

Ellen G. White Estate

MY JOURNEY TO LIFE

THE NEW EARTH

Why Does God Make Our Earth New?

STEP 28 OF 28



My Journey to Life, Step 28

Foreword

My Journey to Life will give you the keys for finding peace of mind, harmony of body, and success in relationships. Every step will transform your outlook as you unpack each lesson. We pray they will help you to fall in love with the greatest Teacher this world has ever known. So together, let's walk the pathway step-by-step to a new life in Jesus.

Preface

Many believe that heaven is a place where the righteous go immediately after death. However, this is not supported by the Bible, rather it's a place where the redeemed will live forever after Jesus's second coming when He will raise from the grave His faithful resting ones.

Step Twenty-eight—The New Earth

Question: Why Does God Make Our Earth New? "On the new earth, in which righteousness dwells, God will provide an eternal home for the redeemed and a perfect environment for everlasting life, love, joy, and learning in His presence. For here God Himself will dwell with His people, and suffering and death will have passed away. The great controversy will be ended, and sin will be no more. All things, animate and inanimate, will declare that God is love, and He shall reign forever. Amen."—*Seventh-day Adventists Believe*, p. 421.

Bible Discovery: Isaiah 35:1-10; 65:17-25; Matthew 5:5; 2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 11:15; 21:1-7; 22:1-5

Further Reading: Ellen G. White, *The Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 4, p. 490.1

1. Is heaven a literal place? Yes! Heaven is the actual dwelling place of God, but after the end of the great controversy, the new earth will be the eternal home of the redeemed. It will be inhabited by real people who can think, speak, sing, taste, smell, and fully experience every facet of its wonder.

Bible Discovery: Matthew 5:16, 20; 6:9; 19:23; 23:22; Mark 9:47; 2 Corinthians 5:1

Further Reading: Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 674.4

2. Where is heaven? Presently, heaven is beyond our atmosphere, beyond the stars—a place the Bible labels "the third heaven," where Paradise is located. Both the Hebrew and Greek words for heaven have the meaning of "that which is high or above."

In Scripture, heaven stands for the place where God dwells upon His throne. Heaven is sometimes used as a synonym for God, such as in the parable of the prodigal son who states,

“I have sinned against heaven” (Luke 15:18, see also Matthew 23:22).

Bible Discovery: Deuteronomy 26:15; Psalm 103:11; Isaiah 66:1; 2 Corinthians 12:1-4

Further Reading: Ellen G. White, *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 6, p. 1054.3-4

3. What is the relationship between heaven and the new earth? When Jesus comes again to earth, all the righteous dead are resurrected and ascend to heaven with Him, along with the righteous living. After a thousand years (see Lesson #27, The Millennium), God’s throne inside the New Jerusalem, descends to Planet Earth, splitting the Mount of Olives. At the very site where Jesus made His final choice to die on our behalf, the New Jerusalem, capital of God’s universal kingdom, is established for eternity.

After the final destruction of all taint of sin, Jesus recreates the earth. The new earth then, is *this* recreated earth, not some alien place. It is new in the sense that God will remove from the earth every blemish that sin has caused.

Bible Discovery: Matthew 5:5; Isaiah 2:2; 24:23; Zechariah 14:4, 10, 11; John 14:1-3; 2 Peter 3:10-13; 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17; Revelation 20:4, 6; 21:1, 3, 5

Further Reading: Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 674.1, 3

4. What are the qualifications for entry into the new earth? The primary prerequisite to entrance into the new earth is being clothed in Christ’s righteousness (see Jesus’ parable of the wedding garment in Matthew 22:1-14). Through Christ’s power and under His instruction, the saved will be conquerors of sin. Their names are written in “the Lamb’s book of life” (Revelation 21:27). They will have given Jesus their full allegiance and will have had no part with the beast (Revelation 13:8; 17:8). God’s redeemed people are purified and forgiven through the blood of Jesus.

In contrast, those who choose to exclude themselves from the new earth are ultimately destroyed in the lake of fire. Revelation 21:8 gives a list of who will not be there: the faithless, the polluted, the murderers, the fornicators, the sorcerers, the idolaters, and the liars. Nothing unclean will enter the new earth (see Revelation 21:27).

Bible Discovery: Psalm 15:2, 3; Isaiah 35:8; Matthew 5:8; 1 Corinthians 1:7-9; Hebrews 9:14, 22; Revelation 2:7, 11; 15:2, 3 (See Step #22, The Remnant); 21:7; 22:14

Further Reading: Ellen G. White, *God’s Amazing Grace*, p. 355.1-2; *Review and Herald*, August 25, 1885, par. 5

5. Will there be marriage in the new earth? Although we will recognize our family and friends in heaven, Jesus says there will be no marriage there (Matthew 22:30). However, that does not mean that we will be deprived of loving relationships in the new earth. In God’s restored kingdom, no one will lack for love, joy or pleasure. No one there will feel lonely, empty, or loved.

