

## HANDOUT PART VIII: THE NEW CREATION

*Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; the first heaven and the first earth had disappeared now, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride dressed for her husband. Revelation 21:1-2*

Old Testament prophecy of the new creation: Isaiah 65:17-25 and 66:18-24. *For look, I am going to create new heavens and a new earth, and the past will not be remembered and will come no more to mind. Rather be joyful, be glad for ever at what I am creating, for look, I am creating Jerusalem to be “Joy” and my people to be “Gladness”* (Isaiah 65:17-18). The passage continues to promise a paradise where each of the curses of the Fall will be removed:

1. No weeping, no loss of infants after birth, and prolonged life in verses 19-20 suggests there will be no death; death was a result of the sin introduced in the Fall of Adam. This passage suggests the removal of the curse of Genesis 3:16.
2. That they will plant crops that produce and will not toil in vain in verse 21-23 suggests the removal of the curse of Genesis 3:18-19.
3. All animals will experience perfect peace [verse 25] and will eat together rather than eat each other in a reversal of the conditions after the Great Flood when the eating of animals was permitted and animals experienced fear for the first time in Genesis 9:2-3.
4. That “dust is the serpent’s food” in verse 25 suggests a continuation of the curse of Genesis 3:14 where the serpent is cursed *On your belly you will go and on dust you will feed as long as you live*—but perhaps a reprieve from the curse on man that he would return to the dust in Genesis 3:19.

Isaiah 66:18-24: In verse 22 the prophet speaks of a new creation: *For as the new heavens and the new earth I am making will endure before me, declares Yahweh, so will your race and your name endure.* The passage ends with a vision of all of the righteous in the family of man—Israelites and Gentiles—worshiping Yahweh in peace and joy but the “rebellious” are consigned to eternal torment.

Matthew 19:27-29: In this passage Jesus promises the Apostles that they will judge the twelve tribes of Israel *when everything is made new again and the Son of man is seated on his throne of glory.* Jesus is referring to the renewal of creation at the end of the Age of man.

St. Paul writes in Romans 8:19 and 21: *the whole of creation is waiting with eagerness for the children of God to be revealed.* It is God’s plan that *the whole creation itself might be freed from its slavery to corruption and brought into the same glorious freedom as the children of God.* This restoration is the common destiny of the cosmos and man. The universe will participate in the resurrection and the Final Judgment by being transformed into the fullness of the Kingdom when Christ the Bridegroom will live with His Bride in the eternal Jerusalem, returning the cosmos to its original state as a New Eden. See CCC# 1046.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines this event as the hope of the new heaven and the new earth in CCC# 1042-1050. The main points of citations 1042-45:

- CCC# 1042: The universe and everything in it will be renewed at the end of time when the Kingdom of God is fulfilled.
- CCC# 1043: This re-creation will be the definitive realization of God’s plan in bringing everything in the created order under the dominion of Christ as its head.
- CCC# 1044: The heavenly Jerusalem will be the dwelling place of God and the Church in perfect union.
- CCC# 1045: This event will be the final consummation and realization of the unity of the human race—restored and united to God for eternity.

Sacred Scripture describes the glorification of both man and the cosmos in the new creation in Revelation 19:1-9; 21:1- 22:5. Please read those passages.

A summary of St. John’s vision of the new creation:

- It is the time for the marriage supper of the Lamb and His Bride who is dressed in the good deeds of the Saints [19:7-9].
- The old creation will disappear in flames and a new heaven and new earth will take its place [21:1] and the earth will have no sea [perhaps a reminder of the waters of destruction generated by the Great Flood].
- The New Jerusalem will come down out of heaven prepared as a bride [21:3].
- God will make His home among men and the ravages of sin—death and suffering—will no longer exist [21:4].
- The whole of creation will be new and water from the well of life will flow freely [21:5-7].
- Those listed in the Lamb’s Book of Life will inhabit the Temple of the New Jerusalem 21:9-27].
- The River of Life flows out of the throne of God and the Lamb with Trees of Life growing on either side. Unlike the former Eden, which only had one Tree of Life, there is abundant life and health in the New Jerusalem [22:1-3].
- The curse of the Fall of man in Genesis 3:14-19 is abolished. There will be no night, God will be our light and the faithful will see Him face to face and will reign with Him forever [22:3-5].

CCC# 1060: *At the end of time, the Kingdom of God will come in its fullness. Then the just will reign with Christ for ever, glorified in body and soul, and the material universe itself will be transformed. God will then be “all in all” (1Cor 15:28), in eternal life.*

**Catechism References:**

The New Creation	1042: God’s plan for the end of time
	1043: The unity of God’s plan
	1044: The heavenly Jerusalem
	1045: Final realization of the unity of the human race
	1046: Healing of the cosmos
	1047: Visible universe shares in the glorification of Christ and man
	1048: We do not know the time of this last event
	1049: Our continued concern for this creation
	1050: The final hope of eternal life