

The New Heaven and Earth (Ezekiel 43, 47)

Understanding the End Times – Part 8
Life Church St. Louis – December 14, 2014
Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

2 Peter 3:10, 13 (NIV) *But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. ... But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.*

Revelation 21:1-2 (NIV) *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.*

2 Peter 3:11-12a (NIV) *Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God ...*

1. God's _____ will be there

Ezekiel 43:2 (NIV) *and I saw the glory of the God of Israel coming from the east. His voice was like the roar of rushing waters, and the land was radiant with his glory.*

1A. God's glory will fill _____

Ezekiel 43:4-5 (NIV) *The glory of the LORD entered the temple through the gate facing east. Then the Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court, and the glory of the LORD filled the temple.*

Revelation 21:22 (NIV) *I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.*

1B. God will _____ with His people

Ezekiel 43:7a (NIV) *He said: "Son of man, this is the place of my throne and the place for the soles of my feet. This is where I will live among the Israelites forever.*

1C. Our response should be _____ and faith

Ezekiel 43:9-10 (NIV) *Now let them put away from me their prostitution and the lifeless idols of their kings, and I will live among them forever. "Son of man, describe the temple to the people of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their sins.*

2. God's _____ will flow

Ezekiel 47:1 (NIV) *The man brought me back to the entrance of the temple, and I saw water coming out from under the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east). The water was coming down from under the south side of the temple, south of the altar.*

2A. God's river is the Spirit's _____

Ezekiel 47:5 (NIV) *He measured off another thousand, but now it was a river that I could not cross, because the water had risen and was deep enough to swim in--a river that no one could cross.*

2B. God's river removes the _____

Ezekiel 47:9 (NIV) *Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live.*

2C. God's river gives abundance and _____

Ezekiel 47:12 (NIV) *Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing."*

2D. Let the river _____ from your life

John 7:38 (NIV) *Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him."*

John 7:39 (NIV) *By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.*

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Study Guide

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Intro. Why is it important to understand that our eternal home is a new heavens and new earth, not just heaven?

Why must the present heavens and earth be destroyed (2 Peter 3:7-10)?

What will be the chief characteristic of the new heaven and earth (2 Peter 3:13, Revelation 21:1-2)?

How should our understanding of the new heaven and earth impact our lives today (2 Peter 3:11-12)?

1A. How would you define the glory of God (Ezekiel 43:1-2)?

1B. What are the various forms of a temple in the Bible (Ezekiel 43:4-5, 1 Corinthians 6:19, Ephesians 2:19-22, Revelation 21:22)?

1C. In what ways does God living with His people in the new heaven and earth compare to the garden of Eden (Ezekiel 43:7, Genesis 3:8)?

1D. How was the vision of Ezekiel meant to affect the people of his time (Ezekiel 43:9-10)?

1E. How should Ezekiel's vision of the glory of God filling the temple impact our lives today?

2A. Why do you think that the river flowed from the temple (Ezekiel 47:1)?

2B. What was God trying to show Ezekiel as he waded out into the river (Ezekiel 47:3-5)?

2C. In what ways does the river of God remove the curse (Ezekiel 47:8-9, Revelation 22:3)?

2D. In what ways do the trees on the river's banks extend God's grace (Ezekiel 47:12, Revelation 22:1-2)?

2E. How does Jesus' teaching on living water correspond to Ezekiel's vision (John 7:38-39)?

2F. How can you let the Holy Spirit flow from your life to others? What should the impact of our lives have on the world around us?

2G. How does the petition in the Lord's prayer in Matthew 6:10 relate to the new heavens and earth?