

BIBLE TALK



Mike King-Minister

Question: Is it true that the righteous will someday inherit the physical earth?

Answer: NO! The Bible teaches that the righteous have a reward awaiting them in heaven (Mt. 5:12). The created earth and heaven, as we know them, are to pass away (Mt. 24:35). It is folly to advocate living in a place which has "*passed away*"!

David prophesied that the earth shall perish (Ps. 105:25, 26). How many ways can that be understood? The Hebrew writer warned that, "*As a garment it shall be folded up*" (1:10-12). God appointed spokesmen (prophets), to speak to the question at hand. John spoke through inspiration that the earth and heaven would "*flee away*" (Rev. 20:11). Isaiah precisely taught that, "*...the earth will wax old and vanish away*" (Isa. 51:6). It is not very encouraging if the earth (a non-existent place) is to be our eternal dwelling place!

The dwelling place of the righteous is in the heavens (2 Cor. 5:1). We are but "*strangers and pilgrims*" on this earth (Heb. 11:13), seeking a heavenly country (Heb. 11:16), awaiting the receiving of our heavenly inheritance (I Pet. 1:4). Therefore, our hope must be "*laid up in heaven*" (Col. 1:5). Jesus went to heaven (Acts 1:9-11) to prepare a place for us, which place is made up of "*many mansions*," which the righteous will receive upon being taken by the Lord upon His return (Jn. 14:2, 3). We shall be "*caught up in the clouds*" (I Thess. 4:16, 17) "*to meet the Lord in the air...and so shall we ever be with the Lord*" (v. 17). It would be a demotion for the righteous to live on this earth following death. We are spiritual beings and have been promised a heavenly home far removed from this earth which is "*eternal in the heavens*" (2 Cor. 5:1).

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