on Earth's rotation rate.
- Without that slowing effect, Earth would complete each spin-each day-in the blinding speed of just a few hours, instead of 24. Even a slightly faster rotation rate would generate overwhelmingly frequent, long lasting and powerful hurricanes and tornadoes. A slightly slower spin rate would bring life-threatening temperature swings from day to night and would drastically decrease rainfall on continental landmasses.

The collision that led to the formation of a just-right moon appears to have been perfectly aimed, weighed, and timed to change Earth from a "formless and empty" wasteland into a site where advanced life could survive and thrive.

Some 600 million years later a heavy bombardment of giant asteroids and comets created an ocean of hot magna to cover the planet and also fine-tuned the earth's core to give the appropriate magnetic field and plate tectonics needed. This bombardment occurred some 3.8 to 3.9 billion years ago and much research has shown that there was abundant life on Earth around some 3.8 billion years ago. Thus the transition from a life-hostile state to a life-supportive and abundant state occurred in a geological instant (only a few million years).

So, to sum up our reflection on the revelation of nature, science today is increasingly gaining a much deeper insight into the incredible nature of this universe and its design for the purpose of creating mankind and making it possible for mankind to learn about how it was done.

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<sup>3</sup> Several radioactive isotopes are essential to make Earth suitable for advanced life. Uranium-235, Uranium-238, and Thorium-232 play the most crucial roles. Based on measurements of the cosmic expansion rate, astronomers have determined that the cosmic abundance of these elements, collectively, peaked when the universe was two-thirds of its present age, some 4.57 billion years ago. This date precisely matches Earth's origin date.

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Not only is the universe absolutely incredible in declaring the works of the creator at the macroscopic level but at every level His handiwork is being better understood and appreciated. Look at the segment of a computer animation from Harvard University which shows a microscopic motor which 'walks' nutrients to the edge of cells.<sup>4</sup>

Scientists now are gaining a good insight into the creation of this universe and its inevitable demise. In terms of a universe fit for human life it may have no more than 50,000 years left. So just as scripture states the heavens will be no more; this creation will pass away.

We read in 2 Peter 3:10 *and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved,...."*

Does this refer to just the earth; to the whole universe or it is perhaps a metaphor for the political and economic world as we know it? Some scholars argue that the only verse that definitely speaks of the time after the Millennial Reign of Messiah Jesus is 1 Cor 15: 28 *Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.*

Refer to appendix for a discussion regarding some other scriptures that relate to this event:

Isaiah 65:17-25 *"For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness. ... The wolf and the lamb shall graze together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain,"*

God has ended His rest and is again creating – as God has created it all; this appears to be implying a new creation. Also note that the phrase 'they shall not hurt or destroy' – this appears to refer to the animals and as such appears to require new laws of Physics and biology and hence is part of the 'new heaven & new earth'.

[Other relevant scriptures: Isaiah 60:18-21; Luke 20:36; Romans 8:20-23; 1 Corinthians 6:13 13; 1 Corinthians 2:9-11; 1 Corinthians 15:50; 1 John 2:17; 2 Peter 3:5-7,10 ; Revelation 21:1,5]

While there is some confusion and debate over this issue, I think it is reasonable to conclude from the dual revelations of the Scriptures and nature, that many of these passages do have an application to our life in the new creation – the new universe and also perhaps to much of what will transpire in the Kingdom of God the moment it is established.

The Genesis creation 'week' represents just part of God's creation activity. His rest period, or cessation from creating, had a definite start point (Genesis 2:2-3) and will have a definite end point.

Genesis 2:2-3 *And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.*

There is much scientific evidence now that the last species created was humans.

Many thousands of years have already passed between the morning and (future) evening of God's rest day. According to Revelation 21 and 22, once God fulfills all His purposes for the cosmos, He will replace it with an entirely new creation -a new heaven, new Earth, and new Jerusalem.

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<sup>4</sup> Human engineers have produced a tiny molecular motor that, that rotates objects bound to it when irradiated with UV radiation. Even though this work could be considered "science at its very best," the motor's operation is crude and cumbersome. This motor stands in sharp contrast to the incredibly complex, efficient, and elegant rotary motors (like the bacterial flagellum and F1-F0 ATPase) found inside the cell. Rienk Eelkema et al., "Molecular Machines: Nanomotor Rotates Microscale Objects," Nature 440 (2006): 163.

Notes: Homochiral amino acids – LH or RH only - not possible w/o intervention of Designer – Creator is at work – not an acceptable perspective for theistic evolutionists. Sun – Luminosity proportional mas<sup>4</sup> 4 to 7% loss in 1 – 1.5 billion years implies 15% reduction in luminosity – life cannot tolerate 1% change – CO<sub>2</sub>/water vapour -> greenhouse. Biomass/biodeposit: Kerogen (high molecular weight tars → petroleum (plastics/petrol) → methane gas). mDNA & γ-Chromosomal indicate Adam & Eve lived 30-50 kya.



**His Sabbath rest is scheduled to end!**

Redemption's story culminates in this triumphant shout: *"Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 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"* (Rev. 21:3-4).

