



The New Creation

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Helpful passages to read:
Revelation 21:1-22:4; Romans 8:18-24;
1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 35-55

1. In this series, we're discussing what the Bible teaches about "The Afterlife" - or what we're calling "Life After Death." What did you grow up learning about the afterlife/heaven? How has your understanding changed over the years?
2. What sort of questions do you still have about the afterlife now?
3. The Bible teaches that there are really two phases to the "afterlife" - the Intermediate State (Heaven) and the Eternal State (The New Creation). Which one will we spend more time in? Which one do you spend more time thinking about? Why?
4. The New Creation will be a restoration of the original creation! **Read Genesis 1:1-2:25** and **Revelation 21:1-22:4** and make a list of similarities and differences.

5. In the original creation, humans were commanded to rule over, work, and care for creation (**Genesis 1:28; 2:15**). What kind of activities do you think we will do in The New Creation?
6. Jesus's resurrection is the model for **our resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:20-22)**! What are some things that are true about Jesus' resurrection that might be true for our resurrected bodies? See also **1 Corinthians 15:42-44**.
7. Jot down some ideas about how focusing on The New Creation could change the way we live in the following areas.

Suffering:

Work:

Politics:

Evangelism:

Justice:

The Environment:

BONUS! Bible nerds recognize that there will be continuity (sameness) and discontinuity (difference) between this creation and the one to come. However, there is debate about whether God will just destroy the earth and start over, or purify and cleanse what's already here so that the best of human culture/invention/technology remains.

Read 2 Peter 3:10-13 and **Revelation 21:24-26** and decide what to think for yourself!