

Living in Heaven (Part 1):

Ruling on the New Earth



Living in Heaven (Part 1): Ruling on the New Earth



What Does God's Eternal Kingdom Involve?

Will We Actually Rule with Christ in the New Earth?

How Will We Rule God's Kingdom?

Review:

1. Last week, we discussed Living with God in the New Earth.
2. What do you know about the New Earth?

New Earth Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XiOili7CB8o&list=PPSV>

Discussion Questions:

1. How many of you really enjoy your profession or your work?
2. What do you want to do when you retire?
3. After retiring, a new drug was discovered that can extend your life forever!
What kind of lifestyle would you desire to have forever?

What does God's Eternal Kingdom involve?

1. If you were to describe a kingdom, what elements would you include?
 - a. A King
 - b. Subjects or people to be ruled
 - c. Territory/Land
 - d. Government or some kind of organization
 - d. A Culture

Who is the King?

John 18:36-37 (NKJV)

³⁶ Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.”

³⁷ Pilate therefore said to Him, “Are You a king then?”

Jesus answered, “You say *rightly* that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”

Revelation 11:15

¹⁵ Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdoms of this world have become *the kingdoms* of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!”

Who are the subjects on the territory/land?

Proverbs 2:21-22

For the upright will live in the land, and the blameless will remain in it; but the wicked will be cut off from the land.

Psalms 37:9,11,22 NKJV

For evildoers shall be cut off; but those who wait on the Lord, they shall inherit the earth.....The meek shall inherit the earth, and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.....For those blessed by Him shall inherit the earth, but those cursed by Him shall be cut off.

Revelation 7:9-10

⁹ After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

Government and Culture of the New Earth

²⁴ The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. ²⁵ On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. ²⁶ The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it.

Bruce Milne says of this text, “**Nothing** of ultimate worth **from the long history of the nations will be omitted** from the heavenly community. Everything which authentically **reflects the God of truth**, all that is of abiding worth from within the **national stories** and the **cultural inheritance of the world’s peoples, will find its place in the New Jerusalem.**”

Analogy from Randy Alcorn:

We've been born into the family of an incredibly wealthy landowner.

There's not a millimeter of cosmic geography that doesn't belong to him, and by extension to his children, his heirs.

Our Father has a family business that stretches across the whole universe.

He entrusts to us management of the family business, and that's what we'll do for eternity: **manage God's assets and rule his universe, representing him as his image-bearers, children, and ambassadors.**

Will we actually rule with Christ?

Will we actually rule with Christ?

1 Corinthians 6:2-3 . . . Don't you realize that someday we believers will judge the world? . . . Don't you realize that we will judge angels?

Psalms 72:8, 11 . . . May he reign from sea to sea, and from the Euphrates River to the ends of the earth. . . . All kings will bow before him, and all nations will serve him.

Revelation 22:5 . . . There will be no night there—no need for lamps or sun—for the Lord God will shine on [his servants]. And they will reign forever and ever.

God's people will one day be ruling the world.

Will we actually rule with Christ?

Revelation 2:10 . . . If you remain faithful even when facing death, I will give you the crown of life.

Revelation 4:10 . . . The twenty-four elders fall down and worship the one sitting on the throne (the one who lives forever and ever). And they lay their crowns before the throne.

Revelation 3:11 . . . I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take away your crown.



Because crowns are the primary symbol of ruling, every mention of crowns as rewards is a reference to our ruling with Christ.

The 5 Heavenly Crowns Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BT5gIXcRwLc&list=PPSV>

The Five Heavenly Crowns

- **The Imperishable (or Victor's) Crown** (1 Corinthians 9:25–27): Awarded to those who exercise self-control and discipline in their Christian walk, running the "race" for an eternal prize.
- **The Crown of Rejoicing** (1 Thessalonians 2:19): Given to those who faithfully share the Gospel and lead others to Christ (often called the "soul winner's crown").
- **The Crown of Righteousness** (2 Timothy 4:8): Reserved for believers who eagerly love and anticipate the Lord Jesus Christ's return.
- **The Crown of Life** (James 1:12; Revelation 2:10): Awarded to those who faithfully endure trials, suffering, and persecution, even to the point of martyrdom.
- **The Crown of Glory** (1 Peter 5:4): Promised to Christian leaders and "shepherds" (pastors, elders, etc.) who faithfully care for and shepherd God's people with humility and as an example.

Will we actually rule with Christ?

Matthew 25:23 . . . The master said, “Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities.”

Luke 16:10 . . . If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones.

God is grooming us for leadership.

He's watching us to see how we demonstrate our faithfulness.

Christ is not simply preparing a place for us; he is preparing us for that place.

If we serve faithfully on the present Earth, God will give us permanent management positions on the New Earth.

How Will We Rule God's Kingdom?

What is God's intention and purpose for human beings?

Genesis: 1:26-28

26 Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may **rule** over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

27 So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. **Rule** over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

God's intention for humans was that we would occupy the whole Earth and reign over it.

Humans Rule the World Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YbipxLDtY8c&list=PPSV>

The Kingdom Transfer

Daniel 7:27

²⁷ Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of all the kingdoms under heaven will be handed over to the holy people of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him.'

The Kingdom will be God's, yet he will appoint his saints as rulers under him, and they "will serve and obey him."

"Greatness of all kingdoms" refers to everything that makes the nations great, including cultural, artistic, athletic, scientific, and intellectual achievements.

We will become the stewards, or managers, of the New Earth's wealth and accomplishments, all for God's glory.

Question

How will ruling—and being ruled—on the New Earth differ from those experiences on the present Earth? What will account for these differences?

Key Differences in Ruling

1. Absence of Sin:

On the New Earth, sin will be completely eradicated, leading to a governance structure free from corruption, pride, and inequality. Unlike the present Earth, where leadership often involves self-promotion and manipulation, ruling in the New Earth will be characterized by humility and service.

2. Nature of Leadership:

Leadership will transform from a hierarchical model to one of mutual respect and collaboration. Rulers will not dominate but will enable, equip, and guide those they lead. This reflects a biblical view of authority, where leaders serve their communities rather than exert control over them.

3. Social Hierarchy:

While there may still be a social hierarchy based on faithfulness and service on Earth, it will not manifest in the same way as it does now. Positions of authority will be based on one's faithfulness in service to God during their earthly life, rather than on power dynamics or social status.

Experiences of Being Ruled

1. Joyful Existence:

The experience of being ruled will be vastly different, as individuals will be governed by those who genuinely care for their well-being. The absence of suffering, pain, and death will create an environment where relationships are characterized by love and mutual support.

2. Community and Fellowship:

The New Earth will foster a sense of community and fellowship among its inhabitants. Ruling will involve collaboration and shared responsibilities, leading to a more harmonious existence compared to the often divisive nature of governance on the present Earth.

3. Divine Presence:

The presence of God will be a central aspect of life on the New Earth, providing guidance and wisdom to rulers and the ruled alike. This divine oversight will ensure that all actions and decisions align with God's will, further enhancing the quality of governance.

