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What Will Happen to the Earth?

There are many teachings that involve a cleansed and refurbished earth when Jesus comes again. But the scriptures describe this earth as man's temporary home, and that it will be done away with at that time. The focus of eternity for the Christian is heaven, not this earth.

Read [Heb 1:10-12](#), and describe the contrast given between God and the earth:

The Hebrew writer is quoting from [Ps 102:25-27](#). To what is the created universe compared?

We find a clear description of what will happen to the earth in [2Pet 3:3-13](#). Read this scripture and answer the following:

[Vs 3-4](#), what argument will scoffers make about the earth?

[Vs 5-6](#), what is the fact they conveniently forget?

*What proof do we have of this?

[Vs 7](#), some have said that just as Noah's flood cleansed the earth of sinful man than this verse is simply referring to another cleansing by fire. How do we know that this is not just describing a cleansing and rearranging of the present earth?

See [Vs 10-11](#), what words indicate complete destruction of the current physical things?

Read [Rev 21:1](#), and tell what words indicate that this is not the current earth reworked

Read [Ps 50:3-6](#), and tell what event (what God will do) that is associated with the destruction of the heavens and earth:

[2Pet 3:13](#) – what will God put in place of the current physical universe?

What is said to dwell here?

The concept of a 'new heavens and new earth', suggests to many that the earth will still be here in some form, but this phrase is a Hebrew figure of speech called a 'topographia' which attempts to describe something by comparing it to a place. It is used in the Old Testament to describe what God was going to do through the coming of the Messiah ([Isa 65:17](#)). God did not literally create a new heavens and a new earth when the Messiah came, but He did institute a new way of life, worship, and a new covenant. Peter uses this topographia to describe our new spiritual home by comparing it to a form of the heavens and earth we know.

Read [Rev 21:2-4](#), and answer the following:

Describe the 'New Jerusalem':

What things will happen there?

*What has 'passed away'?

The focus of the Christian's life is heaven, the spiritual home of our new spiritual bodies. Read the following scriptures and tell how each of them moves our focus from the physical earth to the spiritual heaven to come:

[Heb 13:14](#) =>

[Heb 12:22](#) ([Gal 4:25-26](#)) =>

[Matt 6:20](#) =>

[2Cor 5:1](#) =>

[Phil 3:20](#) =>

[Col 3:1-2](#) =>

[Phil 1:23](#) =>

Consider:

Read [Heb 12:26-27](#), and tell what will happen to the things that can be shaken:

What will remain?