In what context does redeemed humanity enjoy the glories of face-to-face fellowship with God?

Is it here on this planet, in this universe?

Yes, the Kingdom of God will be inaugurated here on Earth with the return of our Messiah but there is more; much more!!

Revelation 21 identifies our ultimate destination as the "new heaven and new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. . . ."

He declares, "I am making everything new!" (Rev 21:5)

The fulfillment of Romans 8:18-22 arrives.

The whole "groaning" creation—its time and space, matter and energy, and "we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit"—receives deliverance from "bondage to decay." (The second law of thermodynamics is removed.)

Humanity's deliverance from death and decay is the focal point of the passage; however, I believe this the reference does encompass the entire physical universe, to which space, time, matter, and energy belong. The passage would seem to suggest, then, that the deliverance applies even to the physical laws, which began in effect at the cosmic creation event.

The laws are, thus, finite and the One who created them brings them to an end as soon as their purpose is fulfilled.

The Psalmist declares:

*In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. Like clothing you will change them and they will be discarded. Ps 102: 25-26*

Just how new is the new creation?

It is more than just a remake or renovation of the old creation. It is completely and radically new.

The laws of gravity, electromagnetism, and thermodynamics are gone. The text directly claims that everything associated with the second law of thermodynamics (decay, death, pain, etc.) never again exists. (Rev 21:4) [It seems most unlikely, from scriptures such as Isaiah 65:25, that this refers to mankind only]

Gravity as we know it may therefore no longer exist. (Gravity does not allow a structure of the dimensions ascribed to the New Jerusalem. — assuming this scripture has a literal as well as figurative fulfillment — Rev 21: 16-17. *The city lies foursquare, its length the same as its width. And he measured the city with his rod, 12,000 stadia. Its length and width and height are equal.* Roughly the size of Australia! Gravity would force it into a spherical shape.)

Electromagnetism as we know it no longer exists, for light in an electromagnetic environment coexists with darkness and shadows. The new creation will be filled with "light" without any darkness or shadows and without the need for such entities as the sun, stars, and light bulbs as sources of illumination. Rev 21:23, 22:4

Some of the characteristics of the new creation, as described in Revelation 21-22 and elsewhere in the Bible, include:

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- Radically different creation laws and constants (no thermodynamics, no gravity, no electromagnetism)
- No decay, no death, no pain, no evil, no regrets, no grief
- No darkness, no shadows, possibly no sun, no stars, and yet light everywhere
- Possibly a different dimensionality i.e the ability to move in more than the current 4 dimensions
- Unimaginable splendor, joy, beauty, peace, and love
- Wholly meaningful and satisfying work

[skip: What can be said, then, of Old Testament verses that seem to suggest the Earth and universe last forever? – see appendix]

Just as this universe was designed for the purpose of Redemption, the new creation is designed for Reward.

Some Scriptures: Matthew 5:12, 16:27; Luke 6:23, 35; 1 Corinthians 3:14; Ephesians 6:8; Colossians 3:24; Hebrews 11:26; Revelation 22:12

eg. Matthew 16: 27 *For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then shall he render unto every man according to his deeds.*

### The New Heavens & the New Earth:<sup>5</sup>

I believe we are all, both believers and non-believers to a large degree, strangers in this age. We all seek and thirst for the pure water that is provided by our Heavenly Father through a person and a place. Jesus is that person and the Coming Age; the Kingdom of God; the New Heavens and the New Earth is that place.

Like 'Big Kev' [Big Kev is an Australian maker and seller of cleaning products who used to advertise on TV and talk of his products – his most well-known line was "I'm excited"]: "I'm excited!" – except that I'm excited about something a lot more significant than cleaning products!

For Christians, *life in the Coming Age, in the Kingdom of God* is our true home. Paul said, "As long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. We would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord" ([2 Corinthians 5:6-8](#)).

In [John 14](#) Jesus said, "I go to prepare a place for you, that where I am you may be also."

When we get married and are due to have our first child, we prepare a place for her/him, fussing over wall paper and the cot and toys, etc.. The quality of the place limited only by the skills and resourcefulness of the parents. What kind of place will He have prepared for us?!

How keen are you to see the place He has prepared for you? The 'place' is the new Heaven and new Earth!

If a brother or sister in Christ is dying, we do what can be reasonably done medically, we never withhold essential care, we certainly never assist in suicide, but neither do we wish them to desperately cling to this life as if it were all there is.

Imagine a homeless street kid offered ownership of a huge mansion. He might cling to his boxes and garbage cans in a back alley—because he just doesn't know better.

Some here today may desire to have many houses; many new cars; and to retire early.

**These desires are too narrow; too lacking; too little and too short-sighted.**

Our Father is going to reward us with far, far more in the Coming Age. To desire such things now; in this age when they decay and when we cannot take them with us, is too desire too little; to lack vision and great dreams. Jesus says, "Come blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you." Tailor made for us, to fulfill our God-given dreams and desires, to be our eternal home. We won't just inherit a house and

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<sup>5</sup> About 2,600 years ago the prophet Jeremiah described the "fixed laws of heaven and earth" The "heavens and earth" phrase in biblical Hebrew is usually a reference to the entire physical universe.

