1. Introduction – I am Sean Costello. We are studying Randy Alcorn’s book, Heaven. This is our 6th week. Glad to be back after having so much fun last week!

Summary of Last Week - Seeing The Earth Restored

* 1. Where and When Will our Deliverance Come?

Recognizing that Theologians differ over whether the Millennium should be understood as a literal thousand-year reign, and when it will occur in relation to the second coming of Christ, Alcorn clarifies that Christians generally hold one of three views about the Millennium: postmillennial, premillennial, or amillennial.

“But regardless of when the old Earth ends, the central fact is that the New Earth will begin. The Bible is emphatic that God’s ultimate Kingdom and our final home will not be on the old Earth but on the New Earth, where at last God’s original design will be fulfilled and enjoyed forever— not just for a thousand years. Hence, no matter how differently we may view the Millennium, we can still embrace a common theology of the New Earth. “

Alcorn’s position:

To this earth and after a literal Millennial Reign.

* 1. Will The Old Earth Be Destroyed? … Or Renewed?

Some Scriptures seem to answer “utterly destroyed”:

In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. Like clothing you will change them and they will be discarded. (Psalm 102: 25-26)

[Jesus said,] “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.” (Luke 21: 33)

The day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. (2 Peter 3: 10)

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. (Revelation 21: 1) Alcorn, Randy. 151

In contrast, there are other passages that speak of the earth remaining forever:

He built his sanctuary like the high heavens, like the earth, which he has founded forever. (Psalm 78:69

A generation goes, and a generation comes, but the earth remains forever. (Eccl 1:4)

* 1. Will the New Earth Be Familiar? … Like Home?

 “This is it. … the country for which I was made!” “At last, the real world!” “ I’ve been born. All my life on Earth was but a series of labor pains preparing me for this.” “This is joy itself. Every foretaste of joy in the Shadowlands was but the stab, the pang, the inconsolable longing for this place!” “How could anyone be satisfied with less than this?” Alcorn, 162.

Alcorn: More familiar than strange.

Introduction

If I were dealing with aspects of Heaven in their order of importance, I would have begun with a chapter about God and our eternal relationship with him. Alcorn, Randy.

This Week’s Lesson – Celebrating Our Relationship With God

3 Questions:

1. What Will It Mean To See God?
2. What Will It Mean For God To Dwell Among Us?
3. How Will We Worship God?

Opening Prayer

1. Starting Discussion Questions:
	1. What Will It Mean To See God? (Consider Exodus 33:18-23, 1 Timothy 6:16, Hebrews 12:14, Revelation 22:4, 1 Corinthians 15:51-54)
	2. What Will It Mean For God To Dwell Among Us? (Consider Revelation 21:1-3, John 10:30, John 14:7, 1 Peter 5:10, Revelation 21:4, Corinthians 13:12)
	3. How Will We Worship God? (Consider Psalm 16:6, Revelation 5:6-14, Revelation 7:9-12, Revelation 22:1-5)

**Sean’s Notes**

What Will It Mean To See God?

Exodus 33: **18**Moses said, “Please show me your glory.” **19**And he said, “I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name ‘The Lord.’ And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. **20**But,” he said, “you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live.” **21**And the Lord said, “Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, **22**and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. **23**Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen.”

1 Timothy 6: **16**who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

Hebrews 12: **14**Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

Revelation 22: **4**They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

1 Corinthians 15: **51**Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, **52**in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. **53**For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. **54**When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality,

What Will It Mean For God To Dwell Among Us?

Revelation 21: Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.

John 10: **30**I and the Father are one.”

John 14: **7**If you had known me, you would have known my Father also.From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

1 Peter 5:10 And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

Revelation 21: 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

1 Corinthians 13: **12**For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

How Will We Worship God?

Psalm 16: 5-6 The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, **I have a beautiful inheritance**.

Revelation 5:6-14 6 And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. 7 And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. 8 And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they sang a new song, saying,

“Worthy are you to take the scroll

 and to open its seals,

for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God

 **from every tribe and language and people and nation**,

10 **and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,**

 **and they shall reign on the earth.**”

11 Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice,

**“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,**

**to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might**

**and honor and glory and blessing!”**

**13 And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,**

**“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb**

**be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”**

14 And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

Revelation 7:9-12 9 After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” 11 And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

Revelation 22: Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb 2 through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. 3 No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. 4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5 And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, **and they will reign forever and ever**.