

IS HEAVEN A PLACE ON EARTH?

- **Many new things taught, even in the church—untrue and not new**
- **Takes much to get our attention**
- **Heaven as a renewed earth; not “up there,” but “down here”**
- **Location of heaven irrelevant, but more is involved**
- **Rev. 21:1-5**

- 1. Not a new teaching:** “New Creation Theology”; several books, clearly believed by Bishop Methodius in A.D. 300’s; surfaced in late 19th Cent. in 7th Day Adventism and Jehovah’s Witness doctrine; briefly in Restor. Movement
- 2. Teaching of Jesus:** contradictory, Mt. 24:35; Mk. 13:31; Lk. 21:33; **pass away, not purified by fire;** “**come to an end, perish**”; Jn. 14:2-3 — **heaven not on earth, Jn. 13:33, 36; Heb. 1:10-12**

3. Teaching of Peter: Earth's future destruction in 2 Pet. 3:10-13; **“pass away”** - same word as Jesus; **“destroy”** everything (v. 11), including heavens and earth.

4. Teaching of Paul: Jesus to appear **“in flaming fire,”** 1 Thes. 1:8, **to take disciples away from the earth,** 1 Thes. 4:16-17, in accord with Jesus' own teaching; **“spiritual body,” “heavenly”** body like Jesus in 1 Cor. 15:40-49

CONCLUSION

- **Jesus: “lay up treasures in heaven, not on earth,” Mt. 6:19 — no sense if heaven is a place on earth**
- **Paul: “seek things above,” “set our minds on “things above, not on things on the earth,” Col. 3:1-2**
- **Paul: look “not at the things...seen,” 2 Cor. 4:18 (temporary)**
- **Unhealthy focus on material things, Heb. 12:26-29; 1 Jn. 2:16-17**