

BIBLE INSTITUTE OF MISSOURI TUESDAY NIGHT CLASS – 8/25/26
THEME: UNDERSTANDING GOD’S COVENANTS, LAW, AND JUDGMENT
LESSON 2: WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE EARTH AT JUDGEMENT?

Introduction:

1. In the religious world today, there are many crazy ideas about the judgment, including heaven and hell.
 - a. Specifically, there are many who suggest that hell is not real or question whether it exists at all.
 - b. Even pope Francis, in an article dated 2018 seems to suggest the fact that hell was not a real place.
 - c. Others like Judaism, Hinduism, Sikhism do not teach the idea of a permanent Hell.
2. As far as heaven, many also have strange ideas which are not founded in the Scriptures.
 - a. Some say that heaven is simply a communion with God.
 - b. Others suggest it is simply gardens of bliss where the presence of God is.
 - c. Some go further to suggest that heaven is a renewed physical creation which will consist of a new heaven and a new earth made by God.
 - d. Furthermore, some go one step further and suggest that the earth will actually be remade or renewed to be this eternally heavenly place.
3. As always, the place to find the answer to all these things is only God’s word, and they are not found in man at all!
4. So, our goal in this study will be to understand what will happen to the Earth when the judgment of God comes to fruition.

I. Understanding the Judgment.

A. What is it?

1. A time when all will stand before God and give an account.
2. Romans 14:10-12.

B. When will it be?

1. No one knows the day or the hour.
2. Matthew 24:42-44, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-2

C. Who will be affected by it?

1. It’s appointed that all men should die and be judged.
2. Hebrews 9:27.

II. What specifically will happen at the judgment?

A. Jesus will come in the clouds.

1. The Lord is coming, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-15.
2. The Lord will descend from heaven with a shout, 1 Thessalonians 4:16.
3. The dead in Christ will rise first, 1 Thessalonians 4:16.

4. Then those who are alive - we shall all be changed, 1 Corinthians 15:51-54.
5. Then we who are alive will meet the Lord in the air with the dead, and thus we all shall always be with the Lord, 1 Thessalonians 4:17
- B. So, the reality is, "We will all stand before the judgment seat of God," 2 Corinthians 5:9-11.
- C. We will all be judged.
 1. By God's Word, John 12:46-50.
 2. By our works, Revelation 14:12-13.
- D. As the faithful, we will go to be with the Lord. John 14:1-3, 1 Thessalonians 4:17.

III. So, what will happen to the heavens and the Earth?

- A. The Earth would never again be destroyed by water, Genesis 9:11.
- B. Jesus spoke of an eternal hell fire/destruction, Matthew 5:22, 10:28, 13:41-42, 25:41-46, Mark 9:43.
- C. The inspired John and Peter deal clearly with what will happen to the heavens and the Earth at the judgment.
 1. The first heaven and Earth will pass away, Revelation 21:1.
 2. The heavens will pass away, and the earth will melt and be burned up, 2 Peter 3:10-12.
 3. Consider the words used in the passage concerning the heavens and earth, pass away with a great noise, melt with fervent heat, burned up, dissolved, dissolved being on fire, melt with fervent heat.
 - a. Heavens will Pass away = perish
 - b. With great noise = great roar
 - c. Element will melt = (elementary things, flesh = dissolve) melt is same word as in verse 11 – since these things will be dissolved and verse 12 dissolve being on fire.
 - d. Will melt (different word) with fervent heat = literally to melt away.

IV. Why does God speak of a new heaven and a new earth? 2 Peter 3:13

- A. First, let me remind you that God and heaven are not made of flesh or blood.
 1. God is a Spirit, John 4:23-24.
 2. Heaven is not made up of physical things, or flesh and blood, 1 Corinthians 15:50.
 3. Even Jesus said His kingdom was not of this world, John 18:36.
 4. Heaven is a spiritual/spirit place, Ephesians 2:6, John 14:2-4, Revelation 4:2.
- B. God was using earthly ideas and concepts to help people have confidence in the afterlife:
 1. Illiteracy was rampant in the Roman Empire; in fact, as many as 85% to 90% of the population could not read or write.

2. What do people think of when they think of life and what is needed to live or exist?
3. God was using ideas and concepts which the people could understand and which the people would be able to relate to as far as living in relationship to the afterlife or eternal life. 2 Peter 3:13, John 14:1-2, Revelation 21, mansions, streets of gold, pearl gates, etc.

Conclusion:

1. As you can see, the Bible is clear on what will happen to all physical things and the earth in the end; it will be destroyed by fire.
2. This is because Heaven is a spiritual place and is not made up of physical things or fleshly existence.
3. Paul further clarifies this point in 1 Corinthians 15:44-49 (Ecclesiastes 12:6-7) when describing the fleshly man and the spiritual man, one is of the dust and one is of God, one is temporary and one is eternal, one is destroyed and one returns to God.
4. Oh, that men today would be satisfied with just believing and accepting God's Word for what it says, rather than trying to come up with new ideas and theories to appease themselves and others which are not supported by the Word of God.
5. As the Bible says, don't put your trust and hope in the earth, flesh, or mankind, for they will let you down and they will perish, 1 John 2:17, 1 Peter 1:24-25, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18.