

CatClub: Question 52



Last week we thought about the significance for us of Christ's ascension to heaven; in this final week we consider the Christian's great hope, which is everlasting life.

1. Q52 asks: What hope does everlasting life hold for us? Answer: **It reminds us that this present fallen world is not all there is; soon we will live with and enjoy God for ever in the new city, in the new heaven and the new earth, where we will be fully and forever freed from all sin and will inhabit renewed, resurrection bodies in a renewed, restored creation.**

2. Investigation - please look up:

1. (In the New Testament) Hebrews chapter 13, verse 14. The writer (some think it was the apostle Paul, but no author is mentioned) says that in this world nothing endures for ever – everything is temporary and will come to an end. But this world is not all that there is: **after Jesus returns there will be a 'city' in the new heaven and new earth which will endure and in which believers will live for ever.**

2. (In the New Testament) 2 Peter chapter 3, verse 13. The disciple/apostle Peter tells us that **the new heaven and new earth will be characterised by righteousness, meaning that in it there will be no sin at all.**

3. (In the New Testament) Philippians chapter 3, verses 20-21. Although believers are currently living in this world as it was originally created by God, our citizenship, meaning our ultimate spiritual home, is in heaven, where we will go when we die. **However, there will be an even greater future for us because we are waiting for Jesus to return and usher in the new heaven and new earth – in which we will live with gloriously transformed bodies just like Jesus' resurrection body.**

4. (In the New Testament) Revelation chapter 21, verses 1-5a. The disciple/apostle John, writing at the end of his long life, is granted a vision of the new heaven and new earth (after the current creation has ceased to exist). **In this vision we see that there will be a special 'Holy City' in which believers will live with God himself. In this entirely new, wonderful place there will be no sadness, no pain and no mourning because death itself will have been abolished.**

This week's songs:

'A New Earth': <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SH8WUwMRrYg>

'He is Our God': <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LmBNn-u2vT4>

'The Lord bless you and keep you':

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QcYzO8Y4PH0>

Hebrews 13:14

¹⁴ For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.

(‘here’ = in this world)

2 Peter 3:13

¹³ But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

Philippians 3:20-21

²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour 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.

Revelation 21:1-5a

¹ Then I saw ‘a new heaven and a new earth,’ for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 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. ⁴ He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.’ ⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, ‘I am making everything new.’