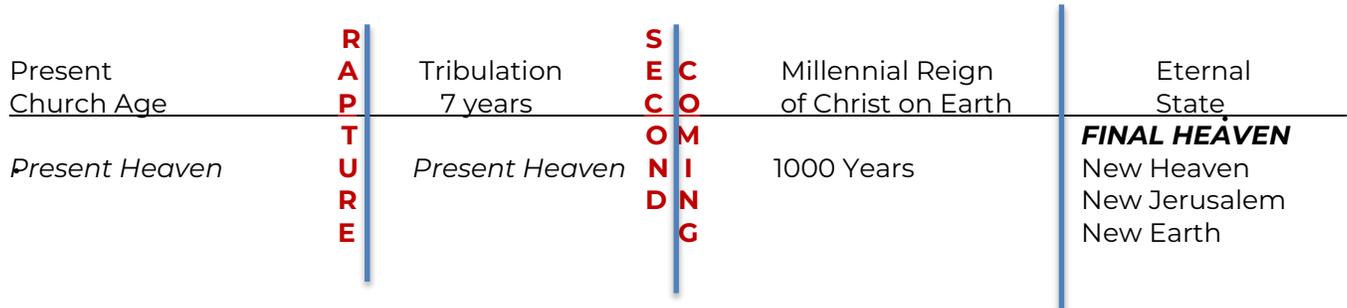


Heaven



January 27, 2026
led by Mary Lowman

Timeline of the End Times



Revelation 22:1 – 5

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. ⁴They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign forever and ever.

The Tree of Life echoes Genesis, re-establishing God's perfect provision lost in the Fall, but expanded for all redeemed people. "Healing of the nations" means the removal of all strife, pain, sin, and division, ushering in perfect peace and unity under God's reign. And believers will serve God and the Lamb directly. We will see his face!

"Face to face with Christ, my Savior. Face to face how can it be?
When with rapture I behold him, Jesus Christ, who died for me."
("Face to Face with Christ, My Savior," written by Carrie Ellis Breck)

Here's the really amazing thing about this New Earth: **No longer will there be any curse.**

The Curse Is Lifted

This is part of the curse:

Genesis 3:14 - 15: *So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. ¹⁵And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."*

God made it clear from the first sin that he had a plan to redeem his people and retake them for his glory.

And what was the curse of sin? It was death. It was separation from God. It was toil and trouble. It was banishment from the perfect place, Eden. We will spend all of eternity in the Final Heaven—the New Earth, New Jerusalem, and New Heaven.

Matthew 25:31 - 34:

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. ³⁴“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.’”

Ephesians 1:7 - 10:

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, ⁹he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.



Looking through Forever Eyes

See the perfect New Earth with the New Jerusalem, where you will spend eternity if you have placed your trust in Jesus as your Savior. See the River of Life flowing from the Throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the New Jerusalem.

Put these glasses on frequently. Remember what God has prepared for those who love him.

1 Corinthians 2:9: *However, as it is written: “What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived”— the things God has prepared for those who love him!*

Life without the Curse

- **The curse on the earth will be lifted.**

Genesis 3:17b – 19a: *“Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life.¹⁸ It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food...”*

- **There will be no more death.**

Genesis 2:17: *“...but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”*

Genesis 3:19: *By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”*

- **There will be no more sin.**

Romans 8:1-2: *Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ²because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.*

1 Corinthians 15:22: *For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.*

So, what will life be like when people don't sin?
What will *you* be like when you no longer have that old sin nature?

"In our resurrection bodies, we will again dwell on Earth—a New Earth—completely free of the Curse. Unencumbered by sin, human activity will lead naturally to a prosperous and magnificent culture." (Heaven by Randy Alcorn, p. 106)

The Earth will be as God intended. But never forget that it comes at a terrible cost:

Galatians 3:13: *Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole."*

"The removal of the Curse will be as thorough and sweeping as the redemptive work of Christ. In bringing us salvation, Christ has already undone some of the damage in our hearts, but in the end he will finally and completely restore his entire creation to what God originally intended. Christ will turn back the Curse and restore to humanity all that we lost in Eden, and he will give us much more besides." (Heaven by Randy Alcorn, p. 107)

Romans 8:19 – 21: *For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.*

Joy to the World – No more let sins and sorrow grow, or thorns infest the ground. He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found.

"We have never seen the earth as God made it. Our planet as we know it is a shadowy, halftone image of the original. But it does whet our appetites for the New Earth, doesn't it? . . . And what will it be like to experience the New Earth in something else we've never known: perfect bodies." (Heaven by Randy Alcorn, p. 108)

Isaiah 65:17 – 19, 21 - 25

"See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind.¹⁸ But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy.¹⁹ I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in my people; the sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more. . . ²¹They will build houses and dwell in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit. ²²No longer will they build houses and others live in them, or plant and others eat. For as the days of a tree, so will be the days of my people; my chosen ones will long enjoy the work of their hands. ²³They will not labor in vain, nor will they bear children doomed to misfortune; for they will be a people blessed by the LORD, they and their descendants with them.²⁴ Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear.²⁵ The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, and dust will be the serpent's food. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain," says the LORD.

What do we learn from this passage about the New Earth?

