

Lesson 14 for December 31, 2022

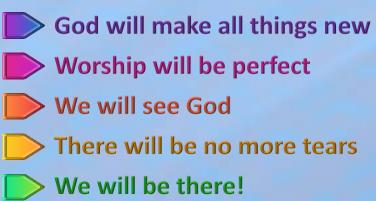


"Then He who sat on the throne said, 'Behold, I make all things new.' And He said to me, 'Write, for these words are true and faithful" (Revelation 21:5) Our planet was a perfect place made for perfect beings. Everything was "very good" (Genesis 1:31). However, suffering and death appeared with sin, thus degrading this perfect world.

Isaiah got a glimpse of the complete renovation that God is going to do. Peter recalled this promise in 2 Peter 3:13. Finally, the Bible ends with an encouraging vision of the New Earth, a place where everyone can live if they want to.







GOD WILL MAKE ALL THINGS NEW

"For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind." (Isaiah 65:17)

Isaiah 65:17-25 and 66:22-23 show God's plan to gradually eradicate sin. Eventually, humans will live in a sinless world.





Israel was meant to carry out God's plan. They should've accepted the Messiah (Jesus of Nazareth) and be a light leading the entire world to God (Is. 11:6-12; 60:1-5). Then, nature would've gradually changed until being fully transformed.

However, Israel didn't carry out their part. God's promises were transferred to the Church and the plan was adapted.



The new plan contains changes to the original one announced in Isaiah 65. As Jesus explained, some things stay, others are removed, and others are added.

The original plan (Isaiah 65)

- ✓ A New Earth (17)
- ✓ Sin will not be remembered (17)
- ✓ Jerusalem will be a place of joy (18)
- ✓ There will be no weeping (19)
- ✓ Children will not die (20, 23)
- ✓ The righteous will be long-lived (20, 22)
- ✓ Sinners will die prematurely (20)
- ✓ Work will be fruitful (21)
- There will be peace and prosperity (22-23)
- ✓ God will answer all prayers (24)
- ✓ Nature will be transformed (25)

What was removed

- ✓ Death (Rev. 21:4)
- ✓ Sin and sinners (Rev. 21:27)
- ✓ Giving birth (Mt. 22:29-30)

What was added

- ✓ The New Jerusalem will come down from Heaven (Rev. 21:2)
- ✓ The throne of God will stay in the city (Rev. 22:1-3)
- ✓ God Himself will live with His people physically and permanently (Rev. 22:4-5)

WORSHIP WILL BE PERFECT



"He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God," (Revelation 3:12)

Both in Israel's time and nowadays, people worship God "in spirit" in places of worship, without Him being physically present (1K. 8:27-30; Jn. 4:23-24).

This will be different in the New Earth. The redeemed will serve God in His temple, in the physical presence of the Lamb, Jesus (Rev. 7:15-17). Moreover, they will be "columns" of the temple, living in the New Jerusalem by the throne of God (Rev. 3:12; 22:3).





However, there's no temple in the New Jerusalem (Rev. 21:22). The presence of God makes the city itself a temple where we'll worship God in His presence (Rev. 21:1-3). We will praise Jesus our Redeemer forever (Rev. 7:9-10; 5:13).

WE WILL SEE GOD "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." (Matthew 5:8)

No one can see God because of sin (1Jn. 4:12; Jn. 1:18). However, we've been promised that we will see God face to face once sin is removed (Rev. 22:4).

Both Jesus and John encouraged us to have a clean heart and purify ourselves because we will see God (Mt. 5:8; 1Jn. 3:2-3).



God offers the joy of salvation for free. The hope of seeing Him face to face must make a change in our lives.

We must obey God's Word today, letting the Holy Spirit lead us and mold us (Ro. 8:1, 14; 2Co. 3:18).



THERE WILL BE NO MORE TEARS

"And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." (Revelation 21:4)



God cares about our sufferings and tears. He's willing to comfort us (Ps. 56:8; 116:8). However, some tears will not be wiped in this life, but in the future.



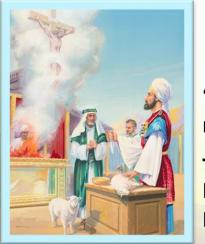


The tears for our loved beings will be wiped at the resurrection.

The tears for injustice and everything we don't currently understand will be wiped at God's judgment during the millennium.

Finally, "The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind." (Isaiah 65:17 NVI).





WE WILL BE THERE!

"And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads." (Revelation 22:3-4)

"His name shall be on their foreheads" means that we will have the character of Jesus.

Is that a requirement to be in the New Earth? Will we ever have it?

God promised a solution when Adam and Eve sinned. He used the sacrificial system to teach Israel that sin can be removed only by the death of the Innocent: the Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth.



He has done everything necessary to forgive us and transform us. We just have to accept Him by faith (Ro. 5:1-2). If we do, we will be there!



"Now the church is militant. Now we are confronted with a world in darkness, almost wholly given over to idolatry. But the day is coming when the battle will have been fought, the victory won. The will of God is to be done on earth as it is done in heaven. The nations of the saved will know no other law than the law of heaven. All will be a happy, united family, clothed with the garments of praise and thanksgiving—the robe of Christ's righteousness. All nature, in its surpassing loveliness, will offer to God a tribute of praise and adoration."

E. G. W. (The Ministry of Healing, cp. 43, p. 504)

E. G. W. (The Great Controversy, cp. 42, p. 678)

"The great controversy is ended. Sin and sinners are no more. The entire universe is clean. One pulse of harmony and gladness beats through the vast creation. From Him who created all, flow life and light and gladness, throughout the realms of illimitable space. From the minutest atom to the greatest world, all things, animate and inanimate, in their unshadowed beauty and perfect joy, declare that God is love."