Lesson 25 - The New Earth



Before creation, this world was “without form,

and void; and darkness was upon the face of

the deep” (Genesis 1:2). Then in six days

God created a perfect world and placed

Adam and Eve to rule over it (see Genesis 1:26-28). Unfortunately, the bliss of this perfect and finished creation was marred by the entrance of sin. At the Fall, this world was handed over to Satan and he became its ruler (see Luke 4:5, 6). Thus began the downward trend.

Unlike the theory of evolution, the Bible teaches devolution; that is, in the beginning God created a perfect and finished world to which nothing could be added for improvement. But when sin entered this world, things began to go from bad to worse. Ultimately, sin will destroy our world until one day this earth will be reduced to what it was before creation, “without form and void.”

The book of Revelation describes this destroyed world as the “bottomless pit”. This is where Satan, the originator of sin, and his angels will be bound during the Millennium (Revelation 20:1-3). They will have one thousand years to contemplate what sin has done to God's perfect creation.

After the thousand years are ended and God has judged and executed Satan and all who have joined him, thus eradicating sin from the universe, He will create a new heaven and a new earth wherein will dwell righteousness. At that time, God will move His throne from heaven to this earth made new and the saints will rule with Him forever and ever. This wonderful truth, which culminates the plan of redemption, will be the concluding lesson of these Bible studies.

1. What was the condition of the earth before creation? Genesis 1:2

Before creation, the earth was shapeless and lifeless, unorganized and inanimate, and covered by water. As for the earth's genesis, see the Lesson 14 Supplement.

2. How long did it take God to create this world we live in? Exodus 20:11

Please read Genesis 1:3-31 to get a complete description of creation week. Note that all that God created was "very good." At the end of the sixth day, this world was perfect and finished so that God rested on the seventh day from all His work and sanctified the seventh day (see Genesis 2:1-3).

3. Out of what did God create this universe of ours? Hebrews 11:3

Man depends on preexisting matter to create things. But God created this universe just by speaking the word. His breath is energy so that when He spoke things came into existence. Likewise, when Christ comes the second time He will speak, and the dead in Christ will rise instantly with perfect bodies.

4. Who of the three persons of the Godhead actually created this world? John 1:1-3

According to John 1:14, the "Word" is Jesus Christ who "was made flesh and dwelt among us." Jesus who created us is also the One who redeemed us.

5. What promise did Jesus make before returning to heaven? John 14:2

What Christ was implying is that in heaven there is room for everybody. No one will be lost who accepts by faith the gift of salvation offered in Christ. This is the incredible good news of the gospel.

6. Where will Christ take the believers at His Second Coming? John 14:3

Heaven is God's dwelling place and that is where Christ will take the saints when He comes the second time.

7. What will happen to this earth at the Second Coming of Christ? 2 Peter 3:10

Because “God is a consuming fire” (Hebrews 12:29), nothing that has been tainted by sin will be able to withstand Christ’s full glory at His coming.

8. To what do believers look forward because of the plan of redemption? 2 Peter 3:13

Heaven will not be the permanent home of the saints. The earth made new will be the final home of the saved, a world in which dwells righteousness.

9. What will this world be like when Christ takes the saints to heaven? Jeremiah 4:23

10. What will happen to life and vegetation at Christ's Second Advent? Jeremiah 4:25, 26

Sin will ultimately destroy this earth and all life in it. This world of ours will be reduced to what it was before creation, “without form and void.” It is to this destroyed earth that Satan will be bound for a thousand years.

11. Will this earth remain desolate forever? Jeremiah 4:27

God’s plan is to eventually restore this earth to its original perfection.

12. What promise did Christ make to His disciples in this beatitude? Matthew 5:5

The meek1 are those who have lost all confidence in self and are depending entirely on the righteousness of Christ for their salvation.

13. How long will the saints reign with Christ in heaven? Revelation 20:6

14. What New Covenant promise will be fulfilled in the earth made new? Revelation 21:3

After the thousand years the saints, along with the Holy City in which they have been dwelling, the New Jerusalem, will descend to this earth and become the capital of the earth made new (see Revelation 21:2).

15. What special tree will be found growing in the New Jerusalem? Revelation 22:1, 2

16. Describe briefly what life will be like in New Jerusalem? Revelation 22:3

1 (Luke 18:9-14): 9Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: 10"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men - extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. 12I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' 13And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' 14I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted".

How wonderful it will be to live in such a city! But the greatest joy the saints will experience is to serve their God and their Savior, Jesus Christ.

17. What will God wipe out in the earth made new? Revelation 21:4

Just think of it, no more death, pain, or heartaches in the earth made new! According to Revelation 21:5, God is going to make "everything new."

18. Who will be allowed to inherit the earth made new? Revelation 21:7

All who have overcome unbelief and received by faith God's gift of salvation will inherit the earth made new. Only those who have deliberately and ultimately refused Christ as their Savior will be destroyed forever (Revelation 21:8).

19. Briefly, describe what life will be like in the earth made new? Isaiah 65:21, 22

20. What other description of the new earth does Isaiah give us? Isaiah 65:25

21. Will illness ever threaten the lives of God's people in the new earth? Isaiah 33:24

What a future! Surely, the new earth will be paradise restored. Therefore, anyone who refuses such an offer, which God gives us through the gospel of Jesus Christ, needs to think twice about what he or she is rejecting.

22. Will sin ever rise again in the new earth? Nahum 1:9

Sin will not rise a second time to plague the new earth. That is not because God will take away our freedom of choice but because the saints will know first-hand what sin is. They will hate sin for what it did to Christ on the cross, and the thought of rebellion against God will never enter their minds.

23. What two things are required of all believers to inherit the new earth? Hebrews 10:35, 36

Nowhere in the Bible does it teach that "once saved" means "always saved." As Jesus stated in Matthew 10:22, only those whose faith "endures to the end will be saved." Hebrews 10:38 says the same thing. This is what it means to have the perseverance of the saints. Even if it costs us our lives, if we are to make it to heaven and the earth made new, our faith in Christ must be unshakable. Jesus does not want believers to lose their confidence in Him, and therefore He wants our faith to endure unto the end. His final words in the Bible are "Surely I come quickly." May your response to this promise be "Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus" (Revelation 22:20). The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you now and forever more. Amen.

My Response to Lesson 25

• The ultimate goal in the plan of salvation is to eradicate sin and restore this earth to its original perfection. In doing so, this earth made new will become the center of God's government. Is it your heartfelt desire to be part of this kingdom through faith in Christ?

Response: _____

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