

## [#14] IS MY ETERNAL FUTURE IN HEAVEN OR ON EARTH?

Hello, my brothers and sisters, welcome back to the Cog Pod. This is your host, brother Ed. So many people have contemplated where they will spend eternity. Some aspire to eternal life in a heavenly paradise, and some aspire to eternal life on a paradise Earth. Let us begin this journey by saying that the Holy Scriptures indicate quite clearly that there will be eternal life both in heaven and on Earth. Yes, there will be those from the Earth who will live forever in heaven, and there will be those from the Earth who will forever on Earth. The object of podcast #14 will be to verify those statements scripturally. We going to search the scriptures to determine who, and what serves as the basis for where each of God's children will spend eternity. So, are you ready to begin the journey? Ok, let's get started. The Holy Scriptures indicate that some among mankind will most definitely inherit eternal life on Earth. Ooooh, who on earth wants that?

When it comes to the idea of eternal life on Earth, it seems to be foreign and undesirable to the minds and hearts of most of the human family. Given the current conditions of life on Earth, that is very understandable. But why is that the case, in view of one of the first commands God gave the original couple, Adam and Eve, found at Gen1:28. It says; **28God gave them his blessing and said: Have a lot of children! Fill the earth with people and bring it under your control. Rule over the fish in the ocean, the birds in the sky, and every animal on the earth. [CEV]** So, what mandate did Jehovah God issue the original man and woman? What did He charge them to do? It was to have a lot of children and fill the earth with people. To live for how long exactly? Without the introduction of sin, they, and all their sinless children, would have lived forever on Earth. Jehovah meticulously prepared the earth for mankind to live upon. After each successive creative day, He said that what He had created in preparation for mankind to inhabit the Earth, was 'good and very good'. The bountiful production of plant and animal life and the ecosystems of the Earth to sustain that life, are truly engineering marvels, that bespeak the incomparable wisdom and intelligence that belong only to the Almighty, and incomparable God Jehovah. It's important to note, thousands of years later, what He says His intentions still are at Isa 45:18 where He states; **For thus says Yahweh, who created the heavens (He is the God who formed the earth and made it; He established it and did not create it a formless place, but formed it to be inhabited), "I am Yahweh, and there is none else. [LSB]** So we see that thousands of years after Gen 1:28, Jehovah again states the He did not create the earth simply for nothing but formed it to be inhabited. He still intends for men and women to fill the earth with their

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offspring. Ps 115:16 says; **16**The heavens are the heavens of Jehovah; But the earth hath he given to the children of men. [ASV] Notice what Jesus said at Mt 5:5; **5**Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. [BSB] He also said at Mt 6:10; **Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.** [BSB] Does that not convey the idea that the Earth's *inhabitants* will be blessed by the coming heavenly kingdom? Now as we review some of the following scriptures, what do you surmise? We will begin with:

Ps 104:5; **5**He set the earth on its foundations; it can never be moved. [NIV] Next, consider:

Eccl 1:4; **4**Generations come and generations go, but the earth remains forever. [NIV] Now let's read:

Ps 37:9-11; **9**For evildoers will be cut off, But those who hope for Yahweh, they will inherit the land. **10**Yet a little while and the wicked man will be no more; You will look carefully at his place, and he will not be *there*. **11**But the lowly will inherit the land And will delight themselves in abundant peace. [LSB] Let's now take a look at:

Psalm 37:29; **29**The righteous will inherit the land and dwell in it forever. [NIV] Similarly:

Psalm 37:22; **22**Surely those He blesses will inherit the land, but the cursed will be destroyed. [BSB] Then we have:

Isa 61:21; **21**All your people will be righteous. They will possess their land forever, for I will plant them there with my own hands in order to bring myself glory. [NLT] And in regard to life on Earth, finally:

Rev 21:3; **3**And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying: "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man, and He will dwell with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God. [BSB]

And the Scriptures indicate that this inheritance of the land, or life on Earth, would come to some by means of a resurrection from the dead. This is evident from the following scriptures: We'll begin with:

Isaiah 26:19; **19**Your dead will live; their bodies will rise. Awake and sing, you who dwell in the dust! For your dew is like the dew of the morning, and the earth will bring forth her dead. Now consider;

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Job 14:14,15; **14**If someone dies, will they live again? All the days of my hard service I will wait for my renewal to come. **15**You will call and I will answer you; you will long for the creature your hands have made. [NIV] Then we have;

Daniel 12:2; **2**And many who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake, some to everlasting life, but others to shame and everlasting contempt. [BSB] we also have;

Acts 24:15; **15**and I have the same hope in God that they themselves cherish, that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked. [BSB] These scriptures are clearly indicative of life on Earth by means of a resurrection from the dead.

