



THE NEW EARTH

Course 6, *New World Coming*, Lesson 13

The Problem: The promise of a new earth raises profound and beautiful questions. What will it be like to live in a world untouched by sin, sorrow, or death? What kind of existence awaits the redeemed of all ages when God recreates the earth as an eternal home?

One of the first questions is timing: When does the earth become new? Many Christians believe the 1,000 years of peace following Christ's return will be spent on this earth. But as we've seen in Lesson 11, Scripture teaches that during the millennium, the saved will be in heaven, while this earth remains desolate—inhabited only by Satan and his fallen angels. The renewal of the earth comes after that period, when God makes all things new and prepares a perfect dwelling place for His people.

This study invites us to explore what Scripture reveals about that glorious future:

- What will the capital city of the new earth—the New Jerusalem—be like?
- What will the spiritual life of the redeemed look like in a world free from temptation, disease, and death?
- Will there be no more arguments, no more discrimination, no more fear? Will we recognize our loved ones?
- What will the physical nature of the saved be? Will we have bodies or exist as spirit beings? Will painful memories linger, or will emotional wounds be healed?
- Will sin ever rise again? Or will the redeemed live in complete, eternal security?

And perhaps most personally:

- Is this world of joy, purity, perfect health, and peace worth preparing for?
- How do we get ready to inhabit such a place?

These are the questions that stir our hearts as we open the Word of God and allow the Holy Spirit to expand our imagination. Though we cannot fully grasp the wonders of the new earth, Scripture gives us glimpses—enough to awaken longing, inspire hope, and deepen our commitment to Christ.

Objectives:

- I. To understand when the earth is made new.
- II. To explore the Bible's description of the New Jerusalem.
- III. To consider the spiritual life of the redeemed.
- IV. To examine the physical and material blessings of the saved.
- V. To reflect on our readiness to inhabit the new earth.

I. WHEN IS THE EARTH MADE NEW?

The Bible gives a clear answer to this question. The Apostle John, author of the book of Revelation, was shown a vivid vision of the earth being made new—not as a gradual process, but at a definitive moment in God's prophetic timeline. This transformation does not occur during the millennium, when the redeemed are in heaven and the earth lies in desolation (see Lesson 11). Instead, it takes place after the thousand years, when God recreates the earth as an eternal home for His people. Let's explore what Scripture reveals about this moment—and how it fits into the final stages of the great controversy between good and evil.

The Word:

1. When do Christ and the saved descend to this earth? Revelation 21:2; 20:7-9
2. What does God do immediately after the destruction of the lost? Revelation 21:1; 2 Peter 3:13-14
3. What did Isaiah say regarding God's intention to renew the earth? Isaiah 65:17-18, 66:22

Explanation: The Final Rebellion and the Restoration of the Earth

At the close of the millennium, Satan is released from his prison—not by mercy, but by the resurrection of the lost from all ages (Revelation 20:5, 7). For a thousand years, he and his demons have been confined to a desolate earth, with no one to deceive. But now, with the wicked raised, he once again has a following.

As the New Jerusalem descends from heaven, containing Christ and the redeemed of all ages (Revelation 21:2), Satan rallies the resurrected lost to besiege the holy city. This final rebellion is not a battle of strength—it is a tragic display of hardened hearts. Just as he deceived in Eden, Satan now deceives the multitudes one last time.

But before the assault begins, God appears on the great white throne above the city (Revelation 20:11). The decisions made by the heavenly court during the millennium are now revealed. Each lost soul understands why they are outside the city, why eternal life cannot be granted, and what judgment awaits. There is no confusion, no injustice—only the solemn recognition of truth.

Then, fire comes down from heaven and consumes the wicked, including Satan himself (Revelation 20:9–10). Evil is eradicated. The great controversy is over.

With sin and sinners no more, the earth—purified by fire—is restored to its original beauty. Peter longed for this moment, writing: *“Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwells righteousness”* 2 Peter 3:13. Isaiah foresaw the same transformation: *“Behold, I create new heavens and a new earth... the former shall not be remembered”* Isaiah 65:17. *“As the new heavens and the new earth... shall remain before Me... so shall your seed and your name remain”* Isaiah 66:22.

This is not symbolic—it is the literal fulfillment of God’s promise to make all things new.

