



H E A V E N

UNFORGETTING THE GOSPEL'S GLORY

The background of the image is a dramatic, high-contrast photograph of a sky. Dark, heavy clouds are swirling and billowing, filling most of the frame. On the far left, a faint, multi-colored rainbow is visible, its colors blending into the dark tones of the clouds. The overall mood is mysterious and powerful. The text 'HEAVEN'S GLORY' is centered in the middle of the image, written in a clean, white, sans-serif font. The word 'GLORY' is slightly larger and bolder than 'HEAVEN'S'.

HEAVEN'S **GLORY**



NOT: Our Joy + God's Glory

Our Joy *in* God's Glory

The background image is a dark, atmospheric landscape. On the left, a faint rainbow is visible. The center features a body of water reflecting a bright, hazy light source on the right. The sky is filled with dark, swirling clouds. The overall tone is mysterious and ethereal.

CREATOR

The background of the image is a dark, atmospheric landscape. It features a body of water in the center, surrounded by dark, silhouetted hills or mountains. The sky is filled with heavy, dark clouds, and a faint rainbow is visible on the left side. The overall color palette is dominated by dark blues, greys, and blacks, with some lighter tones in the sky and water reflecting light.

REDEEMER

A dramatic, low-key photograph of a cloudy sky at dusk or dawn. The clouds are dark and textured, with a soft light source creating a gradient from dark blue to a lighter, hazy yellow. A faint rainbow is visible on the left side of the frame. The text "NEW CREATION" is overlaid in white, sans-serif capital letters.

NEW CREATION

DISTORTIONS OF OUR VIEW

- Dualism
- Platonism
- Christoplatonism

The main loss was of the apocalyptic dimension of Christian hope. The dual hope of the Christian, the kingdom of God and resurrection of the dead, (or at least of the saints), was reduced to the resurrection of the individual to eternal life in heaven. The social and the this-worldly historical dimensions of hope were lost.

BENEDICT T. VIVIANO



Plato = Spiritual Vision Model (SVM)
Bible = New Creation Model (NCM)

	SVM	NCM
PHYSICAL MATTER	Negative	Positive
RESURRECTION	Figurative (spiritual)	Literal (physical)
SALVATION	Spiritual	Spiritual and Physical
DESTINY	Ethereal	A Renovated Universe
PASSIONS	Destroyed	Holy

	SVM	NCM
EXPERIENCES	Complete Discontinuity	Continuity <i>and</i> Discontinuity
PRIMARY ACTIVITY	Worship	Worship
NATURE OF ACTIVITY	Mental	Body and Soul
LABOR	None	Enjoyed
REST	From All Physical Activity	From the Curse

	SVM	NCM
PRESENT EARTH	Annihilated	Restored
BIBLICAL PROMISES	Allegorical	Real
NATIONS	None	Harmony
CULTURE	None	Beautiful
PURPOSE OF CREATION	Deprecated	Fulfilled

God has a disposition to communicate himself, to spread abroad his own fullness. His purpose was for his goodness to over-spill his own Being, as it were. He chose to create the heavens and the earth so that his glory could come pouring out from himself in abundance. He brought a physical reality into existence in order that it might experience his glory and be filled with it and reflect it—every atom, every second, every part and moment of creation. He made human beings in his own image to reflect his glory, and he placed them in a perfect environment which also reflected it.

JONATHAN EDWARDS

In the creature's knowing, esteeming, loving, rejoicing in and praising God the glory of God is exhibited and acknowledged ... The beams of glory come from God, are something of God, and are refunded back again to their original. So that the whole is of God, and in God, and to God; and he is the beginning, and the middle, and the end.

JONATHAN EDWARDS

HEAVEN'S GLORY

- Importance of **Incarnation**
- Importance of **Resurrection**
- Importance of **Restoration**

God himself is the great good which they are brought to the possession and enjoyment of by redemption. He is the highest good, and the sum of all that good which Christ purchased. ... The redeemed will indeed enjoy other things ... but that which they shall enjoy in the angels, or each other, or in anything else whatsoever, that will yield them delight and happiness, will be what will be seen of God in them.

JONATHAN EDWARDS

God is the highest good of the reasonable creature, and the enjoyment of him is the only happiness with which our souls can be satisfied. To go to heaven fully to enjoy God, is infinitely better than the most pleasant accommodations here. Fathers and mothers, husbands, wives, children, or the company of earthly friends, are but shadows. But the enjoyment of God is the substance. These are but scattered beams, but God is the sun. These are but streams, but God is the fountain. These are but drops, but God is the ocean.

JONATHAN EDWARDS



Heaven - God = Nothing

God - Heaven = Heaven