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car or a farm or even a city but a kingdom and a new universe; a place where our God-given creativity can be fully exercised!<sup>6</sup>

Home is acceptance, security, rest, refuge, deep personal relationships, great memories. Home is where your treasure is. If the Coming Age of eternity is your home, then your heart and mind should focus on that place as your true treasure will be there.

Perhaps that answers the question of why the Kingdom of God means much less to us than the saints of God throughout the ages. We have tried to build our ultimate home on earth. We have become citizens of this world. Our hopes rise and fall with this world, rather than being centered on the next.

**The question is, do you think and live as if this world, or the next world, was your home? Is your mind on this present age or on the Coming Kingdom of God? <sup>7</sup>**

The Bible teaches that for Christians, our home is with Christ (2 Corinthians 5:8). When he sets up the Kingdom of God we will be with him.

When we are resurrected and enter the 'new heaven and new earth' we may immediately feel like home because we'll instinctively connect it to all we longed for and occasionally caught magical glimpses of in this age.

Let me look back and tell you a little about when we first migrated to Queensland. It was Jan 5th 1989, we had hired a car at Brisbane Airport, staked it full of suitcases and 4 children and drove out to Kooralbyn. As we turned off the Mt Lindsay Highway my wife looked at the hills and trees and the brown, yellow and green and felt she was arriving home. She sensed that this was where her heart longed to be – a place of serenity, beauty, security and peace. Perhaps, her sense of arrival and 'home-coming' was a taste of what we will experience on 'That Day'.

But in the new heaven and new earth' we won't just look back; we'll look forward to and anticipate all that's ahead of us there. The longer we're in the new creation, the more memories we'll make and the more our new home will be...home. It won't lose its homeyness -it will always gain more.

**May God give us the grace to live now with the perspective that will be ours one moment after we enter the 'new Heavens & new Earth'.**

There's an old saying, "those who are Heavenly minded are of no earthly good." Yet in Colossians 3:1 Scripture commands us to set our minds on Heaven, where Christ is.

C.S. Lewis said *"It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this one."*

When we are properly Heavenly minded we will be of maximum Heavenly and earthly good. But when we are earthly minded we will ultimately bring no good to heaven or earth. A.W. Tozer used to say, "We do well to think of the long tomorrow."

**How do we know what the new universe will be like?**

Well, in the last number of years there have been lots of testimonies about personal OBEs, "out of body experiences." Some of these may be real visions of the Coming Age but I would argue that none of them are true. For in some cases a non-Christian is met by a being of light who gives him reassurance and welcomes him to paradise.

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<sup>6</sup> Speech to Ed-Tech 2007 by Andrew Zolli <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jLj3CNHL-RI>

<sup>7</sup> **John Tillotson:** "He who provides for this life but takes no care for eternity is wise for a moment but a fool forever."

**Martin Luther:** "There are two days on my calendar-'Today' and 'That Day.'"

**Matthew Henry:** "It ought to be the business of every day to prepare for our last day."

**C. S. Lewis:** "If there lurks in most modern minds the notion that to desire our own good and earnestly to hope for the enjoyment of it is a bad thing, I submit that this notion is no part of the Christian faith. Indeed, if we consider the unblushing promises of rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased."

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This is directly contrary to Word of God. Especially significant since Scripture specifically says Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

Many of these testimonies or books are unbiblical and misleading, full of false doctrine. They imply that those who don't know Christ will be welcomed into the Kingdom of God, contrary to [John 14:6](#), [Acts 4:12](#), and many other passages. Just because someone thinks he saw Jesus or an angel in a near-death experience doesn't mean it's true. Scripture warns us that "Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light" ([2 Corinthians 11:14](#)).

Some of these stories are however most uplifting and may be true in the sense that they may be visions of the truth.<sup>8</sup>

### **Ultimately our only totally dependable authority is the Word of God.**

We know that the Coming Age will be indescribably beautiful and wonderful. Think of snorkeling the Great Barrier Reef. It is absolutely breathtaking.

The thousands of fish of every shape and size and colour, and just when you think you've seen the most beautiful creation here comes another one. It's endless.

Why should we expect the Coming Age to be so incredible?

Simply imagine all the best this world currently has to offer and imagine this beauty without the corroding influence of sin and evil.

### **What is the Kingdom of God?**

Perhaps the Garden of Eden revisited but with one significant difference. No possibility of sinning and being cast out again. The last Adam, the Messiah Jesus has provided the way to restore the intimate relationship with God that the first Adam lost.

God Almighty is calling people to have the same faith that Jesus has, so that they may (in the future) enter into the Coming Age, the Kingdom of God on a renewed, redeemed earth. The lives we lead now through having the faith of Jesus may give us entry into this Kingdom - Jesus is preparing a place for his brothers and sisters (those who hear God's word and do it – Luke 8:21) in the future Coming Age.