Relevance: The True Hope for a Broken World

It is futile to expect lasting peace or progress in this present world. Scripture warns that sin, sorrow, and destruction will increase until the return of Christ. Human efforts may offer temporary relief, but they cannot reverse the curse. Only after Jesus returns will true deliverance begin. The millennium will be a time of perfect peace in heaven, and the renewed earth will be the eternal home of the redeemed—a place of joy, health, holiness, and unbreakable security.

This is the world worth preparing for.

This is the hope that anchors the soul.

This is the future God longs to share with you.

II. THE CAPITAL OF THE NEW EARTH

No human pen could adequately describe the magnificence of the New Jerusalem. We can only read the Bible description and try to imagine what it will be like.

The Word:

4. What is the New Jerusalem called? How does John describe the city? Revelation 21:9-12; compare 19:7-8

5. To what extent do the number 12 and multiples of 12 occur in the description of the New Jerusalem? Revelation 21:12-21; compare Revelation 7:4-8
6. What other significant features will the New Jerusalem have? Revelation 21:22-27

Explanation: The New Jerusalem—The Bride of the Lamb

In Revelation 21:9, the angel declares, *“Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb’s wife.”* What John sees is not a person, but a city—the New Jerusalem—descending from heaven. This city is called the bride because it is the eternal home of Christ’s faithful people, those who were spiritually united to Him during the pre-advent judgment, described as the *“marriage of the Lamb”* (Revelation 19:7–8). In that passage, the believers themselves are called the bride, clothed in fine linen—the righteousness of Christ. Thus, both the people and the city are called the bride, because the city is the dwelling place of the redeemed.

The number 12 appears repeatedly in the city’s description, symbolizing spiritual completeness and covenantal fullness:

- 12 gates, each named after a tribe of Israel
- 12 foundations, each bearing the name of an apostle
- A wall measuring 144 cubits— 12×12
- A city dimension of 12,000 stadia (Revelation 21:16), which may refer to either the length of one side or the total perimeter. If literal, this would span approximately 1,400 miles in each direction

These numbers are not arbitrary—they reflect the perfect symmetry and unity of God’s people, both Old and New Testament saints, brought together in one eternal kingdom.

The city itself defies imagination:

- Walls of jasper
- Streets of transparent gold
- Foundations adorned with precious stones
- Gates made of single pearls (Revelation 21:18–21)

This is not merely architectural grandeur—it is symbolic of purity, permanence, and divine glory. Yet even these descriptions fall short of the reality. As Paul wrote, “Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard... the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him” (1 Corinthians 2:9).

Importantly, there is no temple in the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:22). During the millennium, the heavenly sanctuary serves as the center of judgment and intercession (Revelation 7:15; Hebrews 8:1–2). But once sin is eradicated, God Himself and the Lamb become the temple—dwelling directly with their people. There is no need for symbolic mediation; the redeemed enjoy face-to-face communion with their Creator.

The city is illuminated not by sun or moon, but by the glory of God (Revelation 21:23). There is no night, no fear, no sorrow. The nations of the saved walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory into it—a poetic way of saying that all cultures and peoples who have surrendered to Christ will find their place in this eternal kingdom (Revelation 21:24–26).

And what of our little world? It becomes the capital of the universe, the place where the greatest drama of redemption unfolded. Here, the Son of God gave His life—and here, the love of God was revealed in its fullest measure. The New Earth will not be a return to Eden—it will be greater than Eden, for it bears the scars of redemption and the glory of restoration.

Relevance: Who will enter the City? Revelation 21:27 makes it clear: *“Nothing impure will ever enter it... but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.”* There will be no corruption, no defilement, no deceit in the New Jerusalem. Only those who have been redeemed by Christ, whose lives reflect His reign, will enter. These are the ones whose names were retained in the book of life during the pre-advent judgment (Daniel 12:1; Revelation 3:5; 7:9–14). This is not a reward for merit—it is the gift of grace to those who have surrendered to the Lamb and allowed His righteousness to clothe them.

III. THE SPIRITUAL LIFE OF THE SAVED

When Jesus declared, “*My kingdom is not of this world*” (John 18:36), He revealed that His reign is not rooted in earthly power, political ambition, or human pride. His kingdom is spiritual—marked by righteousness, humility, and divine authority. Therefore, when His eternal kingdom is established on the earth made new, it will be a realm where holiness is not only present, but perfectly and perpetually manifested, untainted by the corruption of this fallen world.