- Former things will not be remembered—memories of hurt or shame or regret. No bad memories.
- No more crying
- We will build and plant – do work—and it will be enjoyable and good. No toil.
- We will ask God for things and he will give them.
- There will be animals, both tame and wild ones, living in harmony, never causing harm.

Our Resurrected Bodies

We will be resurrected with new bodies at the Second Coming of Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:12 – 19:

But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. ¹⁵ More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. ¹⁹ If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

If we don't believe that Jesus was raised from the dead in a body, then everything we believe is useless including our faith.

"Christ's resurrection is not a matter of a 'spirit appearance,' but the utterly unprecedented, unique, world-transforming, heaven-anticipating, sovereign action of the Creator in the first installment of remaking the world." (Bruce Milne, *Heaven* by Randy Alcorn, p. 148)

Resurrection means that we will have bodies. "Our physical bodies are an essential aspect of who we are, not just shells for our spirits to inhabit." (*Heaven* by Randy Alcorn, p. 113)

We will have a resurrected body like Jesus' resurrected body.

Philippians 3:20 – 21: *But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.*

1 John 3:2: *Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.*

Jesus told the disciples that he was not a ghost:

Luke 24:39: *"Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."*

The disciples saw Jesus in his resurrected body to look like an "earth man."

John 20:25 – 28:

But he (Thomas) said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

²⁸ Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

The nail prints and pierced side "are the strongest possible affirmation that the same earthly body that was crucified is now the same heavenly body that was raised." (*Heaven* by Randy Alcorn, p. 121)

1 Corinthians 15: 35, 42 – 44, 49, 51 – 52:

³⁵ But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?" ..

⁴² So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; 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. . . ⁴⁹ And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we bear the image of the heavenly man.

⁵¹ Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— ⁵² in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

So, we will have new bodies, sin-free bodies, and we will be who we are. There will be continuity from this life to the next.

Job 19:26 – 27: *And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God;²⁷ I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!*

John 21:4 – 6, 9 – 10, 12 - 13

⁴ Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.⁵ He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?" "No," they answered. ⁶ He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

⁹ When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.¹⁰ Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." ¹² "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish.

"The fact that Jesus picked up his relationships where they'd left off is a foretaste of our own lives after we are resurrected. We will experience continuity between our current lives and our resurrected lives, with the same memories and relational histories." (Heaven by Randy Alcorn, p. 118)

After his resurrection Christ communicated with his disciples and showed his love to them as a group and as individuals. We will also have resurrected relationships with those in Heaven with us.

Food in the New Earth

Jesus ate with the disciples in his resurrected body. We know there will be eating in the New Earth. First, there is the tree of life with a different fruit every month. Then there is the wedding supper of the Lamb.

Revelation 19:9: *Then the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!" And he added, "These are the true words of God."*

Isaiah 25:6 – 8: *On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine—the best of meats and the finest of wines. ⁷ On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; ⁸ he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people's disgrace from all the earth. The LORD has spoken.*



“Joni Eareckson Tada says it well: ‘Somewhere in my broken, paralyzed body is the seed of what I shall become. The paralysis makes what I am to become all the more grand when you contrast atrophied, useless legs against splendid resurrected legs. I’m convinced that if there are mirrors in heaven (and why not?), the image I’ll see will be unmistakably “Joni,” although a much better, brighter Joni.’ Inside your body, even if it is failing, is the blueprint for your resurrection body. You may not be satisfied with your current body or mind—but you’ll be thrilled with your resurrection upgrades.” (Heaven by Randy Alcorn, p. 124)

All Creation Will Be Redeemed

Colossians 1:15 – 20 (The Message):

We look at this Son and see the God who cannot be seen. We look at this Son and see God’s original purpose in everything created. For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible, rank after rank after rank of angels—*everything* got started in him and finds its purpose in him. He was there before any of it came into existence and holds it all together right up to this moment. And when it comes to the church, he organizes and holds it together, like a head does a body.

18-20 He was supreme in the beginning and—leading the resurrection parade—he is supreme in the end. From beginning to end he’s there, towering far above everything, everyone. So spacious is he, so expansive, that everything of God finds its proper place in him without crowding. Not only that, but all the broken and dislocated pieces of the universe—people and things, animals and atoms—get properly fixed and fit together in vibrant harmonies, all because of his death, his blood that poured down from the cross.

In his sermon in Acts 3, Peter confirms that the OT prophecies were promises from God about the restoration of the earth and everything else:

Acts 3:21: *Heaven must receive him (Jesus Messiah) until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets.*

The Promise of the New Earth

Our our final destination after we die in Christ is to dwell on the New Earth containing a New Jerusalem in our new bodies. “By calling the New Earth *earth*, God emphatically tells us it will be earthly, and thus familiar. Otherwise, why call it Earth?” (Heaven by Randy Alcorn, p. 164)

C.S. Lewis said: “If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world.” (Heaven by Randy Alcorn, p. 166)

You and I are made for another world. God put eternity in our heart. “What we love about this life are the things that resonate with the life we were made for. The things we love are not merely the best this life has to offer—they are previews of the greater life to come.” (Heaven by Randy Alcorn, p. 167)

1 Corinthians 15:58: *Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.*

- **Stand firm. Let nothing move you.**
- **Give yourself fully to the work of the Lord.**
- **Your labor is not in vain.**