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led by Mary Lowman

Worship on the New Earth

There will be no temple in the New Jerusalem.

Revelation 21:22: *I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.*

Revelation 5:9 – 13:

And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.¹⁰ You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.”¹¹ Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders.¹² In a loud voice they were saying: “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!”¹³ Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!”



Revelation 7:9 – 12

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.¹⁰ And they cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”

¹¹All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,¹² saying: “Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God forever and ever. Amen!”

Revelation 21:3: *And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.*

This describes John’s vision of the New Heaven when we will first arrive and be in the presence of God, before his throne. Imagine worshiping God with thousands of others from every tribe and nation—image the sound. Our ears will hardly be able to handle it, much less our eyes. Surely, as described here in Revelation, we will have times of corporate worship.

When we worship on the New Earth, we'll never have to repent! This will be after we appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ. That is another subject we're not addressing in this series but remember that believers will appear before the judgment seat of Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:10: *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.*

Romans 14:10 – 12: *You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. It is written: "As surely as I live," says the Lord, "every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God." So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.*

That will happen once, and our failures are forever forgiven and forgotten.

John 17:24: *"Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world."*

Our greatest satisfaction and pleasure will be to see Jesus' glory.

John Piper: "God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him."

So, there will be multitudes—millions of multitudes—who will be with us on the New Earth—in Heaven. How can Jesus be with all of us and give us personal attention?

"So, although we cannot conceive exactly how it could happen, I believe it's entirely possible that Jesus could in the future remain a man while fully exercising the attributes of God, including, at least in some sense, omnipresence." (Heaven by Randy Alcorn, p. 189)

Or could it be that because time will no longer exist, we will just wait our turn to be alone with Jesus and it won't seem like any time at all, because we won't live in time?

We know that Jesus is now seated at the right hand of God in the present Heaven. But he is with us here now. He dwells in our hearts, living with us:

Ephesians 3:16 – 17a: *I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.*

If Jesus dwells within us now, how much more can he dwell with us in the New Earth where sin no longer comes between us.

We are confident that we will have full, unhindered personal access to him.

We will be busy doing things God assigns for us to do, exploring the New Earth, working on the New Earth. All that we will do will be an act of worship.

We have many other things to do here on earth, and yet God tells us to be in his presence continually. Which means we can worship God while doing other things now, if we will.

Can you tell me of times in your life when you worshiped God while doing other things, and what that looks like?

Those are foretastes of Heaven, when we will be aware of God's presence at all times, when we will be doing what he gives us to do and it won't be hard or tiring, and we will worship as we work. We won't have to be reminded or urged to worship God; it will be part of who we are. We will want worship to go on forever—and it will!

What is the role of the Holy Spirit on the New Earth?

The Bible doesn't give us specific answers to this question, as it does to the roles of God the Father and God the Son. However, God the Holy Spirit is an equal member of the triune God and most certainly he will be present for all eternity. He took an active role in the creation of the earth in Genesis, and no doubt is taking an active role in the creation of the New Heaven.

Genesis 1:2: *Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.*

Genesis 1:26: *Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."*

What is the Holy Spirit's role now?

- **He indwells believers**—that's how we know we are a child of God.
Romans 8:9: *You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.*
- **He is our helper and comforter.**
John 14:26: *But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.*
- **He convicts us of sin.**
John 16:8: *When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment...*
- **He produces his fruit in us.**
Galatians 5:22-23: *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*
- **He intercedes for us.**
Romans 8:26 – 27: *In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.*
- **He guarantees our salvation.**
Ephesians 1:13 – 14: *And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.*

Which of these roles will be needed by us in Heaven on the New Earth?

When we praise God now—and then—we will be praising and worshiping the Triune God, Father, Son and Spirit

Who will rule with Christ on the New Earth?

Daniel 2:27-28, 44-45

Daniel replied, "No wise man, enchanter, magician or diviner can explain to the king the mystery he has asked about,²⁸ but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries. He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in days to come. Your dream and the visions that passed through your mind as you were lying in bed are these...

⁴⁴ "In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. ⁴⁵ This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands—a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces.

"The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy."

Daniel was born approximately 620 B.C. And Daniel was given this prophesy of how God will crush all the nations of earth and establish a new kingdom that will never be destroyed—the Kingdom of Heaven including the New Earth and the New Jerusalem.

Zechariah 9:9 – 10: Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.¹⁰ I will take away the chariots from Ephraim and the warhorses from Jerusalem, and the battle bow will be broken. He will proclaim peace to the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.

Just as the first part of this prophecy was fulfilled when Jesus rode the donkey into Jerusalem, the second part of this prophecy will be literally fulfilled when Jesus brings peace to all the nations and he will rule over the New Earth, on every part of the New Earth.

To reign means to have authority and rule. Jesus will have all authority in the New Heaven, and we will reign with him.

2 Timothy 2:11 – 12a: *Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him;¹² if we endure, we will also reign with him.*

Psalms 8:5 - 8: *You have made them (human beings) a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor.⁶ You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet:⁷ all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild,⁸ the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.*

Romans 8:16 – 17: *The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. ¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.*

We who have become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ will also share in the glory of Jesus, and that glory will be seen and known in the New Heaven, on the New Earth with the New Jerusalem.

“The right to exercise power comes from ownership. A king owns his kingdom, which consists of land. The extent of his rule is the extent of what he owns. Because God owns the entire universe, the Kingdom that falls into the lap of his heirs, his children, encompasses the entire universe. . . Christ, the firstborn, is the primary ruler, but we are called ‘co-heirs with Christ.’ God entrusts us to rule one prime piece of territory—Earth, which he created specifically for us.” (Heaven by Randy Alcorn, p. 218)

We will all have responsibilities given by God to rule this New Earth. Jesus will have all authority in Heaven, and he will determine who does what, who is in management and who is not. We will all be happy with what Jesus gives us to do, we will like it, we will do it better than ever before, and at the same time, we will rejoice in what others do and how well they do them without one bit of jealousy or disappointment or envy. Can you imagine!

1 Corinthians 14:33, 40: *For God is not a God of disorder but of peace—as in all the congregations of the Lord's people. . . Everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.*

On the New Earth Jesus will be the Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Financial Officer—the Chief officer of everything! And the New Earth will be managed in “a fitting and orderly way.”

“Perhaps God will offer us choices of where we might want to serve him. On the New Earth, we'll do what we want, but we'll want what God wants, and that will bring us our greatest joy. . . We'll have no more skepticism and disillusionment about government. Why? Because we'll be governed by Christlike rulers, and all of us will be under the grand and gracious government of Christ himself.” (Heaven by Randy Alcorn, p. 221)

You will be set free to be all that God created you to be!

Matthew 25:23: *“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’*”

Jesus is and always will be happy, and he invites us into his happiness. Jesus is happy and you will be exceedingly, overwhelming, unbelievably happy when you are in Heaven, doing what Jesus gives you to do, loving every minute of it, growing in the knowledge and grace of Jesus, and worshiping the One who deserves all honor and glory and power.