Anthony Buzzard explains this well: *"The Gospel as Jesus preached it invites you also to dedicate the rest of your life to preparation for participation in the supervision of that future Kingdom on a renewed Earth. You are invited to be a co-heir of the Kingdom with the Messiah. In short, the Jesus of history, the original "theocrat", continues his work of recruiting members of his royal household, the theocratic party, who are urged to prepare themselves with divine help to take part in the Messiah's government of the future. This will be the first and only administration to rule the world successfully."* (from *The Coming Kingdom of the Messiah* p7).

The 'new Jerusalem' is a city whose builder and maker is God. A city by definition consists of residences. People live together. No isolation.<sup>9</sup>

The area of the 'new Jerusalem' we are told in Revelation is roughly equivalent to Australia's land mass!

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<sup>8</sup> I read Vanya by Myrna Grant many years ago. Vanya (a young persecuted Russian Baptist soldier) describes how he was bodily lifted from his barrack bed and taken to before the throne of God. His description of his vision seems to some degree believable and his life story is certainly most amazing. However, Roberts Liardon's book "I saw Heaven" (when he was 8) is a bit hard to swallow and his theology is in error. He is now a prosperity preacher – that is a theology that basically argues we are in Kingdom of God now and virtually denies the return of Christ – see my articles on Amillennialism]

<sup>9</sup> The 'New Jerusalem' is described in Revelation. This book is largely full of symbolism and therefore, great care must be taken in reading descriptions written therein as literal rather than figurative. I would recommend HA Whittaker's book 'A Biblical Approach to Revelation' as the best I have read on this incredible portion of our Holy Scriptures. Thus, my views presented below about the size of our new City in the Coming Age are tentative and speculative. Regardless of how close or far the reality proves to be, we can be sure that our Father has a future in store for us far, far better than we can possibly imagine.

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The base is 5.76 million square kms (Australia is approx. 6.4 million sq kms –so the ‘new Jerusalem’ is about 90%!! of the land mass of Australia). A city 2400 kms high--780,000 stories.

It would seem obvious that with the existing laws of Physics you cannot build a city that many stories high. In fact a shape of this size would be forced into a spherical shape by our current laws of Physics and would not be a cube.

But of course God is not limited by the laws he put in place and as I have indicated already it appears most likely that He will **create new laws** for the future new universe.

The City will have walls, gates, streets. Three gates on each side, 12 gates total. Access from all over the new earth.

No down payment, closing costs, mortgage payments, property tax, electricity & gas bills.

And if you think you'd never like the city, it's because you're thinking of current earthly cities, with litter and dirt and crime. We can expect the ‘new Jerusalem’ city will have all the freshness and vitality and openness of the country with all the vibrancy and interdependence and relationships of a city. And there will be no racial divisions between people.

Water: Perhaps no seas to separate people of earth but fresh water--a great river, flowing not stagnant.

Trees: Tree of life, bears twelve fruits, leaves for healing, palm trees (palm branches). Vegetation--garden. Why not? Eden was a garden.

Thrones. Clothes. Precious stones and materials. Streets of gold--most costly materials of earth are common in Kingdom of God.

Animals--certainly not incompatible with Paradise. Eden was full of them! Revelation talks of several angels riding out on horses. Elijah--chariots and horses of fire come to and from the throne of God. Elisha--God sent down horses and chariots and warriors.

Light. No secondary sources. No generators and power lines, even the sun is not necessary for illumination. Illumination right from God Himself.

There may be no night – certainly, not in the figurative sense of darkness being an absence of love and a presence of evil.

Physically, it could mean a variation in brightness; maybe a gentle suffused light.

But what will we do in the new universe? <sup>10</sup>

We will eat food, and have banquets. Christ promised that we would eat and drink at table with him; plus come from all over to sit at the table with Abraham and patriarchs. We will feast at the marriage supper of the Lamb. While this event is before the creation of the new heavens and new earth (or new universe), it does imply a continuation rather than a last meal. As it appears from passages like Isaiah 65:25 we may no longer eat meat as no harm is to come to animals – perhaps we will all be vegetarians, but regardless you can be assured that everything will taste at least as good as it can now.

When Jesus was on earth in his resurrection body, he ate fish. There was clearly no need for him to so it would appear that he did so to further demonstrate that physical nature of his resurrection body and for the pleasure we get from the taste and sensations of food.

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<sup>10</sup> We won't float around and play harps and fold our wings. In fact, we won't have wings--not even all the ‘messengers of God’ or angels are said to have wings, and people are never said to. And Saint Peter isn't manning the gate either!

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There will be an endless supply of water and food. No famine or drought. No food poisoning, no indigestion, no high or low blood sugars.

Eating is not just to eat--the table is the center of conversation and fellowship. We will meet and converse with other inhabitants of the new universe. God tells us we'll fellowship with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob. We'll meet David and Ruth and Esther and John the Baptist and Miriam (The Lord's mother) and Peter. We can look forward to meeting and feasting with such people as Hudson Taylor, Amy Carmichael, Isaac Newton, and Keith Green!

