

New City Catechism Class

Week Fifty-Two

Q52: What hope does everlasting life hold for us?

A52: It reminds us that this present fallen world is not all there is; soon we will live with and enjoy God forever 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.

Revelation 21:1–4 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. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 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. 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.”

- What is the connection between this last question and the first?
- Why do we need to be reminded that this present fallen world is not all there is?
- What makes this world so enjoyable? So intolerable?
- Why do thoughts of heaven sometimes fail to inspire excitement or joyful hope?
- How do we typically envision or imagine heaven? Why is this?
- What are the comparisons and contrasts found in Revelation 21:1-4?
- What does “a new heaven and a new earth” imply?
- How might this passage (and the answer) connect with 1 Corinthians 15?
- What in the text might help indicate what the “holy city, new Jerusalem” represents?
- What things are done away in the new heaven and new earth?
- Why are we unable to enjoy God fully now? How can we learn to enjoy God more fully now?