
THE NEW HEAVENS & EARTH

SOOTHKEEP

"TRUTH FORTRESS"

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THE NEW HEAVENS & EARTH

NO DEBATE ON THE FACT OF THE NEW HEAVENS AND EARTH

Rev 21:1 — "I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and earth were passed away; and there was no more sea."

Isa 65:17 — "For behold, I create a new heavens and a new earth; And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind."

DEBATE ON THE MANNER

RECREATION—annihilation and a second ex-nihilo creation

OR

RENOVATION—destruction of the earth's surface by fire and earthquake, reminiscent of the flood on Noah's day


MAJORITY VIEW —
ANNIHILATION
BY FIRE
THE UNIVERSE EXPLODES AND
BURNS INTO NON-EXISTENCE


THE EARTH AND THE HEAVENS REMAIN
MINORITY VIEW —
RENOVATION
BY FIRE

DOES THE TOPIC HAVE PRACTICAL BEARING ON OUR WALK?

YES!

— It concerns the authority of Scripture.

— It concerns hermeneutics.

— It concerns redemption.

What is more important than HOW we handle the word of God?

What is more important than redemption?

HOW DO WE ANSWER THE QUESTION?

We need to be BEREANS, searching daily and deeply to see if our favorite teachers are correct or incorrect.

We need to make a robust application of the HISTORICAL-GRAMMATICAL HERMENEUTIC (the literal hermeneutic).

We want WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD on the question, not a prooftext or two with the official gloss.

SEVEN ARGUMENTS FOR RENOVATION

#1 – the eternality of Earth

#2 – the eternality of the heavens

#3 – the eternality of the kingdom

#4 – the historical precedent of the flood

#5 – the sanctity of Earth

#6 — God's precedent for dealing with sin

#7 – redemption under annihilation redeems less than lost

#1 — THE ETERNALITY OF EARTH STATED POSITIVELY

Eccl. 1:4 — "One generation goes, and another generation comes, but Earth remains **forever**."

NOTICE — contrast between the impermanency of the generations and the permanency of Earth.

- NOTICE — contrast overthrown if Earth is vaporized.

#1 — THE ETERNALITY OF EARTH STATED POSITIVELY

Psalm 119:90 — "Your faithfulness is unto all generations: you have established Earth, and it shall abide (remain)."

Psalm 78:69 — "He built his SANCTUARY like the heights, like EARTH which he has founded forever. "

PARAPHRASE — God built Earth to last forever.
NOTE — The eternal temple compared to the eternal Earth.

#1 — THE ETERNALITY OF EARTH STATED NEGATIVELY

Psalm 104:5 — "Who laid the foundations of the earth that it should not be removed FOREVER."

Psalm 93:1 — "Surely the world is established so it cannot be removed.

1 Chron. 16:30 — "The world is firmly established; It shall not be removed. "

PARAPHRASE — Earth will never cease to exist.

#2 — THE ETERNALITY OF THE HEAVENS

Psalm 148:3-6 — "Praise him, **SUN** and **MOON**; Praise him, all you **STARS** of light! Praise him, you heavens of heavens, and you waters above the heavens! … For he commanded, and they were created. He also established them ***forever and ever***; He made a decree which ***shall not pass away***."

NOTE — Stated positively and negatively.

— The heavens were established for eternity.

— The decree of the heavens will never pass.

#2 — THE ETERNALITY OF THE HEAVENS

Psalm 89:29-37 — "I will establish his SEED FOREVER, and his THRONE AS THE DAYS OF HEAVEN … I will not break my covenant nor alter the decision that is gone out of my lips. Once have I sworn by my holiness; I will not lie to David. His SEED shall ENDURE FOREVER, and his THRONE as the **SUN** before me. [His THRONE] shall be **ESTABLISHED FOREVER** as the **MOON**, like that faithful witness in the sky."

NOTE — David's throne is eternal like the heavens.
— David's throne is eternal like the sun.
— David's throne is established forever like the moon.

#2 — THE ETERNALITY OF THE HEAVENS

Jer. 31:35-36 — "Thus says the Lord, who gives the **SUN** for a light by day, the ordinances of the **MOON** and the **STARS** for a light by night … The Lord of hosts is his name. ***IF*** those ordinances depart from before me, says the Lord, ***THEN*** the seed of Israel shall also cease from being a nation before me forever."