The 'messengers of God' or angels are rational communicative beings--we will no doubt converse with them. Because they are "ministering spirits" who serve us, we will no doubt get to know those that ministered to us whether angels or not, and protected us during this present evil age. The Bible says some we have extended hospitality to are angels. **Luke 16** speaks of being welcomed into eternal dwelling places by those we've ministered to in this age.

We will serve our Messiah in the kingdom. We are called joint heirs with Christ. We will own property, residences in the Kingdom of God. We will enjoy those treasures that have been laid up for us in Heaven with our Lord and which will be presented to us sometime after His return and the inauguration of his reign.

**Revelation 22:5** says we will reign with Christ over the earth. **Luke 19** tells us those who have been faithful in this life will be placed in authority, some over one city, some five, some ten. **1 Corinthians 6** tells us we will judge or rule over angels.

How else will we serve Christ besides ruling?

Well, we will be creative and exercise abilities--all will sing and some will play instruments. (Harp and trumpet mentioned, but no doubt many other instruments too.) We are made in the image of God – our Father is creative beyond imagination – our creative powers may well increase as we have an endless supply of time and energy without the dampening effects of decay in any form. Everything we create will have a permanency that will allow us to continue to improve our creations and our creative skills.

We will no doubt compose, write, paint, carve, build. We will exercise our God-given gifts, and continue to develop and perfect our talents.

We will worship in the Kingdom of God. See **Revelation 5 and 15 and 19**. We will join with those of every tribe and nation and tongue in singing praise to the Lamb. We will become lost in our worship, even more than we can imagine now. Twice in Rev. 5 it says the living creatures and "the elders fell down in worship." Overcome with emotion.

*Rev 5:11 Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, 12saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" 13And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" 14And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped.*

Revelation 4 tells us of four living creatures, covered with eyes, one that looks like a lion, one an ox, one a man and one an eagle. They each have six wings, and "day and night they never stop saying: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come."

I grew up next to the ocean (Carters Beach, South Island, New Zealand) --the constant reassuring comforting sound of the tide, the waves, forms a backdrop. Always there – day & night.

In the new universe, wherever we travel in the holy city or beyond, perhaps to the far corner of the universe, the backdrop sound will be this--day and night the chant of the four living creatures who never, even for a moment stop speaking the praise of God. And of course we will never be separated from our Heavenly Father.

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There will be no church buildings in the Kingdom of God. We will need no props to worship him. God Almighty will be the focus of all. Worship will be unaffected, without pretense, and without distraction.

We will lose ourselves in worship of God the Father and His only begotten Son, and before we turn to the duties at hand we may suddenly realize that we were so caught up in worship that we have spent several days gazing upon our Father and our Passover Lamb!

We will worship God in singing. In Revelation 5 we are told of a choir of angels of ten thousand times ten thousand--that's a hundred million. And then we are told that the whole rest of creation joins these 100 million. The 100 million are merely a little ensemble up front. Can you imagine the power of the song? If hearing or singing 'Amazing Grace' or 'Shout to the Lord' moves us on earth, what will this be like?

The Kingdom of God will be dynamic, not static. We will learn, and progress in knowledge. When **1 Corinthians 13** says we will know in full, it's in contrast to seeing through a dark glass. We will know accurately. But we will not be all-knowing. Only God is that, and we will never be God. **Ephesians 2:6-7**: ". . . in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace . . ."

A continual learning more about God, who can never exhausted.

And while theology will be our main subject (not the dry subject many may imagine when this word is uttered but the study of our amazing God!), I imagine we will learn of other things as well, perhaps in studying the wonders of a new universe that will declare his glory even better than this one.

I would love to explore the universe, to discover and learn about the new and different.

Why not? Who has placed in us the thirst for knowledge and understanding and beauty?

Our Creator. What's more our Creator has designed this world for us to discover it and through it to discover Him.

How much more will He reveal and allow us to understand in the new universe?

There will be travel, people will go from one place to another. Gates never shut. Our means of travel may be interesting--we are told we will be like Jesus and that his resurrection body is the prototype of ours. He walked through walls with his resurrection body. Perhaps we will have the option of walking, or traveling at the speed of light, or even the speed of thought.

Will we remember the past, what happened on earth before the return of Jesus and our bodily resurrection?

Well, we know that in the Holy City, the 'new Jerusalem', there will be memorials to the twelve tribes and to the apostles. Remembrance is something very important to God. We will sing of Christ's redemption, his space and time history and death on our behalf. Christ's resurrection body bore the nail scars--this itself reminds us of redemption.

Some people take a verse in Isaiah (**Isa 65: 17-19**) out of context and conclude we won't remember our earthly lives. Of course, the pain of the past will be gone. But memories of the walk with Christ and the most intimate times with family and friends will surely not be. For what is worth remembering, our memories will be sharper, not duller. When we truly forgive someone, we don't necessarily forget the sin they perpetuated against us but we forget the pain, the hurt, the sadness and grief. The events are normally still remembered but in some watered down way where the sharp and harsh edges have been removed.

