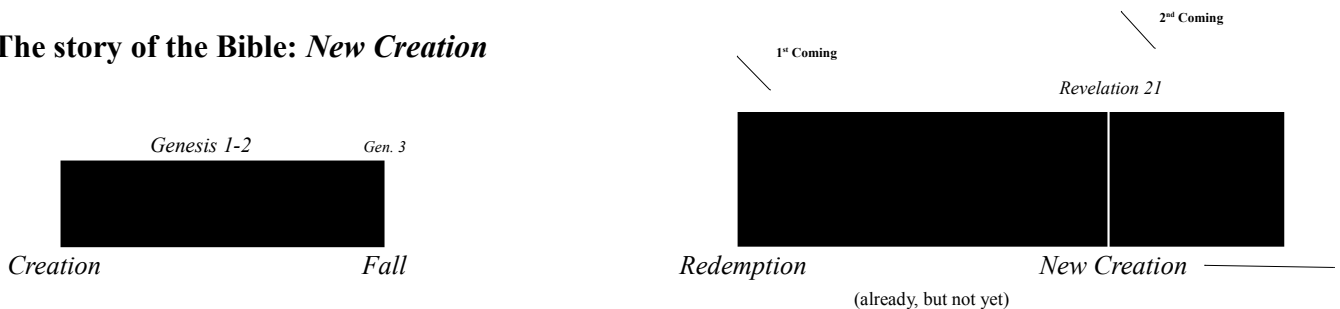


The Resurrected Life

~ *The Apostles' Creed* ~

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
 the maker of heaven and earth,
 and in Jesus Christ, his only son, our lord:
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, dead, and buried;
 he descended into hell.
 The third day he arose again from the dead;
 he ascended into heaven,
 and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
 from there he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
 I believe in the Holy Spirit;
 the holy catholic church;
 the communion of saints;
 the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.

(1) The story of the Bible: *New Creation*



2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new creation**. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

(2) The Problem of Death

The Fall introduced death into creation. Jesus came to defeat death. The new creation is the reversal of death.

Genesis 2:16-17

¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely **die**.”

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is **death**, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:24-26

²⁴ Then comes the end, when Christ delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is **death**.

(3) The resurrection is the reversal of death, when we will gain glorified bodies.

Philippians 3:20-21

²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will **transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body**, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

1 John 3:2

Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that **when he appears we shall be like him**, because we shall see him as he is.

Colossians 3:3-4

³ For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life appears, then **you also will appear with him in glory**.

1 Corinthians 15:50-58

⁵⁰ I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 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, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." ⁵⁵ "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

3 Views on Eschatology:

(1) "Materialism"

There is no life after death. This world is all there is.
This is the philosophy of atheism and scientism. Cf. Ray Kurweil

This was a very popular philosophy in the Greek world.
Numerous forms:
Asceticism,
Gnosticism,
Neoplatonism, etc.

(2) "Spiritualism"

The spiritual world is what really matters.
One day, we will shed our physical bodies and become spirits.

(3) “New Creation”

This world was created good and perfect, but sin has marred it.

One day, God will restore and renew creation.

This is the unique Christian hope. We are not stuck in this broken world, so we don't give into despair. But our hope is not to escape this world to heaven, so we don't give up on this world.

Heaven

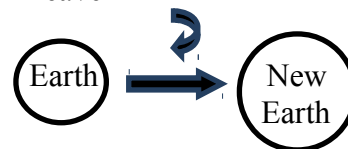


escape

Heaven



Heaven



(4) Biblical support for *New Creation*:

But what about Acts 1:9-11?

Acts 1:9-11

⁹ And when Jesus had said these things, as they were looking on, **he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.** ¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹ and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was **taken up from you into heaven**, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Heaven is not the ultimate goal. New Creation is.

Revelation 21:1-5

¹ 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. 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." ⁵ And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new."

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

¹³ But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁵ For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For **the Lord himself will descend from heaven** with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, **will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air**, and so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.