

God has promised a new world of righteousness that will appear for all who believe. For that new world to be revealed God must first judge and remove evil from Earth.

3:10-11 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be?

DAY OF LORD

Great Rev 6:17

Dreadful Joel 2:3

Decision Joel 3:14-16

‘The old heavens will disappear with a loud noise. And the corrupt heavenly rulers will be removed with fire. The earth and its works will be discovered. Given all things will be released, what kind of holy and godly lives must we lead?’ (Blackham)

Heavens (sky/cosmos) disappear having served their purpose in the original creation
Elements (*stoicheia*): a word meaning *corrupt heavenly rulers / spiritual powers*.
Galatians 4:8-9: ‘turning back to those **weak and miserable forces** (*stoicheia*)’;

All the corrupt, anti-God, dehumanizing principles of evil desire, selfish ambition and sensual craving, all invisible evil powers, Satan and his demonic hordes - will be purged by God’s fiery holiness. Earth will be **‘laid bare’** so that **‘everything (evil) done in it,** which harms God’s purpose for His world, will be **‘destroyed’** (λύω) which means **‘to loose, release and unbind’**. The whole creation will be freed from frustration (Rom8:19-21) and brought into a new world of joy, fruitfulness and peace.

When Jesus returns ***Heaven and Earth are joined together—Believers raised bodily from the grave, fitted for life in God’s new heaven and new earth –in the harmony and blessing with and in God’s presence forever.***

The future has been won by God’s Son. Don’t despair. **Get ready for then now!**

So then, **dear friends**, since you are looking forward to this, You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

2 Peter 3:11-14

Those most at home in God’s new world strive to live in practical holiness now.
God is patient with us as we make progress in holiness. We look forward to the day of God and we speed its coming’ — we hasten our hope by living in godlike holiness.

Progress in Holiness

Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord.—Hos. 6: 3.

WE are called to holiness; we have been transferred from darkness to light and are called to walk in the light. As we do this we find ourselves in a path which grows brighter as it proceeds. This means that the whole of life must be lived increasingly in the light of God; things which were once permitted must be disallowed.

Whatever critical experiences we have had, whatever progress we have made, there is much land ahead to be possessed. The oldest and saintliest have only just begun to scale the heights or plumb the depths of the knowledge of God. We have not yet already attained, or as one modern translation has it, "not as though I had already arrived". We are in the way. Grace has put our feet there; let us seek to press on beholding the glory of God in the face of Christ and being gradually changed ourselves into the same image.

But the promise is that one day this somewhat slow progress will be complete. We shall see our Saviour face to face and be like Him. All the old idiosyncrasies which made us difficult to live with, all the failures in character and temper which made us unlike Christ, will be for ever gone. Now we only see through a glass and the view is confused. Now we wrestle against evil foes without and against sin within, but then, oh glorious day, we shall be satisfied, for we shall be like Him.

And the hope of His return and our gathering together unto Him should hasten the process of our purification. "Even so, Come, Lord Jesus."