We can trust that God loves us and wants to delight us with a new earth that far surpasses anything we have known or longed for in this earthly life. As much as we will enjoy the friendship and social interaction with the saved; with Bible heroes we have admired; with family members; and with the angels, our greatest joy will be deepening our relationship with our heavenly Father, our Savior Jesus, and our spiritual companion, the Holy Spirit.

Bible Discovery: Psalm 16:11; 84:11; Matthew 8:11; John 4:8; 20:11-16, 27, 28

Further Reading: Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 677.1; *Selected Messages*, vol. 2, p. 172.3

6. What is the purpose of the new earth? The entire Bible is the on-going story of God’s covenant with human beings—His covenant to be faithful to us as we respond in willing obedience to Him. The new earth is the ultimate fulfillment of all the covenant promises found throughout Scripture. It is the ultimate objective of redemption history and of the gospel.

God’s covenant to be faithful to us includes the reward of eternal life for the righteous. God’s promises to ancient Israel are to be fulfilled to the Christian church, to those who have accepted Jesus as Lord of their lives. This eternal glorious reward is the “hope laid up for you in heaven” (Colossians 1:5), the “promised eternal inheritance” (Hebrews 9:15), which is the new earth.

Bible Discovery: Deuteronomy 28:1-68; Psalm 37:11; Romans 2:7; 1 Corinthians 2:9; 2 Timothy 4:18; 1 Peter 1:4, 13; 2 Peter 3:11-13; Revelation 22:4

Further Reading: Ellen G. White, 3LtMs, *Letter 30*, 1882, par. 10; *Signs of the Times*, April 8, 1889, par. 13

7. What will the new earth be like? Let’s note first that Peter describes the antediluvian or first world as “the world that then existed” and was destroyed by water. The second world is “the world which now exists” —a world that will be cleansed by fire to make way for the third world, “a new earth in which righteousness dwells” (2 Peter 3:6, 7, 13). The “third world” will be as real as the first two.

In Revelation, John describes the New Jerusalem, as the capital of the new earth with words that convey beauty, glory, and splendor. From the throne of God in the center of the city flows the “river of water of life” (Revelation 22:1). There will be dwelling places —real homes—for the ransomed, as well as unlimited opportunities to practice creative horticulture (without weeds or drought!), architecture, and physical and intellectual activities. We will not be angels in heaven; we will be ourselves—glorified and immortal. Jesus will both eat and drink with us there (Mark 14:25).

The New Jerusalem will be the religious center of the kingdom, to which the redeemed come both regularly and unceasingly, to worship and learn of God’s ways. Singing and fellowship will be an important and joyful part of worship in the new earth. The new earth will be a kingdom governed by righteousness, faithfulness, and peace; a full restoration of what God had planned

for His original creation in Eden. Best of all, God will dwell among His people: “They shall see his face, and his name shall be on their foreheads” (Revelation 22:3, 4).

Bible Discovery: Isaiah 2:2, 3; 11:1, 3, 5; 65:19, 21; 66:22, 23; Mark 14:25; Luke 22:16, 18; 1 Corinthians 2:9; Revelation 3:5, 12, 21; 21:1-27; 22:1-5

Further Reading: Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 677.2-3

8. How does the Bible describe the future realm of the saved?

- **Holy** - The former designation “Holy to the Lord” for the high priest will describe all the saved and everything within the kingdom. Exodus 28:36
- **Joyful** - Though God’s people will be glad to be free of pain, persecution, and distress, their greatest joy will be in the presence of God among His people. Ezekiel 37:28
- **Peaceful** - All the inhabitants of the kingdom, including animals, will be free from fear and enjoy perfect safety. Isaiah 11:6-9
- **Fruitful** - Not only will the inhabitants of the new earth be able to design, furnish, and decorate their own homes, they will also plant and harvest in joy. Isaiah 62:9
- **Permanent** - As the new heavens and earth will remain forever, so will also the redeemed inhabit the new earth forever. Isaiah 65:22

Bible Discovery: Isaiah 12:6; 62:1, 2, 12; 65:17-19, 21, 22; Zechariah 2:12; 2 Peter 3:18

Further Reading: Ellen G. White, *Education*, p. 301.1-6

9. What is the significance of the doctrine of the new earth and heaven’s eternal kingdom?

The biblical teaching concerning the new earth is really the culmination of all of salvation history and the goal of redemption. God’s purpose in creation was that human beings made in His image would exercise benevolent dominion over the entire world and its creatures. Though sin interrupted that divine plan, in the new earth His plan will be perfectly restored.

