

Reference: VARIOUS
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The Eternal State and the Environment

Purpose: To review the elements of the doctrine of the Eternal State that are relevant to developing a Biblical position on the environment.

1 Introduction

Last time, the redemption and its effects on man and creation:

We saw:

- ☐ Christ purified all things by His blood – in heaven and on earth
- ☐ The full realization of this will be on the Last Day
- ☐ We have redeemed spirits, groan for redeemed bodies
- ☐ Creation groans for Last Day, when it will be liberated
- ☐ Our mandate, unchanged; earth still a slave to corruption
- ☐ Redeemed man has the capacity to be a good steward of all God has given

This week, the eternal state and the effects this will have
Then will put all we have learned together in a Biblical view.

2 Entry to the Eternal State

2.1 Mankind

Have seen that on the Last Day we will be changed
Will receive glorified bodies like that of Christ
Our redemption will be complete
We will have redeemed spirits and bodies
The bodies we receive – whose will they be?
Ours! They will be the bodies we had here on earth
But changed, transformed, glorified
Nevertheless our own bodies
Made like the body of Christ

1 Corinthians 15:42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable *body*, it is raised an imperishable *body*; **43** it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; **44** it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

1 Corinthians 15:50 Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. **51** Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, **52** in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. **53** For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. **54** But

when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory.

Philippians 3:21 who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

2.2 The creation

Creation has to be brought out from the curse

Set free from bondage to corruption (Romans 8:21)

What will happen to created things on Last Day?

2 Peter 3:5 For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God *the* heavens existed long ago and *the* earth was formed out of water and by water, **6** through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water. **7** But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

2 Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

Revelation 20:11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them.

They will be purged with fire

They will be destroyed

All things will be made new

Will there be any link from the old to the new?

Romans 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. **19** For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God, **20** For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope **21** that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. **22** For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.

What is creation groaning and waiting eagerly for?

Freedom. Implies a link from old to new.

Parallel between man and creation implies the link also

3 The nature of the Eternal State

3.1 Mankind

3.1.1 What is man like in the eternal state?

Image of God fully restored – made like Christ

Man before fall – able to sin, able not to sin

Unredeemed man after the fall – not able not to sin

Redeemed man after the fall – able not to sin

Glorified man in the eternal state - not able to sin

In Christ the tribes of Adam boast more blessings than their father lost.

3.1.2 What position will man have?

Will sit on thrones, reign with Christ

What will we gain access to in the new Jerusalem?

Revelation 22:1 Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, **2** in the middle of its street. **On either side of the river was the tree of life,** bearing twelve *kinds* of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. **3** There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him; **4** they will see His face, and His name *will be* on their foreheads. **5** And there will no longer be *any* night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever.

The tree of life!

3.1.3 What will be his mandate?

Worship, certainly

Possible link to the original mandate?

No marriage, will be like angels

No mandate to fill, subdue. No enemies to defend against

3.1.4 What is the redeemed man's attitude in God's creation

Once again to honor God and obey

To delight in this

Motive: God's glory

3.2 Creation

What will the new creation be like?

2 Peter 3:11 Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, **12** looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! **13 But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.**

The home of righteousness

Revelation 21:1 Then I saw **a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea.** **2** And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. **3** And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, **4** and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be *any* death; there will no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away." **5** And He who sits on the throne said, **"Behold, I am making all things new."** And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true."

No weeping, mourning, crying, pain, death

It will be glorious Rev 21:10-26

It will be pure

Revelation 21:27 and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Peaceful, harmonious – all reconciled

All subject to One Head – even Christ.

It will be "very good"!

4 Conclusions

What principles do we draw from this?

- At the appropriate time, God will purge this creation
- He will make all things new again
- All will be restored – "very good" again
- The image of God in man will also be restored
- He will delight to obey God and glorify Him
- Man will regain the tree of life
- Will inherit more blessings than Adam lost