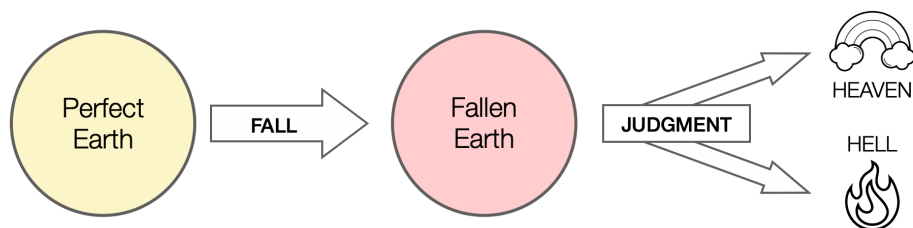


A STORY OF OVERLAP

Many Christians believe that the happy ending we're all anticipating comes when we get to **leave this world** and be with God.

The storyline that gets told is something like this:

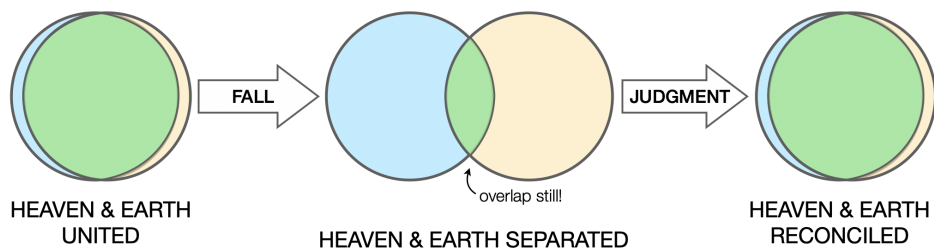


But how does the Bible imagine the end of this story?

See Matthew 19:28, Acts 3:21, Romans 8:21

Eternity looks like restoration, not evacuation.

A better storyline would look like this:



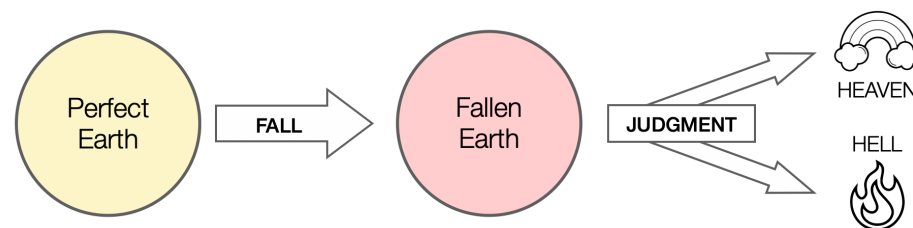
God wants "to bring unity to all things in Heaven and on earth" (Eph. 1:9-10)

Revelation 21:1-3 - The story will end as it began.
God's space and our space in complete overlap.

A STORY OF OVERLAP

Many Christians believe that the happy ending we're all anticipating comes when we get to **leave this world** and be with God.

The storyline that gets told is something like this:

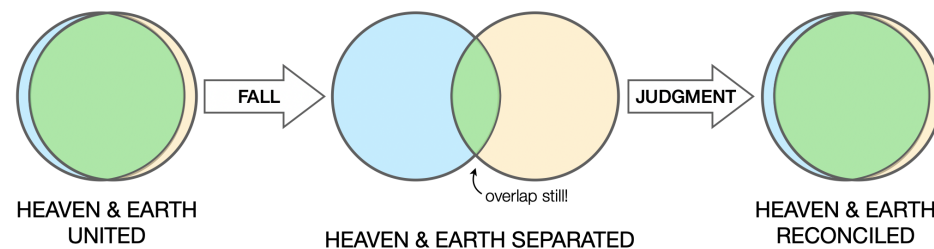


But how does the Bible imagine the end of this story?

See Matthew 19:28, Acts 3:21, Romans 8:21

Eternity looks like restoration, not evacuation.

A better storyline would look like this:



God wants "to bring unity to all things in Heaven and on earth" (Eph. 1:9-10)

Revelation 21:1-3 - The story will end as it began.
God's space and our space in complete overlap.

HEAVEN ON EARTH

Between Eden and eternity, God creates an overlap where He can still dwell among humanity. This has three stages:

1. Tabernacle / Temple (Exodus 25:8)

Eden imagery gets woven all throughout the design of this structure because this will be a place where God will be with humanity again.

2. Jesus (John 1:14; Matthew 12:6)

In the temple, you could only access the presence of God indirectly through a mediator. Jesus comes, and directly dwells with us.

3. The Church (Eph. 2:19-22; 1 Cor. 3:16-17)

God's presence has moved from a place to a Person to a people! We are to be a community that gives the world a taste of the future.

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

Jesus' favorite thing to talk about was **the Kingdom of Heaven**.

He announces that the Kingdom is here, and then models that way of life.

It looks like loving your enemy, becoming like children, welcoming everyone, and getting rid of self-righteousness.

God's Kingdom is a reversal of what anyone expects, and the resurrected Jesus calls His followers to enter into this subversive way of life.

The Kingdom is here, and you're invited to join.

Jesus brings the Kingdom down to us from Heaven, and it continues to go out through us to the world.

This is your role in the story. To extend the overlap between Heaven and earth, to pursue others in love and tell **a better story**—the story of a loving Father who gave of Himself to bring all things to unity in Heaven and earth.

"My prayer is not that You take them out of the world.... As you sent Me into the world, I have sent them into the world." (John 17:15, 18)

[NCSDA.ORG/ABETTERSTORY](https://ncsda.org/abetterstory)

HEAVEN ON EARTH

Between Eden and eternity, God creates an overlap where He can still dwell among humanity. This has three stages:

1. Tabernacle / Temple (Exodus 25:8)

Eden imagery gets woven all throughout the design of this structure because this will be a place where God will be with humanity again.

2. Jesus (John 1:14; Matthew 12:6)

In the temple, you could only access the presence of God indirectly through a mediator. Jesus comes, and directly dwells with us.

3. The Church (Eph. 2:19-22; 1 Cor. 3:16-17)

God's presence has moved from a place to a Person to a people! We are to be a community that gives the world a taste of the future.

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

Jesus' favorite thing to talk about was **the Kingdom of Heaven**.

He announces that the Kingdom is here, and then models that way of life.

It looks like loving your enemy, becoming like children, welcoming everyone, and getting rid of self-righteousness.

God's Kingdom is a reversal of what anyone expects, and the resurrected Jesus calls His followers to enter into this subversive way of life.

The Kingdom is here, and you're invited to join.

Jesus brings the Kingdom down to us from Heaven, and it continues to go out through us to the world.

This is your role in the story. To extend the overlap between Heaven and earth, to pursue others in love and tell **a better story**—the story of a loving Father who gave of Himself to bring all things to unity in Heaven and earth.

"My prayer is not that You take them out of the world.... As you sent Me into the world, I have sent them into the world." (John 17:15, 18)

[NCSDA.ORG/ABETTERSTORY](https://ncsda.org/abetterstory)