

Set Apart: Future

Day 1 Scales

In 1867 the United States made a purchase totaling 7.2 million dollars. This might sound like a lot, especially considering what that kind of money was worth in 1867. What did we get for that money? Alaska! We paid Russia 2 cents an acre for our largest state. When evaluating the cost of something, we need to know more than the price, we also need to know the worth. What is in store for the Christian in the future tells us whether the sacrifices of the present are worthwhile. Check out this devotional to learn more:

<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/heaven-and-the-new-earth-from-the-bible-and-c-s-lewis/>

Verses: 1 Peter 2:4-9, Luke 6:38, Isaiah 40:31

Prayer Topics: Value, Hope, Meaning

Day 2

Joy

What is at the heart of the new heaven and the new earth? The unqualified joy of God! Check out this message to learn more:

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/sermon/the-unqualified-joy-of-the-god-centered-new-heaven-and-new-earth/>

Verses: John 5:24, Ecclesiastes 3:11, John 17:3

Prayer Topics: Eternity, Celebration, Treasure

Day 3

Perishable to Imperishable

Why do we need a new heaven and a new earth? Matter must be remade so that it can overcome the curse of our sin in the garden. We need new spiritual bodies, and all creation needs the same kind of makeover. To learn more, check out this article:

<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/what-happens-when-you-die-glorified-and-free-on-the-new-earth>

Verses: 1 Corinthians 15:42-44, 1 John 3:2, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Prayer Topics: Eternal, Renewed, Purity

Day 4

Complete

God's redemption will be complete:

"Resurrection is the hinge on which the problem of suffering turns. This is a groaning creation, we are groaning people and the Holy Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings (v. 26). God does not minimize or deny suffering. He tackles it head-on in perhaps the most triumphant chapter in the Bible.

Think again of 2 Corinthians 4:17. It says that eternal glory far outweighs our worst suffering. It's not that temporary suffering is so small; it's that eternal glory is so huge. Your suffering may be a boulder the size of the Rock of Gibraltar. But suppose you put that rock on one side of the scales, then on the other side you put the planet Jupiter. In and of themselves our sufferings may be weighty, but compare them to eternal glory, everlasting happiness, endless beauty, and unbroken relationships. The relative weights change our perspective, don't they?

God never gave up his plans for us and for the earth. Not only will our bodies rise, but earth itself will be reborn and become all God intended it to be.

How far will redemption reach? Isaac Watts, a great hymn writer and an accomplished theologian, nailed it in Joy to the World: "Far as the curse is found." God's redemptive plan includes all the groaning creation — people and animals. God will not abandon his creation; he will redeem it. He doesn't give up on the earth any more than he gives up on us. Righteous humanity will indeed rule the earth to the glory of God — forever."

--Quoted from "C.S. Lewis on Heaven and the New Earth: God's Eternal Remedy to the Problem of Evil and Suffering"

Read or listen to the whole thing here:

<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/c-s-lewis-on-heaven-and-the-new-earth-gods-eternal-remedy-to-the-problem-of-evil-and-suffering>

Prayer Topics: Suffering, Redemption, Glory

Day 5

Thanks to Sylvester Warsaw, Jr for our devotional today

In Christ Jesus we're not just mere people, we're priests of a royal priesthood, citizens of a holy nation and not this world and Jesus is the high priest. As priests, our responsibility is to deal with the sacredness of life that gives life meaning and not the trivialness of the noise of this world order that distracts you from the issues of the heart that only God can address. As God's priest, we carry not only His presence but also His essence and that's key because it's God's essence that makes the difference. We can never escape the presence of God, however, God can remove His essence, His holiness from us when His name is profaned, blasphemed. As God's priest, we don't dwell on nor deny the presence of evil because we know there's no greater authority, power, entity or principality greater than God and as a result when God calls us we rise up to worship and not play because the battle belongs to the Lord, 1 Sam.17:47. As a matter of fact Satan knows who belongs to God, Acts 19:11-20. There's no greater joy and assignment on planet earth than being God's priest because as priest we're concerned about where people will spend eternity and as His child we know God doesn't desire that any should perish but repent because He didn't create man to be separated from Him but

with Him belonging to His family for all eternity. The silver and gold of this world can't buy God's essence, Acts 3:6; 8:17-25. As God's priest we're humbled by the reality that God chooses to allow us to carry the good news of the gospel, Nahum 1:15; Is. 52:7; Rom. 10:15. As God's priest, we know our purpose and as a result we never have to search for purpose or redefine ourselves because He has given us our assignment in Him as we labor here in His vineyard on planet earth knowing this isn't final because this is finite and not eternal. Eternal life is in God alone.