Those of you who have been on the receiving end of betrayal or hatred or adultery and have totally forgiven may be able to reflect on the accuracy of this analysis. Think also from the Father's perspective – He forgives us, yet as He is God, He can not forget how we have hurt Him – perhaps when we seek His forgiveness He like us 'forgets' or dampens the memory of the pain?

Will we know our loved ones who were also believers, in the Kingdom of God?

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Of course. We'll know even those we *didn't* know on earth. Peter, James and John recognized Moses and Elijah in the vision that was the transfiguration. They had died 900 years earlier and nobody had a picture!

Christ's resurrection body resembled him--the disciples had a hard time recognizing him at first, but they thought he was still dead!

**Those of us who long for justice, justice for the racially oppressed, for the politically persecuted, for the unborn children need to remind ourselves not to give up hope, not to become embittered. The Kingdom of God will bring great relief to the suffering, the hungry, the hurting. No crying, no pain, no sorrow, no more death. No hospitals, cemeteries. No sin. No evil.**

God is watching. He's keeping track. In the future Kingdom of God he'll reward us for our acts of faithfulness to him, right down to every cup of cold water we've given to the needy in his name ([Mark 9:41](#)).

Pro-life work is often like this in that it often doesn't have obvious or immediate fruit. Those who spend their lives reaching out to Muslims and in other "low fruit" ministries should remember God says, "It is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful," not successful ([1 Corinthians 4:2](#), KJV). Of course, we want to be successful, but we can't control the results. Those we must leave to God, reminding ourselves that one day we'll learn of eternal results we never saw in this present age. (Just as some of us may learn in the Kingdom of God that our present ministries weren't as successful as everyone thought.)

There is a fascinating contrast in the first three and the last three chapters of the Bible.

**In both we see the tree of life, a river, a bride and a bridegroom.**

**In Genesis paradise is lost, in Revelation paradise regained. In Genesis Satan wins his first victory, in Revelation his final defeat.**

**In Genesis God hides his face from sinful man, in Revelation "we shall see his face."**

**In Genesis the curse is pronounced, in Revelation it is removed.**

**In Genesis the gates are shut, in Revelation the gates are open.**

**In Genesis death first comes, in Revelation death is finally destroyed.**

And it is the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, the Second Adam, who is given full credit for all this.

"God himself (personal) will wipe away every tear." No evil. No fear. No abuse, rape, murder, drugs, drunkenness, no bombs or guns. Walk the streets safely. No miscommunication or fear of misunderstanding. And total intimacy with our Messiah and with God Almighty.

We are told that he will give each of us a new name. A personal name that will mean much to us and to him.

The new universe will be deeply appreciated by the handicapped who will not be handicapped any longer. Think of those who can't walk and run and hear. Think of those blind from birth who will see for the first time. The hymn writer Fanny Crosby said, **"Do not pity me for my blindness, for the first face I ever see will be the face of my Lord Jesus."**

And think what the Kingdom of God will mean to the mentally handicapped, who will wake up in the Kingdom of God to great powers of understanding and learning. Who will be as free in their minds as those who were crippled on earth will be free in their bodies.

There will be marvelous diversity. Our God is a God of diversity and different-ness. Look around you. Look at your family. Look at the world. Look through a microscope or telescope. In Revelation 5 & 7 we see people of every tribe and nation and tongue worshipping God and the Lamb. This is true diversity. Some of what is called diversity today is perversity. But diversity under Lordship is a beautiful thing.



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There will be great joy in the Kingdom of God. *"In thy presence is fullness of joy, at thy right hand are pleasures forever more. – Ps 16:11"*

**Of course, the greatest joy of the Kingdom of God will be being joined to Messiah Yeshua. If we truly love Jesus, we long to be with him.**

As a bride is incomplete without her bridegroom, so are we without him. We long for the wedding, we long to consummate the relationship.

The next greatest joy may be being joined to our departed loved ones. The great reunion. That's what **1 Thessalonians 4** is saying--we will be together again. The certainty of ultimate Reunion is so sweet that it makes the parting bearable and almost exciting. None of us like to be away from our families, but the one redeeming feature is the anticipation of reunion. And the longer the separation the more glorious the reunion. Some of you will meet parents you've not seen for fifty years, some will meet for the first time your child who died before birth.

No relationships between two believers ever end. They can only be interrupted, but never terminated. My relationship with my father-in-law has not ended. Has your believing husband, your Father, your sister, your child gone before you? You will see them face to face, and worship with them side by side. This is the believer's certain hope (hope as used by Paul, etc means a certain expectation for the future) --a hope that can sustain us through life's darkest hours.

Scripture says our citizenship is in Heaven, that is, with God, not here on earth in this present age.

As citizens of the coming Kingdom we are currently ambassadors representing our Messiah on this earth. We are called aliens, strangers, and pilgrims on earth. We are told this world is not our home, but the future Kingdom of God is our home. We must live in this evil age in light of the Coming Age – that is with God's perspective, with an eternal perspective We must learn to live our short today's in light of the long tomorrow.

