



2 Peter 3: 13 *"But in keeping with his promise, we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of Righteousness."*

In his first letter, Peter writes to the members of the congregations that had been scattered throughout the world, especially those who were living in the territories of Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia. He was sharing with them that they had been chosen by God for salvation and sanctification.

Twenty-one centuries ago, this region had several cosmopolitan cities in which the residents came from all over the civilized world. They lived in the scarcity of modern technology, but enjoyed all the bonanzas of the Roman Empire, as well as all the misfortunes of a civilization alienated by lust, superstitions, and ignorance of people whose basic lives were nourished by violence, idolatry, and religious fetishism.

The gospel was first introduced into this region of the civilized world by Paul, Barnabas, Silas, and then by other believers who were added later on in church growth. Among the many leaders who visited this region in the expansion of the church's mission we have St. Peter. In chapter 3 of his second letter to the churches in Galatia and verse 13, he emphasizes God's promises. The Apostle says, *"But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness."*

The final destination of believers is a place endowed with an entirely new design, created by God's wonderful wisdom, power, and love. The prophetic writing of Peter speaks of the future plan God has for this universe and even for heaven itself. The New Heaven and the New Earth will be the home where God's righteousness will be present forever. This new creation won't be a place for human injustice, let alone evil.

This is not a utopian concept; rather, it is the vision of a new universe, without the possibility that evil will become part of it. In the first world, God allowed free will to be present in all of his created beings and subsequently, influenced by evil. They were subject to their free will and choices, and therefore, the present world became a place of social injustice, sin, and wickedness. Adam and Eve disobeyed Almighty God and their decision led to man's separation from paradise and God.

In all of this, God continues to seek man and related to man in different ways. Finally, He sent Jesus into the world to be redeemed by His precious blood. Although we love our earthly home, the biblical prophecies herald the destruction of heaven and earth, and at the same time announce the creation of a New Heaven and a New Earth. Christians are called to have our eyes fixed upon God's throne, because what we see around us is limited. What we cannot see with our eyes is eternal.

Since we are transient in this world, we must not tie ourselves to earthly material possessions, because we are waiting, as Peter says, for a New Heaven and a New Earth...*"the home of righteousness."* No one who lies or acts in abomination will ever enter or have a place in the new universe.

Blessings, Pastor Rey Díaz