

THE AFTERLIFE
PART SIX: HEAVEN, THE PLACE

Believers should sense an indescribable kinship with heaven;

HEBREWS 11:8-10

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.

Prior to heaven's beginning, the old "heaven" and earth will pass away;

PSALM 102:25-26

Of old you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you will remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away,

ISAIAH 65:17

For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.

2 PETER 3:5-7, 10-11

For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness

This does not describe a "destruction and re-creation," but a resurrection;

ROMANS 8:19-22

For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.

Space will be no problem in New Jerusalem;

ISAIAH 65:21

They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

Heaven is consistently connected with brightness and transparency;

EXODUS 24:10

...they saw the God of Israel. There was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness.

The brightness and transparency of heaven are more metaphorical than literal;

JOHN 1:4-5, 9

In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it...The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.