

THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH (A BRIEF SUMMARY)

- A. The **original heavens and earth** were created and formed **to last forever**, and all that He had made **was very good** (Gen. 1:31):
1. The **moon** will last forever. (Psa. 89:37; 148:3)
 2. The **sun** will last forever. (Psa. 72:5; 89:36; 148:3)
 3. The **earth** will last forever. (Psa. 78:69; 104:5; Eccl. 1:4)
- B. The **universe was subjected to futility**, first through Satan's fall (Ezek. 28:12-16; Isa. 14:12-14; Rom. 8:19-22; Rev. 12:4); then the **earth was subjected to futility** through the fall of man. (Gen. 3:17-19; Rom. 8:19-22) **Note:** Some teach that Satan's fall occurred between Gen. 1:1 and Gen. 1:2 - "the Gap Theory." However, it is more probable that Satan fell during the events of Gen. 2:5-3:1. – (4004BC-?)
- C. The **universal flood in 2348 BC** reshaped the earth and the earth was divided:
1. The universal flood **reshaped the earth**. (Gen. 7:10-12) – (2348 BC)
 2. The **earth was divided** (probably by the continental shifts to the locations we find the continents today) (Gen. 10:25) – (2247 to 2008BC)
 3. The **languages were confounded** by God at the construction of the tower of Babel. (Gen. 11:6-9) – (2182 BC)
 4. **Creation groans** even today awaiting the return of Jesus Christ and *the sons of God* at His second advent. (Rom. 8:18-22; 2 Peter 3:7)
- D. The **heavens and the earth** will be **changed again** at the **second advent** of Jesus Christ in preparation for His millennial reign. (Psa. 102:25, 26; Heb. 1:10, 11)
1. **A new heavens and a new earth** will be created (or recreated). (Isa. 65:17-25; Isa. 66:1-24; cf. Isa. 66:22; 2 Peter 3:12, 13)
 2. There will be **judgment on the transgression** of the peoples of the earth. (Isa. 24:17-23) **Note:** The transgression "*will fall never to rise again,*" not the earth. (Isa. 51:6d, e; Zech.14:1-21; Rev.6:14b)

3. The **heavens will melt, be split apart, be rolled up, and wear out** (stars falling to earth). (Isa. 34:1-5; cf. Isa.34:4; Isa. 51:6c; Matt. 24:29; Mk. 13:24, 25; Lk. 21:25, 26; 2 Pet. 3:12; Rev. 6:12-17)
 4. ***“Heaven and the earth will pass away,”*** (Matt. 24:35; Mk. 13:31; Luke. 21:33)
Note: Heaven and earth, as we now know them, **will come to an end**; but they will not be destroyed;:
 - a. The Greek word **used here** is *parerchomai* (παρέρχομαι – meaning: to come to the end, to loose force, to become invalid, to go by, to pass away). This word allows for restoration and renovation of the heavens and the earth. This same word is used in Rev. 21:1.
 - b. The Greek word **not used here** is *apollumi* (απόλλυμι – meaning: **to ruin, to destroy**, to cause to perish, to cause to be lost). (Exception: Heb. 1:10)
- E. There will be a final ***“new heaven and new earth”*** (Rev. 21:1) after the ***“great white throne”*** judgment of Rev. 20:11.
1. **Heaven and earth fled away** from the presence of Him who will sit in judgment, the Lord Jesus Christ. **All judgment has been given** to the Lord Jesus Christ. (John 5:22, 27; Acts 10:42; 17:31; 2 Tim. 4:1; 1 Pet. 4:5)
Note: Again the word ***“flee”*** is *pheugo* (φεύγω – meaning: flee, seek safety in flight flee from, avoid disappear). This word is used to relate the fact that the ***“great white throne”*** is outside of time and space, possibly in the ***“third heaven.”*** (2 Cor. 12:1-4) Apparently there is no place for the heavens or the earth in the third heaven.
 2. John describes ***“a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea.”***
Note: The word first is *protos* (πρώτος – meaning: first, earliest, or **earlier** [used as ***“earlier”*** in Heb. 9:15]
Also, the word *parerchomai* is the same word as found in Matt. 24:35.
See point # 4-a above.
 3. **Restored Israel** will be living **in the land of Israel forever**. (Ezek. 37:21-28; Isa. 34:16, 17; Joel 3:20; Micah 4:7; cf. Daniel 7:18, 27)