The Word:

7. Who will dwell with the saved for eternity on the earth made new? Revelation 21:3
8. What is the spiritual qualification for inhabiting the new earth? Revelation 21:7
9. Of what do the saved partake throughout eternity? Revelation 22:2; 7:17; 21:6; 22:17; compare John 4:14
10. What special day of worship will be observed on the new earth? Isaiah 66:23
11. Who will be the object of adoration and worship throughout eternity? Revelation 22:3-5; compare 19:5-6

Explanation: The crowning promise of the new earth is this: God Himself will dwell with His people (Revelation 21:3). The holy city, the New Jerusalem, becomes the radiant center of His eternal government. No longer does God reign from afar—He lives among the redeemed.

He welcomes as His subjects those who have overcome through faith (Revelation 21:7). Throughout Revelation—especially in chapters 2 and 3—the emphasis falls consistently on victory over sin, compromise, and deception. Christ invites His people to share in the victory He achieved: “*To the one who overcomes, I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, just as I also overcame...*” Revelation 3:21. And He offers the power to do so: “*...to present you faultless before the presence of His glory...*” Jude 24.

What believers choose to surrender in this life—whether comfort, personal ambition, or self-directed gain—is insignificant compared to the glory of their eternal inheritance. This doesn’t mean responsible planning or receiving blessings is wrong—Scripture affirms wise stewardship and diligent provision. But Christ invites His people to hold earthly things loosely, and to seek first the kingdom of God. Whatever is given up for Him is always outweighed by the joy and fullness of what He gives in return—now and forever.

In that restored world, the redeemed will partake continually of both the tree of life and the water of life (Revelation 22:2; 7:17; 21:6). This symbolizes more than physical renewal—it reflects their ongoing spiritual vitality, sustained by unbroken union with Christ. The promise Jesus made to the woman at the well will be fulfilled eternally: “*Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst...*” John 4:14.

Worship in the new earth will be both daily and celebratory, with the Sabbath as the weekly memorial of creation and redemption (Isaiah 66:23). There will be no distraction, no deception. The tempter is gone forever. And the redeemed will worship without fear, distortion, or interruption—offering heartfelt adoration to the Source of all life and joy.

Relevance: Our worship now is not merely ritual—it is rehearsal for eternity. When we gather daily in prayer and weekly on the Sabbath, we join heaven's rhythm of devotion. Each act of praise is a thread in the eternal tapestry we will complete in the new earth. God longs to prepare us—not just for a perfect place, but for perfect communion with Him. The habits of worship we form today shape the hearts that will sing His praise forever.

IV. THE PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL BLESSINGS OF THE SAVED

One of the most thrilling promises of the new earth is its tangibility—we will be real people living in a real, restored world. Our eternal experience will not consist of floating as ethereal spirits, disconnected from meaningful activity or relationships. The Bible paints a clear picture: God's redeemed will enjoy purposeful lives, engaging in holy work, rich fellowship, and the beauty of creation as it was meant to be.

The Word:

12. Will the inhabitants of the new earth have bodies? Or will they be disembodied spirits? Philippians 3:20-21; Romans 8:23; 1 Corinthians 15:44, 49
13. Will the saved know their loved ones? How does Paul answer this question? 1 Corinthians 13:12. What kind of temporal security will the inhabitants of the new earth enjoy? Isaiah 65:17-25. How does Isaiah dramatize the complete absence of hurtful experiences in the new earth? Isaiah 11:6-9
14. What will replace the barren, unattractive parts of earth? Isaiah 35:1-2
15. How does Isaiah dramatize the complete absence of hurtful experiences in the new earth? Isaiah 11:6-9
16. What will replace the barren, unattractive parts of earth? Isaiah 35:1-2
17. To what extent will the sad experiences of this life disturb the peace of the saved? Revelation 21:43 Isaiah 65:17
18. Will sin ever again enter the universe? In what words does the Bible answer that question? Nahum 1:9

Explanation: The redeemed inhabitants of the new earth will be physical beings, not disembodied spirits. Our resurrected bodies will be made like Christ's own—glorified, incorruptible, and free from the limitations of our fallen nature (Philippians 3:21). We will know our friends and loved ones and be known by them. Relationships will be restored, deepened, and purified. We will engage in meaningful work, using our hands and minds in creative, joyful ways. It will not be the exhausting labor of this present world, but the most satisfying and fulfilling activity imaginable. Every noble ambition will find scope and expression in the new earth.