The administration of the coming heavenly kingdom will bring to the Earth the following scriptural promises found first at:

2 Pet 3:13; **13**But in keeping with God's promise, we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. [BSB] Here we have the promise of a new heavens and a new Earth. This promise was originally found at Isa 65:17 which states; "Look! I am creating new heavens and a new earth, and no one will even think about the old ones anymore. [NLT] Then we have the promise regarding the Earth at Habakkuk 2:14 which reads; **14**For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of Jehovah, as the waters cover the sea. [ASV] Then we have a very similar promise made centuries earlier at Numbers 14:21; **21**but in very deed, as I live, and as all the earth shall be filled with the glory of Jehovah [ASV] Another promise regarding the Earth is found at Isaiah 65:25 which states; **25**The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the ox; and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith Jehovah. [ASV] Not to be overlooked is Isaiah 2:2-4; **2**And it shall come to pass in the latter days, that the mountain of Jehovah's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. **3**And many peoples shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of Jehovah, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of Jehovah from Jerusalem. **4**And he will judge between the nations, and will decide concerning many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. [ASV]

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Isaiah's contemporary Micah, in the book bearing his name at chapter 4:2-4 points to future conditions on Earth in very similar fashion when he wrote; **2And many nations shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of Jehovah, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths. For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of Jehovah from Jerusalem; 3and he will judge between many peoples, and will decide concerning strong nations afar off: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. 4But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig-tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of Jehovah of hosts hath spoken it. [ASV]**

Finally in this regard consider Zechariah 14:9; **9And Jehovah shall be King over all the earth: in that day shall Jehovah be one, and his name one. [ASV]**

From the afore cited scriptures, is it not evident that everlasting life on Earth is central in Almighty God Jehovah's purpose for mankind? Why do you think most humans do everything they can to remain on Earth as long as possible, so long as they are enjoying reasonably good health? For most humans, life on Earth is similar to the life of a fish in water. Fish don't really want to leave the water, because water is the domain they were created to live in, and most humans don't really want to leave the Earth for the very same reason. Mankind was created to live on the Earth. Hence makes sense the adage: "Everybody wants to go to heaven, but nobody wants to die." Hmmm. Most humans do not want to leave this Earth, and they do not want their loved ones to leave the Earth either; hence all the grief and sorrow we see and experience at funerals. We came out of the earth, and at death we go back to it. However, if offered the opportunity to live on Earth forever, with all their loved ones, with no sickness, sorrow, pain, or death, and if conditions on Earth were the same as those in Heaven; what would most humans choose? Not surprisingly, that's what Jesus taught us to pray for in the model prayer at Mt 6:10 where He says; **10 your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. [NIV]**

Please remember too that life on Earth is so wonderfully unique and full of desirable things, that it prompted angels who were in line for eternal life in heaven, to give up their eternal life in heaven with the very serious consequences pointed out at Jude 1:6 in these words; **6And I remind you of the angels who did not stay within the limits of**

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authority God gave them but left the place where they belonged. God has kept them securely chained in prisons of darkness, waiting for the great day of judgment. [NLT] These spirit entities gave up everlasting life in heaven to *temporarily* enjoy the environment that Jehovah gave to sons of men. What does that tell you? Life in Heaven is undoubtably wonderfully exquisite, but so is life on Earth. So much so, that many heavenly entities left eternal life in heaven to have an earthly experience, even though it would mean the *end of their eternal life in heaven*. This is scripturally brought to our attention at Gen 6:1-4 where it states; **1**Now it happened, when men began to multiply on the face of the land, and daughters were born to them, **2**that the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were good *in appearance*; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose. **3**Then Yahweh said, “My Spirit shall not strive with man forever because he indeed is flesh; nevertheless his days shall be 120 years.” **4**The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men, and they bore *children* to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown. [LSB] Please think about that. Eternal life on Earth is no second-rate experience in view of what those entities that had been in existence for untold millions and perhaps billions of years determined. The ability to procreate and produce a family carried such appeal, that angels left their proper places knowing it would mean a termination of their existence. Please think about this also. If Adam and Eve had not sinned; under what circumstances would any human ever have *need* to go to heaven? As is evident from the scriptural account, in the Garden of Eden, Jehovah regularly visited our grandparents during the breezy part of the day to personally communicate with them. That make us appreciate even more the significance of Rev 21:3&4, when it says; **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. **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.” [ESV]

So, if Jehovah is going to dwell with *men*, and there will be no sickness, sorrow, pain, death, crime, hunger or any of these things on the new Earth, then why leave it for paradise? Is that not what Eden was, a *paradise* garden? Expanding that paradisaic garden to encompass the entire inhabited Earth was the task that Jehovah assigned to our original parents Adam and Eve, was it not? So where did the influence and interest

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of man to inhabit the spirit realm come from? Why was it necessary for humans to leave Earth for life in Heaven, and who was the first to do so? Who, is going to determine who goes where for all eternity? What do the Holy Scriptures have to say about matters regarding heavenly life for humans? These are all matters that will be addressed in part 2 of podcast #14, 'Is My Eternal future in Heaven or on Earth'. It's going to be an informative journey, and I look forward to joining you in it. So, for now, this is brother Ed saying so long and I hope you'll join me next week. It's gonna be goooood!!!!