

# THEOLOGY AND COSMOLOGY: A CALL FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY ENRICHMENT

*by Raymond R. Hausoul*

*Abstract.* Today, there is a growing interest in interdisciplinary studies between theology and natural sciences. This article will reveal some “core” problems in this interdisciplinary relationship. It investigates how cosmic eschatology and natural sciences can benefit the most from each other while dealing with the scenarios which cosmology presents. Doing so, the main emphasis will be on rediscovering the impact of the Resurrection in Christian theology and the possibility of launching a dialogue between natural sciences and theology concerning the new heaven and the new earth.

*Keywords:* cosmology; natural sciences; new creation; new heaven and earth

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## ALIENATION BETWEEN THEOLOGY AND COSMOLOGY

During the past few centuries, a long-standing division between faith and natural science has resulted in Christian eschatology focusing only on so-called individual eschatology. Central herein was the future of each individual human being. Theological questions arose, such as what is death and what are the effects? Is there life after death? Is there purgatory, heaven, and hell? Is there a resurrection of the body?

Questions about the future of the cosmos, which belonged to cosmic eschatology, were hardly ever discussed. An important question such as what future is there for this creation? was not heard. The future of the cosmos was neglected in the Christian doctrine (Rahner 1967, 1:1185; Moltmann 1987, 837; Bachl 1999, 1:18; Remenyi 2005, 419; Remenyi 2007, 184; van den Brink and van der Kooi 2012, 639). The future of the cosmos stood in the shadow of the individual’s anthropocentric interest. Therefore, questions about the future of the cosmos were left to the fields of cosmology, astrophysics, and other natural sciences. We can still see

Raymond R. Hausoul is Affiliated Researcher of Systematic and Biblical Theology at the Evangelische Theologische Faculteit, Leuven, Belgium; e-mail: raymond.hausoul@etf.edu.