Some have misunderstood Isaiah 65:20, thinking it implies that sin and death will exist in the new earth. But Isaiah's prophecy has a dual application: first to Israel's potential blessings had they remained faithful, and second to the final restoration of all things. Because Israel failed, the promises have been inherited by the Christian Church (Galatians 3:28–29). In the end-time fulfillment, the references to death and sin no longer apply. Instead, Isaiah's vision of the *"new heavens and new earth"* aligns with John's in Revelation—where death is no more and righteousness dwells (Revelation 21:4; 2 Peter 3:13).

Isaiah also describes a world of perfect peace: *"They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea"* Isaiah 11:9. Even animals that were once incompatible will dwell together in harmony. There will be no deserts, no barren places, and no vast sea separating lands and peoples (Revelation 21:1).

One of the most beautiful promises is that *"the former things are passed away"* (Revelation 21:4). *"The former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind"* Isaiah 65:17. God will not allow the memories of sorrow, disappointment, or trauma to disturb the peace of His people. The sin problem will never rise again: *"Affliction shall not rise up the second time"* Nahum 1:9. The entire universe will have witnessed the consequences of rebellion and will be forever convinced of God's righteousness. No one will ever again desire to depart from His perfect will.

Relevance: *"The sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us"* Romans 8:18. Though our struggles now may feel overwhelming, they are infinitesimal compared to the joy, peace, and satisfaction of the new earth. One day, God's faithful people will exclaim with full hearts: *"Heaven is cheap enough!"* The price paid in this life—whether through sacrifice, endurance, or loss—will seem small in light of the eternal reward. The new earth will not merely compensate for our suffering; it will transform it into joy.

V. ARE YOU READY FOR THE NEW EARTH?

As you reflect on your life beside God's standard of righteousness and grace, how do you see yourself? Are you walking in surrender and victory—or is Christ gently calling you to deeper transformation?

The Word:

19. What is Jesus' heartfelt desire for each of us? John 17:24
20. Under what conditions can we inherit the new earth? Ezekiel 33:11; Revelation 21:7-8
21. How may we live as overcomers? Romans 1:16-17; 1 John 5:4

Explanation: Jesus longs to share His Kingdom with you—not as a distant ruler, but as your Redeemer and Friend. You were crafted by His hand and redeemed by His blood. His deepest desire is to see you delivered from all evil, walking with Him in the earth made new. Victory over sin is not reserved for the exceptional—it is offered to all who believe. The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation for those who receive it with living, abiding faith. This faith is not passive—it is a daily union with Christ, producing purity, strength, and spiritual renewal.

Relevance: You can be an overcomer—not by effort alone, but because of your union with Christ. He longs to dwell within you by His Holy Spirit (John 14:23; 17:23) and live out His life through you (Galatians 2:20). Yes, the new earth will overflow with material blessings—but the invitation of Jesus is first and foremost spiritual. He offers victory over every sin (2 Corinthians 7:1; 1 Peter 1:15–16), and purity of heart and mind. These graces are not future promises alone—they are available now. You can begin living the life of the redeemed even before the new earth is revealed.

“Christ in you, the hope of glory” Colossians 1:27. His righteousness is yours today (Romans 8:9–10). His presence is in your heart today (John 14:18). Heaven begins wherever Christ reigns.

Will you receive Him—not just as a future Savior—but as your present Redeemer from sin? Will you commit to seeking Him daily so that, when He returns, your eternal destiny will be joyfully assured?

Review Questions

1. True or False
 - a. The new earth is established at the second coming of Jesus.
 - b. The new earth is established at the end of the millennium.
 - c. The weekly sabbath will be kept on the new earth.
 - d. The saved on the new earth will be disembodied spirits.
2. Reflect: Since God's plan is for us to inhabit the new earth with redeemed people from every nation, is it ever right to harbor prejudice? Jesus died for all—just as surely as He died for you. Those who you may struggle to love now will be your neighbors in eternity. Why not begin today to love, serve, and live joyfully alongside them?