Imagine an ambassador from Australia who goes to work in another country that is generally hostile to his own. Naturally, he will want to learn about this new place, see the sights, become familiar with the people and culture. But suppose eventually he becomes so assimilated into this foreign country that he begins to regard it as his true home.

His allegiance wavers, and he gradually compromises his position as an Australian ambassador, becoming increasingly ineffective in representing the best interests of his mother country. His loyalties are transferred, and eventually he defects. In doing so he not only becomes useless to, but actually betrays the cause of his own country. Have you become to assimilated with this country?

**Hebrews 11 (v. 13-16)** describes the great people of faith this way:

*All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country--a Heavenly or Godly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.*

The black slaves in early America understood the pilgrim mentality. Without possessions, without rights, they lived for another world, a better one. This central theme permeated their spirituals. They sang "I am a poor wayfarin' stranger, a travelin' far away from home," and "Soon I will be done with the troubles of the world."

**May God give us the grace to live now with the perspective that will be ours, after we die, when we are resurrected at the appearing of our Lord and Saviour Jesus.**

It's a predominant theme of Scripture that this place is not our home and that the Carpenter from Nazareth has gone to prepare a place for us.

## Resurrected to Life in The Kingdom of God

Perhaps the reason that we get derailed from it and don't pay attention to it is partly because of this demonic influence that tries to convince us that this world is really our home.

But part of it, too, is that we fall into the myth that our bodies are a temporary thing that we live in on earth and then when we die our spirit is separated from our bodies until the resurrection. (Note: The Platonic view of the immortality of the soul has so permeated the Christian worldview that it is a real challenge to seek the reality revealed in the Scriptures that our spirit, mind and body cannot be separated, but are one complete entity.) Perhaps we live under a Platonic myth that the body is evil and the spirit is good and then the spirit is separated from that evil body and somehow liberated from it.

Every portrayal of the Kingdom of God that is made in Scripture is physical in its nature.

That is one of the things that throws us off because we end up thinking that Scripture talks about the Kingdom of God in tangible, physical ways but that must not really be the way it is. So as a result, we don't really believe what Scripture says about Kingdom of God, and we rob it of the excitement.

So a good prayer for us would be:---“ that the things which will be most important to us after we die and are resurrected into the Coming Age, will become most important to us now. “

**Death is not a hole; it's a door.<sup>11</sup>**

**Through his death and resurrection the Carpenter flung open the door to the Kingdom of God. If you're a Christian suffering with great pains and losses, take cheer (John 16:33).**

**The new house is almost ready for you. Moving day is coming. The dark winter is about to be magically transformed into spring. Soon your Saviour will return and take you into His Kingdom, the Kingdom of God.**

**What to do today:**

**"Go to where men die of thirst a stone's throw from pure water...go out into this world as a water-bearer for the Lord."**

**As long as we're still here in the parched wastelands of the present earth, God calls us to offer refreshment to a world full of people dying of thirst.**

**What should we offer them? Exactly what they thirst for--a person and a place. Jesus is that person. The Coming Age & the new creation is that place.**

Your life on earth is a dot. From that dot extends a line that goes on for all eternity. Right now you're living in the dot. But what are you living for?

**Are you living for the dot or for the line?**

Are you living for earth or for the future Kingdom of God? Are you living for the short today or the long tomorrow?

**Close:**

Imagine a new universe where you can spend years learning the violin or some new musical instrument that you invented; play your favourite sports, or some better versions of them untainted by sin; create your ultimate house or boat or mode of transport; write a few books; debate for days or months with leading experts on any topic; get a few degrees or at least study some aspect of God's creation for a few hundred years; develop deep and very close relationships with thousands and especially with Messiah Jesus.

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<sup>11</sup> Bertrand Russell has been called by some the greatest mind of the twentieth century. Anticipating his death he said, *"There is darkness without, and when I die there will be darkness within. There is no splendor, no vastness anywhere; only triviality for a moment, and then nothing."*

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Sit at the throne of God and be totally awestruck and overwhelmed by indescribable joy in the presence of the Creator of all!

Everyday have many incredible experiences believing 'that can't be topped' only to have the next day be even more fulfilling as you continue to learn more and more about your Creator and His creation without ever being able to exhaust His knowledge or be over-filled with His peace and joy.

What now? - Get real; get excited; get awestruck; get challenged – our Lord will soon be here – the Day of the Lord beckons – are you ready? – are your family and friends ready? – are you breathless with anticipation!? If not – are you alive!

### **END Part 1**

#### **Appendix:**

##### 1. Is the New Heaven & new Earth literal:

Isaiah 60:18-21 ...**The sun shall be no more your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give you light; but the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory. Your sun shall no more go down, nor your moon withdraw itself; for the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your days of mourning shall be ended..** [This appears to be a literal reference]

Isaiah 66:22 "For as the new heavens and the new earth that I make shall remain before me, says the LORD, so shall your offspring and your name remain. [Suggesting the eternity of the new universe]

It does appear that the references of verse 30 in Isa 65 (Isaiah 65:20) **No more shall an infant from there live but a few days, Nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days; For the child shall die one hundred years old, But the sinner being one hundred years old shall be accursed.** These verse may be a euphemism for the days before the Flood – the days of very long life spans, rather than a statement with a literal fulfillment during the Millennial time.

