

Countryside

Bible
Church

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What's the Problem?

(If I tell you the truth, will you come to church?)

One might get the impression today that Adam and Eve (and subsequently the human race) were ejected from heaven? That was never the problem. If it had been then redemption would require being restored to heaven. Of course, Adam and Eve were never in heaven. God placed them in an environment created specifically for them.

The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD'S: but the earth hath he given to the children of men. Psalm 115:16

It may surprise many but the bible never speaks of God's kingdom as being in heaven, but rather on earth. "Heavenly" and "of heaven" describe its qualities not it's location. It is "heavenly" as opposed to earthly. Earthly describes what things are like now. Heavenly describes what God's kingdom will be like. As Jesus taught us to pray,

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.
Matt.6:10

"Of heaven" means it is of God rather than man. It is the kingdom God will create.

Was the earth a mistake to be destroyed? "...so many professing Christians have taken up the ancient Gnostic heresy that despises the material world, rejects bodily pleasure as inherently sinful, and presents a picture of people who act as if God, by Creation, made a dreadful mistake . . ." Edward Fudge, author of THE FIRE THAT CONSUMES.

God's own evaluation was "very good" (Gen.1:31). God's plan for the earth will not be denied.

For this is what the LORD says-- he who created the heavens, he is God; he who fashioned and made the earth, he founded it; he did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited-- he says: "I am the LORD, and there is no other. Isaiah 45:18

Of all the wonders of God's Genesis creation, humankind was His crown jewel, the ones created in His image. Did that first couple give themselves a chance to begin to know their own God-given potential before they squealched it with disobedience? They were given dominion over all God had created. And as fine and beautiful as it was, they did not dwell in paradise long enough to discover what they could do with what God had given them. Besides the obvious bounty and beauty they were in the midst of wonders hidden everywhere waiting for their discovery and benefit. Has God allowed us to have a glimpse in these end times? Have we only scratched the surface of possibilities? I suspect so. The bible says,

However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"-- 1 Cor. 2:9

This end-time increase in knowledge (Dan.12:4) may serve to illustrate some of the possibilities that may be on the horizon for God's faithful people. In any case, man is evermore learning of the wonders inherent in Creation unimagined a few short years ago. Sadly, however, every development (virtually everything) in this "present evil age" (Gal. 1:4) has a serious down side. But not in the age to come.

They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. Isaiah 11:9
Habakkuk iterates a similar promise.

For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. Habakkuk 2:14

True, the earth today is not paradise, but it will be.

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise (i.e.; park) of God. Rev. 2:7

It's a promise.

Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. 2 Peter 3:13

Consider these prophetic vignettes. (NIV)

You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. Isaiah 55:12

Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert.

But only the redeemed will walk there and the ransomed of the LORD will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away. Isaiah 35:6, 9b-10

Being ejected from heaven was never the problem. Sin brought death (public enemy #1, 1Cor. 15:26) and being driven from Eden (paradise) into a curse-laden earth. The gospel of Christ promises life and an inheritance in God's curse-lifted earth, a beautiful creation as it was meant to be.

Send \$10 for a copy of THE COMING KINGDOM OF THE MESSIAH, by Sir Anthony Buzzard.

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