

The Correspondent



SUNDAY

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Worship 10:30 AM & 1:30 PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study (Adult) 1:30 PM
Bible Study (All Ages) 7:00 PM
www.collinsville-troycoc.org
(618) 667-6708

For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place. (1 Thessalonians 1:8)

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A New Earth? Or a Home in Heaven?

-Renn Ferguson

There is a doctrine that, while not new, is gaining traction among many Christians. This is the Renewed Earth doctrine. What this teaching proposes is that when Jesus comes back the evil and wickedness of the world will be destroyed. Then, God will re-create the earth and all the faithful followers of God will live on earth for eternity. The other predominant view is that when Jesus returns He will completely destroy the world and the physical realm will no longer exist. Then, we will go to be with God in heaven. Which of these is the truth? Thankfully, the scriptures make it very clear where we will dwell.



Let us go to 2 Peter 3:7-13, for the sake of space we cannot include the entire passage so I encourage you to read it before continuing.

Examine with me a few key phrases in this passage. In verse ten we see 10, “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.” The term “the elements” is a reference to the very fundamental building blocks of everything that exists. Peter tells us that the world is going to pass away, be melted, and be burned up. Three times in this single verse he uses language that could only be understood to mean complete and utter destruction. Another phrase is then in verse 11, “seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved...” This is the fourth term in two verse Peter uses to illustrate the fullness of the destruction. If something has been dissolved what has happened to it? It has disappeared. There are various forms of medicine that can be dissolved in water and drank. What happened to the medicine? It disappeared, no evidence of it can be found. This is what will happen to the entire physical realm when Christ returns. It will be utterly and completely dissolved, there will be nothing left of it.

Peter then concludes saying, “Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.” We have noticed that the world in which we live will be completely destroyed. Will Christ create another earth for us to inhabit? Christ said in John 14:3, “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.” Christ makes a promise that we will one day be with Him. Well, where is Christ now? 1 Thessalonians 4:16 says, “for the Lord himself will descend from heaven...” Christ is in heaven and one day He will come to get us and bring us there with Him. So, the new heavens and new earth can only be a reference to a new dwelling place which is otherwise known as heaven.

This world will be completely, and utterly destroyed and we will go on to live in heaven with Christ. Let us follow the advice of Peter, “seeing that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness...”