1 Corinthians 2:9 "… No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love Him." (NLT)

LifePoint: The eternal dwelling of those who have followed Jesus Christ faithfully will be a new heaven ON EARTH.

Revelation 21:1-4 "1 Then I saw **a new heaven and a new earth**, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, **coming down out** of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and He will live with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God. 4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." (NIV)

WHY HEAVEN ON EARTH?

1. We were made FROM and FOR the Earth.

Genesis 2:7 "Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being." (NIV)

Genesis 1:27-31 "27 So God created man in His own image, in the image of God HE created him; male and female HE created them. 28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground." 29 Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. 30 And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food." And it was so. 31 God saw all that He had made, and it was very good …" (NIV)

2. God's PROMISE has always been a new EARTHLY dwelling.

Isaiah 65:17-25 "17 See, I will create new heavens and a new earth.
The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. 18
Be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem
to be a delight and its people a joy. 19 I will rejoice over Jerusalem and
take delight in my people; the sound of weeping and of crying will be
heard in it no more. 20 Never again will there be in it an infant who lives
but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his years; the one
who dies at a hundred will be thought a mere child; the one who fails to
reach a hundred will be considered accursed. 21 They will build houses
and dwell in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit. 22 No
longer will they build houses and others live in them, or plant and others
eat. For as the days of a tree, so will be the days of my people; my
chosen ones will long enjoy the works of their hands. 23 They will not toil
in vain or bear children doomed to misfortune; for they will be people
blessed by the Lord, they and their descendants with them. 24 Before they
call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear. 25 The wolf and
the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, but dust
will be the serpent's food. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my
holy mountain," says the Lord." (NIV)

There is some symbolism and imagery in this passage that make sense to the people of Israel, but overall the picture is one of a paradise like environment that will be a source of everlasting eternal joy.

This word of hope was fulfilled through the Messiah, Jesus Christ:

Acts 3:21 "Heaven must receive Him until the time comes for God to **restore everything**, as He promised long ago through the Holy prophets." (NIV)

3. The new Heaven/Earth shows the SCOPE of what Jesus accomplished through His death and resurrection.

God's plan was to redeem not only humanity but the whole universe through Jesus Christ:

Ephesians 1:9-10 "9 God has now revealed to us His mysterious will
regarding Christ—which is to fulfill His own good plan. 10 And this is the
plan: At the right time He will bring everything together under the
authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth." (NLT)

Colossians 1:19-20 "19 For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in [Christ], 20 and through Him to reconcile to Himself **all things**, whether things **on earth** or things **in heaven**, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross." (NIV)

Romans 8:18-23 "18 … what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory He will reveal to us later. 19 For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who His children really are. 20 Against its will, everything on earth was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope 21 the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. 22 For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23 And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from pain and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as His adopted children, including the new bodies He has promised us." (NLT)

Isaiah 11:6-9 "6 In that day the wolf and lamb will live together; the lea[pard will lie down with the baby goat. The calf and the yearling will be safe with the lion, and a little child will lead them all. 7 The cow will graze near the bear. The cub and the calf will lie down together. The lion will eat hay like a cow. 8 The baby will play safely near the hole of a cobra. Yes, a little child will put its hand in a nest of deadly snakes without harm. 9 Nothing will hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain, for as the waters fill the sea, so the earth will be filled with people who know the Lord." (NLT)

4. God is RECLAIMING what is rightfully His.

Psalm 24:1-2 "1 The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to Him. 2 For He laid the foundation on the seas and built it on the ocean depths." (NLT)

1 John 3:8 "The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil." (NASB)

BOTTOM LINE

Matthew 5:5 "God blesses those who are humble, for **they will inherit the whole earth**." (NLT)