NOTE — The Lord compares the eternality of Israel to the eternality of the heavens.

— If the sun, moon, and stars depart, then Israel shall cease.

#2 — THE ETERNALITY OF THE HEAVENS

Psalm 72:17 — "His name shall endure forever; his name shall continue as long as the **SUN**. And men shall be blessed in him; All nations shall call him blessed."

NOTE the parallel statements.

— The Lord's name shall endure forever.

— The Lord's name shall continue as long as the sun.

#3 — THE ETERNALITY OF THE KINGDOM

Daniel 2:44 — "In the days of **THOSE KINGS** the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall **BREAK IN PIECES ALL THESE KINGDOMS** and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever."

NOTE — The kingdom established at the second coming is eternal.

#3 — THE ETERNALITY OF THE KINGDOM

2 Samuel 7:12-16 — "When your days are fulfilled, and you sleep with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you … and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will stablish the **THRONE** of his kingdom ***forever***… Your **HOUSE** and **KINGDOM** shall be established ***forever***… Your **THRONE** shall be established ***forever***."

NOTE — The kingdom established at the second coming is eternal.

#3 — THE ETERNALITY OF THE KINGDOM

Daniel 7:18 — "The saints of the Most High shall receive the **KINGDOM**, and possess the **KINGDOM** ***forever***, even ***forever and ever***."

NOTE — The kingdom established at the second coming is eternal.

#4 — THE ANALOGY OF THE FLOOD

2 Pet. 3:6-7, 10, 13 — Whereby **THE WORLD THAT THEN WAS**, being overflowed with water, perished. But **THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH, WHICH ARE NOW**, by the same word are … reserved for fire in the day of judgment … But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in which the heavens shall pass with a great noise … the earth also and the works in it shall be burned up. … we, according to his promise, look for **A NEW HEAVENS AND A NEW EARTH**."

NOTE — Was, are, shall be. Past Earth, present Earth, future Earth.

— Fire is at the end of this age, not the end of the next age.

#5 — THE SANCTITY OF THE EARTH

There is a sanctity about this planet that precludes non-existence.

— The Messiah was born here, lived here, died here.

— This planet absorbed the sweat, tears, blood of the Lord.

— Scene of sacred moments: Gethsemane, Calvary, the empty tomb.

— Scene of great victories: Exodus, crossing of Red Sea, battle Jericho, crossing Jordan

— Millions martyrs (incl. prophets) mingled blood with dust of Earth.

— Millions locations where men met their Creator and Redeemer.

#6 — PRECEDENT FOR DEALING WITH SIN

Two categories of creation: moral and amoral.

The moral realm: Fallen angels and ungodly humans who wickedly rebelled don't face non-existence. They face eternal sequestration.

Amoral realm: Why would innocent creation that didn't sin and can't sin suffer worse judgment than the rebellious angels and humans?

Innocent creation was sinned against.

#7 — PARTIAL REDEMPTION

Under the annihilation theory, God redeems less than what was lost in the garden.

— He redeems fallen mankind.

— He doesn't redeem creation. He replaces creation.

SEVEN-FOLD ARGUMENT FOR RENOVATION

#1 — eternality of Earth (current not future)
#2 — eternality of heavens (current not future)
#3 — eternality of kingdom
#4 — precedent of the flood
#5 — sanctity of Earth
#6 — precedent for dealing with sin
#7 — partial redemption

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE ARGUMENT FOR ANNIHILATION AND RECREATION?

The arguments should be **WEIGHED**.

We have an obligation to **WEIGH** both sides. Be a Berean.

Most have not actually **WEIGHED** both sides.

We shall **WEIGH** the arguments for the annihilation side.

THE ARGUMENT FOR ANNIHILATION AND RECREATION

#1 — THEOLOGICAL — the necessity of the annihilation view

#2 — CHRONOLOGICAL — location of new heavens and Earth in Revelation

#3 — EXEGETICAL — things the Bible says about the new heavens and Earth

THEOLOGICAL ARGUMENT FOR ANNIHILATION

Earth and the heavens are so defiled that they must be destroyed and replaced with a new creation.

THEOLOGICAL ARGUMENT FOR ANNIHILATION ANSWERED

God didn't use annihilation to resolve the moral problem in the universe. Why would he use annihilation to resolve the fingerprints of the moral problem?

