

Briefing Document: Fall of the World-The Eternal Condition of Eternity, Lesson 23

Sunday PM-July 26, 2026

Executive Summary

This briefing summarizes Lesson 21 of "The Fall of the World," a study focused on biblical prophecy and the transition into the eternal state. The central theme is the "eternal condition of eternity," specifically focusing on the nature, reality, and preparation of Heaven. The source emphasizes that while Heaven is currently beyond full human comprehension, it is a physical place where the glory of God is fully manifested. Believers are encouraged to view themselves as citizens of Heaven, where their inheritance, treasures, and Savior reside. The lesson concludes by outlining the necessary destruction of the current, sin-tainted universe to make way for a new heaven and a new earth characterized by righteousness.

Community Updates and Intercessions

The session opened with several administrative updates and prayer requests for the local congregation:

- **Announcements:** The July memory verse is *Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding* (Proverbs 3:5). Upcoming events include a men's breakfast on August 8th and an elders' meeting on August 10th.
 - **Prayer Requests:**
 - **The Dewitt Family:** Intercession for the family following the passing of a grandfather and a severe horse accident involving a granddaughter that required cranial surgery.
 - **Renee:** Prayer for an upcoming surgery.
 - **Donna Shull:** Prayer regarding a doctor's appointment.
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The Nature of Heaven: Beyond Human Comprehension

The primary challenge in studying Heaven is that it exists at a level of existence that humans cannot currently conceive. The source notes that human language is often inadequate to describe the celestial realm.

The Limits of Language and Perception

- **The Third Heaven:** The Apostle Paul's experience in the "third heaven" left him unable to speak of the things he saw, suggesting that the glories of Heaven overwhelm human vocabulary.

- **The Dimensional Analogy:** We currently live in a three-dimensional, physical world. However, other dimensions exist around us that we cannot perceive without the proper "instrument."
 - **Example:** Radio and television signals fill a room, but they are only "seen" or "heard" when a receiver is present.
 - **Spiritual Presence:** Similarly, the Holy Spirit, angels, and even demons may be present in the physical world, yet they remain unperceived by human senses.
- **Full Perception:** In Heaven, the "veil" of the physical world will be removed. In glorified bodies, believers will have a level of consciousness that allows them to perceive everything God wants them to understand. As stated in 1 Corinthians 13:12: *For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.*

Divine Symbolism

Because Heaven is abstract to the human mind, Scripture uses symbols to describe God's glory:

- **Ezekiel's Vision:** Ezekiel 1 describes the glory of God as a blazing sun reflecting off polished jewels, spinning wheels of color, and the presence of angels.
- **The New Jerusalem:** Revelation 21 and 22 describe a city made of gold, pearls, and transparent jewels acting as a prism for God's light.

Heaven as a Physical Reality

The document clarifies that Heaven is not merely a state of mind or a figment of the imagination; it is a specific location.

The Father's House

- **Physicality:** Heaven is a place where Jesus currently exists in His glorified, resurrected body. It is a "where" place.
 - **Dwelling Places:** In John 14:2, Jesus says, *In My Father's house are many mansions*. The source explains that "mansions" can be understood as dwelling places or apartments. The importance is not the size of the house, but the proximity to the Father.
 - **The Promise of Return:** Jesus promised to prepare this place and return to receive His followers to Himself.
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The Believer's Heavenly Citizenship

Believers are encouraged to recognize that their true home and all they value are already located in Heaven.

Treasures and Affections

- **Citizenship:** According to Philippians 3:20, *For our citizenship is in heaven.*
 - **Inheritance:** 1 Peter 1:3-4 describes an *inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.*
 - **The Church of the Firstborn:** This term refers to the body of believers (the Church of Jesus Christ) who will reside in Heaven alongside Old Testament saints.
 - **Key Possessions in Heaven:**
 - **The Father and the Savior:** Both reside there.
 - **New Identity:** God has a "new name" reserved for every believer.
 - **Affections and Treasures:** Believers are urged to set their hearts on things above rather than earthly things that lack eternal value.
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Preparation for the Eternal State

Before the eternal state can begin, the current universe must undergo a total transformation.

The Destruction of the Old

The current heaven and earth are tainted by sin, both from the fall of man and the rebellion of angels. Therefore, God must "clean house":

- **The Great White Throne:** Following the Millennium and the final judgment of the ungodly, the old earth and heaven will flee away.
- **Scriptural Precedent:**
 - Isaiah 65:17: *For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind.*
 - Hebrews 1:10-11: *You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You remain.*

The New Creation

The purpose of destroying the old universe is to replace it with a realm where righteousness is the permanent standard. As noted in 2 Peter 3:13, believers look forward to *new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells*. This new creation will be permanent, incorruptible, and filled with the fully manifested presence of God.