The entire Bible focuses on the covenant of love God made with His people. If they are faithful to His name, He will establish them again in the kingdom to come, through the sacrifice of Messiah. God’s promises will find fulfillment as His people enjoy the new earth forever, restored even beyond its Eden beauty. This eternal kingdom of glory is the consummation of all Jesus’ teaching and ministry (see Mark 1:14, 15).

Bible Discovery: Genesis 1:26-28; Matthew 4:12-17; Luke 14:13, 14; Acts 3:19-21; Romans 8:21

Further Reading: Ellen G. White, *The Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 3, p. 262.1-2

10. What will NOT be in the new earth? There will be NO evil of any kind in the new earth because God will eradicate every form of sin, the cause of all evil. There, in that better land, you and I will never have to battle the world, the flesh, and the devil. We will have passed the test; our allegiance to God will be total. Sin will not rise again a second time (Nahum 1:9).

In the new earth, all traces of sin will be gone. God will wipe away our tears. We will have no haunting memories of sin, pain, disappointment, rejection, abandonment, death, grief, fear, anxiety, hunger, sadness, violence, or betrayal. We will only rejoice in the abundant grace by which Christ saved us!

Bible Discovery: Isaiah 2:4; 11:9; 25:8; 65:16, 17; Revelation 21:4, 8; 22:15

Further Reading: Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 678.3

11. How does the Christian's belief in heaven and the new earth impact our life on earth now?

- **It brings the joys and certainty of a reward.** The more we learn of heaven and God's promises, the more we long to be there! Matthew 5:12
- **It gives strength against temptation.** Moses was able to walk away from the "pleasures of sin" and the "treasures of Egypt" because he "looked to the reward." Hebrews 11:26
- **It provides a foretaste of heaven.** As we contemplate Jesus' great love, His Spirit brings us His kingdom of grace right now, even before we enter His kingdom of glory. Revelation 3:20
- **It leads to greater usefulness.** Anticipating a hereafter with Jesus will help us structure our lives now to be more effective. 1 Corinthians 10:31
- **It reveals God's character.** Sin has deeply damaged our world and society. As we consider the perfection of the new earth where God's purpose rules, we understand better His true character. 1 John 4:8
- **It draws us to God.** The purpose of the descriptions of the new earth in Scripture are to attract us to Christ and our eternal home. Revelation 22:17, 20

Bible Discovery: 1 Corinthians 15:58; 2 Corinthians 4:16, 17; 2 Timothy 4:8; Hebrews 11:25, 26; Revelation 2:10

Further Reading: Ellen G. White, *Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 285.2

12. What will be our greatest joy on the new earth? Now, we "see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face" (1 Corinthians 13:12). On earth we have read about Jesus, prayed to Him, and sung His praises—all through faith in what we cannot now see. But on the new earth, Jesus' promise "That where I am there you may be also" (John 14:3) will find eternal fulfillment.

Every day in the new earth we will understand in a deeper way how much the Father, Son and Holy Spirit love us, and the significance of Jesus' sacrifice on Calvary. We will partner with Jesus Himself to witness to unfallen worlds about His incredible love. As we come together with our

friends and the celestial angels to worship God Sabbath by Sabbath, surely, we will cry out with joy, “Home at last!”

Bible Discovery: Isaiah 66:23; Micah 4:1, 2; Hebrews 11:1; Revelation 4:11; 5:9, 10; 22:3, 4

Further Reading: Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 674.2; 678.1-2

Prayer to Pray: *“Lord, I want to live with You and the redeemed for all eternity in the earth made new. Today I accept you as my Messiah and give you my whole life. Please write your laws on my heart and help me to become like You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”*

Reflection...

The new earth will be the eternal home of the redeemed, free from every taint of sin and sadness. It is knowledge and acceptance of the Lord Jesus that enables the saved to enjoy all the wonders and realities of the new earth.

Next Step...

This is the last of the Bible studies on the Fundamental Beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist church. If you would like to learn more about Seventh-day Adventists, or prepare to be baptized as a symbol of your faith in Jesus, please contact your local Seventh-day Adventist church.

Discussion Questions

1. What do you look forward to in God's New Earth?
2. In this lesson, what did you learn about the New Earth that you didn't know before?
3. In what way does populating the New Earth with the saved culminate all of salvation history and God's covenant of love?

Further Reading

Official Adventist Website: <https://adventist.org/the-new-earth>

Contact Information

Ellen G. White Estate: mail@whiteestate.org

Request a personal Bible study: <https://www.bibleschools.com/en/personal-studies>

Visit your local Seventh-day Adventist Church: <https://www.adventistlocator.org>

Online prayer room: <https://www.wepray.mobi>