Sinners are converted and redeemed, not replaced.

Analogy says Earth and heavens redeemed, not replaced.

CHRONOLOGICAL ARGUMENT FOR ANNIHILATION

The new heavens and Earth are **CREATED** in Rev 21:1 after the thousand years.

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea."

CHRONOLOGICAL ARGUMENT FOR ANNIHILATION ANSWERED

The new heavens and Earth are **MENTIONED** in Rev 21:1 after the thousand years. Nothing demands they are **CREATED** here.

The new heavens and Earth are not part of the running chronological treatment.

The new heavens and Earth are **MENTIONED** because they are a moral prerequisite for New Jerusalem.

CHRONOLOGICAL ARGUMENT FOR ANNIHILATION ANSWERED

Ch. 17 — religious Babylon

Ch. 18 — economic, technocrat Babylon

Ch. 19 — judgment Babylon, wedding supper, Armageddon

Ch. 20 — thousand years, final rebellion, great white throne

Rev. 21:1 — single verse on new heavens and Earth

Chs. 21-22 — New Jerusalem

EXEGETICAL ARGUMENT FOR ANNIHILATION

#1 — use of the verb **CREATE**

#2 — use of **DESTRUCTION** words and concepts:

* passing away or vanishing

* melting or dissolving

* burning

* heavens being rolled like a scroll

EXEGETICAL ARGUMENT FOR ANNIHILATION

CREATE ARGUMENT

Is. 65:17 — "Behold, I **CREATE** a new heavens and a new earth."

OBSERVE — create is Hebrew **BARA** which means *create* ex-nihilo

CONCLUDE — *create* demands, or at least gives strong favor to, annihilation and recreation

EXEGETICAL ARGUMENT FOR ANNIHILATION ANSWERED

The **CREATE** and **MAKE** verbs in Hebrew and Greek overlap.

Is. 65:18 uses **BARA** for creation of Jerusalem from existing materials.

Gen. 5:1 uses **BARA** for making Adam from the dust of the earth.

Deut. 4:32 (LXX) uses Gk. **KTIZO** for creating man from dust of Earth.

Gen. 1:1 (LXX) uses **KTIZO** for ex-nihilo creation

Is. 37:16 uses Heb. ʻasah (make) for ex-nihilo creation

EXEGETICAL ARGUMENT FOR ANNIHILATION

PASS AWAY

2 Pet. 3:10 — "The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will **PASS AWAY** with a great noise."

Same thought in Matt. 24:35, "Heaven and earth shall **PASS AWAY**."

OBSERVE — 2nd coming, so observational, not cessational
— pass in sense of *change location* or *change state*

OBSERVE — new creation in 2 Cor. 5:17

EXEGETICAL ARGUMENT FOR ANNIHILATION

MELT & DISSOLVE

2 Pet. 3:10-12 — "The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night … the elements **MELTING** with fervent heat shall be **DISSOLVED**."

OBSERVE — things that **MELT** don't cease to exist

OBSERVE — things that **DISSOLVE** don't cease to exist

OBSERVE — *dissolve* better translated *loose* (like donkey)

EXEGETICAL ARGUMENT FOR ANNIHILATION

BURN UP

2 Pet. 3:10 — "The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night … the works thereupon shall be **BURNED UP**."

OBSERVE — burn into non-existence or burn in renovation?

OBSERVE — second coming so must be observational

OBSERVE — context is contrasting flood with end of this age

EXEGETICAL ARGUMENT FOR ANNIHILATION

ROLL UP LIKE A SCROLL

Is. 34:4 — All the host of heaven shall be **LOOSED**, and the heavens shall be **ROLLED LIKE A SCROLL**: and all their host shall **FALL DOWN** like the leaf falls off from the vine, and like a falling fig from the fig tree.

