

Life of the World to Come

Various Verses
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We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.

Hope is future focused. (Phil 3:20-21; Rom. 8:19-22)

Philippians 3:20 …we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. (KJV)

Our Hope Is In:

- **God's Linear History: God is guiding history to a purposeful end.** (Isa. 46:10; Acts 17:26; Eph. 1:11; Phil. 1:6; Heb. 12:2; Rev. 22:13)

- **The Future Resurrection of the body for believers.** (Psa. 16:10; Isa. 26:19; Dan. 12:2; John 5:28-29; 6:40; 11:24-25; Acts 24:15; 1 Cor. 13:12; 15:20-44; 2 Cor. 1:9; 1 Thes. 4:16-17; Rev. 20:12-13)

Resurrection is not:
- the reversal of death.
- the passing through death into a spiritual existence.
- the escape from this life.

Resurrection is the defeat of death.

Death is defeated! Death is not the end! We rise again! We do not grieve like those with no hope. (1 Thes. 4:13)

Our resurrected bodies will retain our identity. They will be spiritual, but will have substance just like Jesus' resurrected body, and they will be major upgrades.

- **The Future Judgment where wrongs are made right.** (Dan. 7:9-11; 12:2; Matt. 16:27; 25:31-32; John 5:27-28; Acts 10:42; 2 Cor. 5:10; 2 Tim. 4:1; Heb. 9:27; Rev. 20:12-13)

Judgment delayed is not justice denied.

Justice requires Judgment.

- **The Future Life of the world to come.** (Matt. 12:32; Lk. 18:29-30; 20:34-36; Eph. 1:20-21; Gal. 1:4; Heb. 6:4-6; Rev. 21:1-6)

For Christians, heaven is not us leaving our place and going up to God's place, but God bringing his place and coming down to our place.

Many believe that heaven and the new earth are essentially the same thing. In other words, heaven will be on this earth.

Heaven is presented in the Bible as having earthlike beauty.

The Bible seems to indicate that the good things in this world will only be enhanced in the next world.

Heaven is a place of:
- Country (Heb. 11:14-16)
- City (Rev. 21-22)
- Rivers (Rev. 22:1-2)
- Trees (Rev. 22:2)
- Food (Isa. 25:6; Lk. 22:18, 29-30; Rev. 19:9)
- People (1 Cor. 13:12; 1 Thes. 4:13-18)
- Ethnic Groups and Nations (Rev. 5:9-10; 7:9; 21:24-26)
- Animals (Isa. 11:6-9; 65:25; Rom. 8:22)
- Culture, Art, and Crafts
- Entertainment and Recreation
- Technology and Travel

God is not looking back and restoring the old creation. He is looking forward and transforming, completing, and perfecting a new creation.

The hope of heaven gives us this perspective:
- **It should not be this way.**
- **It will not always be this way.**
- **God is with you every step of the way.**

The hope of heaven disentangles us from the things of this world and gives us endurance in this life. (1 Cor. 15:58)

We need to live in a different time zone – live now like life will be then.

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God,
Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one essence with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

Adapted from the *Book of Common Prayer*, 1979.

Scripture & Creeds

Scripture is the Word of God. (ultimate authority)
Creeds are the church's confession of that Word.

Creeds…

Summarize: Condense the central teaching of Scripture

Clarify: Explain how the church understands Scripture

Teach: Provide a framework for learning Christian doctrine

Defend: Guard against false interpretations and heresies

Unite: Give Christians a common confession

Creeds are the guardrails of the New Testament commands to hold to truth and resist false doctrine.

Creeds

Creeds connect us to billions of fellow believers in the historical and global church.

The creeds are the essential beliefs at the center of our faith where we are close together, not the non-essentials.

Creeds are not just statements – they are stories.

The Nicene Creed

The Nicene Creed was first formulated at the Council of Nicaea in AD 325 and expanded at the Council of Constantinople in AD 381.

The Nicene Creed is the most important creed in history because it is the only confession that every Christian group affirms: Orthodox, Catholics, and Protestants.

The Nicene Creed is the most historical, global, ecumenical, and influential creed.

The Nicene Creed states who God is, what he has done, and how our lives are changed.