Luke 20:36 ... **nor can they die anymore, for they are equal to the angels** and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection. [Angels may be creatures who exist in another dimension yet are able to somehow interact in our dimensions. Perhaps when we put on immortal, incorruptible bodies we, in being equal to angels, will be able to exist in another dimension while the universe in our detectable 4 dimensions is recreated.]

Romans 8:20-23 **For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.** [This seems to be very clear that the universe is being spoken of here]

1 Corinthians 6:13 **13 Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them.** [This appears literal]

1 Corinthians 2:9-11 **But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."** [No eye has seen the new future creation, but we have seen much of this one]

1 Corinthians 15:50 **Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.** [The body is destroyed or at least transformed – perhaps into flesh & bone]

1 John 2:17 **And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.** [This passage could be taken both ways]

##### 2 Peter 3:5-7,10

**For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. ... But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.** [As the first reference is to the physical earth and heavens or universe; it seems most reasonable that the second is as well]

##### Revelation 21:1,5

**Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. ... Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new."**

As this whole book of the Revelation of Christ Jesus is very much a figurative account, it is hard to be sure about this reference. Because the sanctuary of the Lord was in Jerusalem and the holy city is spoken of as 'heaven' and the Holy Land is referred to as Earth then 'a new heaven and a new Earth' could refer to Eretz Israel, rather than a new universe. However, even this reference I

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suspect is a 'type' – that is, Eretz Israel is representative of the physical KoG which in turn is representative of its ultimate fulfillment in the new universe.

The mention of sea could refer to the brazen sea – that is to the water which the Priest was to pass through before entering the Temple as a means of purifying himself. This rite of purification will no longer be needed in the Millennial reign so this phrase may refer only to this time.

Rev 21:4 speaks of wiping away their tears – this is mentioned in **Is 25:8-9** and refers to KoG.

He will swallow up death forever, And the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces; The rebuke of His people He will take away from all the earth; For the LORD has spoken. And it will be said in that day: " Behold, this is our God; We have waited for Him, and He will save us. This is the LORD; We have waited for Him. **Let us be glad and rejoice in His deliverance.**"

### 2. URL's:

My speech – Restoration Fellowship Site:

[www.charismacomputers.com.au/OneGod/](http://www.charismacomputers.com.au/OneGod/) Username: OneGod Password: HaShem

Hugh Ross - [www.reasons.org](http://www.reasons.org)

Fiat Theory (Six Days) – see [www.charismacomputers.com.au](http://www.charismacomputers.com.au)

Are There Gaps in the Biblical Genealogies? WH Green (1890) – also on my site

Unlocking the Mystery of Life - <http://www.illustramedia.com/umolinfo.htm>

Harvard Video clip of Protein Motor: - <http://multimedia.mcb.harvard.edu/>

### 3. Books:

Heaven by Randy Alcorn

Revelation – A Biblical Approach – by HA Whitaker

Creation & ID:

The Genesis Question; A Matter of Days; The Creator & The Cosmos; Creation as Science – all by Hugh Ross

The Design Revolution – by Bill Demski

The Case for the Creator – by Lee Strobel

Creation & Evolution – by Alan Hayward

Darwin Strikes Back – by Tom Woodward

Darwin on Trial & Objections Sustained – by Philip Johnson

The Genesis Debate – edited by David Hagopian

### 3. God's chronology of creation:

1. God, who exists outside space and time, caused the universe of matter, energy, space, and time to come into existence.
2. God guided the expansion and cooling of the universe toward the formation of a suitable planetary home for humanity.
3. God successively transformed Earth and the solar system in preparation for human habitation. God successively layered increasingly advanced plant and animal life to maximize support for humanity's global expansion and civilization.
4. God created Adam, the first human, and placed him in Eden. God taught Adam to care for this magnificent garden, then God created Eve to be his mate and helper.
5. God allowed Satan, once the most beautiful and powerful of his angelic creatures and then the perpetrator of a rebellion against God in the supernatural realm, to enter Eden. There, God permitted Satan to entice Adam and Eve toward autonomy and self-exaltation.
6. Adam and Eve defied God's authority and thereby introduced sin (and the evil it produces) into the earthly environment.
7. God banished Adam and Eve from Eden, removed their access to physical immortality (the tree of life), and later shortened the life span of their descendants. These actions restrained the expression of evil and made way for redemption.
8. God chose to communicate to humans - through Abraham and his progeny, the nation of Israel -specific instructions and preparations for His plan to redeem humanity from their hopeless plight. This plan and God's promise to fulfil it gave humankind hope.
9. God's Messiah (Yeshua), the second Adam, presented the message of the Kingdom of God and through his perfect example and sacrificial death provided the means for us to become citizen's of the Kingdom and enter it on our Messiah's return.
10. Our Messiah sits at the right hand of God awaiting the time of his return.
11. Yeshua will escort his bride into the new creation, where they will live forever face-to-face with God.