OBSERVE — second coming context, observational
OBSERVE — *loose*, *fall* are parallel with *rolling like scroll*
OBSERVE — watching sky roll like a scroll, not cessation of existence

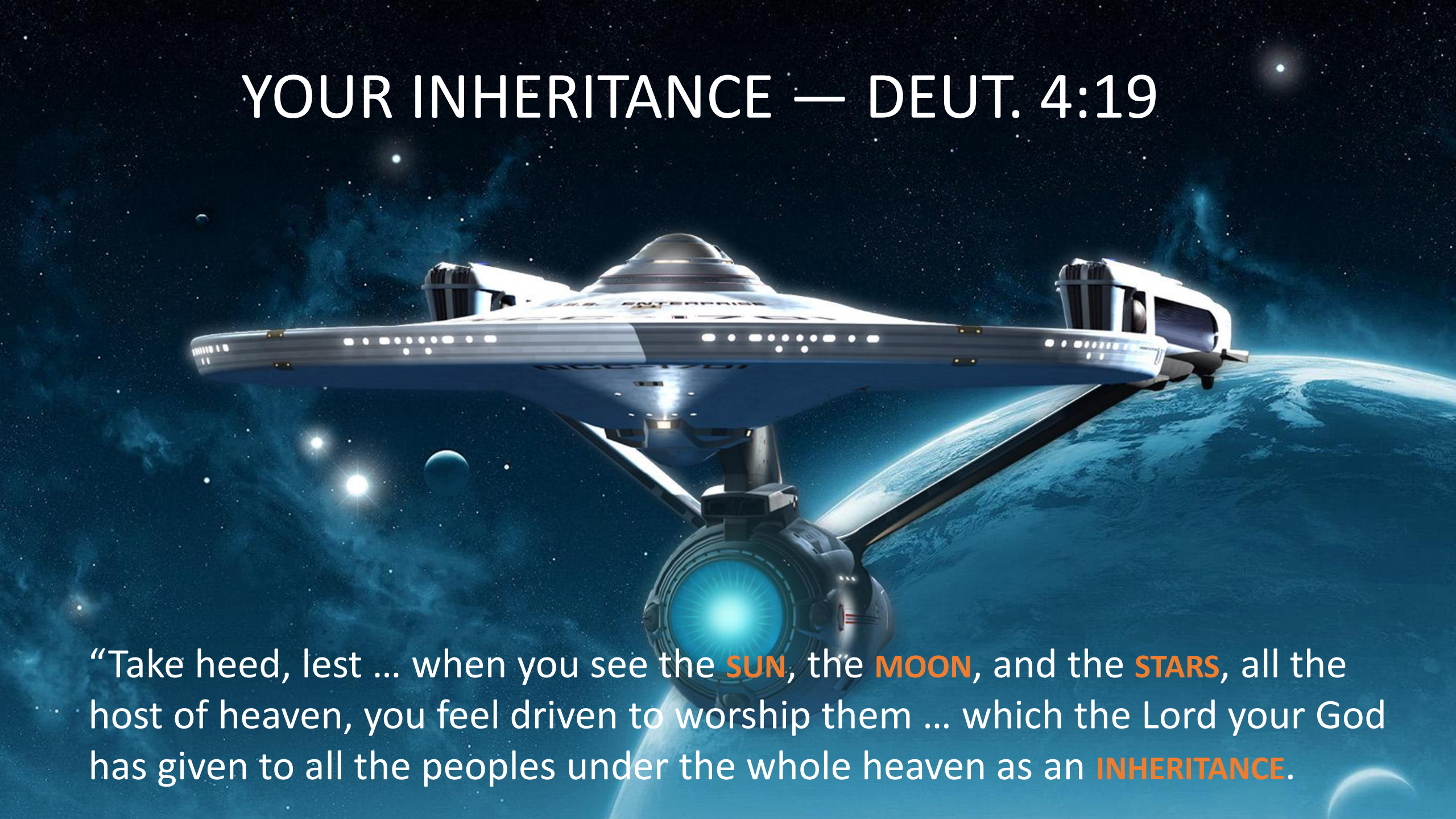
REVIEW OF ARGUMENTS FOR ANNIHILATION

Theological argument — just plain wrong

Chronological argument — misses flow and pattern of context

Exegetical argument — never rises to the strength of proof

YOUR INHERITANCE — DEUT. 4:19



"Take heed, lest … when you see the **SUN**, the **MOON**, and the **STARS**, all the host of heaven, you feel driven to worship them … which the Lord your God has given to all the peoples under the whole heaven as an **INHERITANCE**.



One short life
to be a good soldier;
One long eternity
to be a fulfilled human being.
— LWB

“endure hardship as a good soldier”

(2 Tim. 2:3)

“do exploits”
(Dan. 11:32)

EYES WIDE OPEN, BRAIN ENGAGED, HEART ON FIRE!