



The New Earth

“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away” (Revelation 21:1).

Not all of the stones mentioned in the wall and foundation of the Holy City can be positively identified. However, many of the characteristics of jasper seem to indicate the reason God chose to use it so abundantly. Jasper is inlaid or studded into the walls and also forms the first foundation. Could God have attached special importance to it because this precious stone is so like the people He has chosen to live in the New Earth?

Jasper is a fairly common mineral. Though not hard to find, it is classified as a gem because, when it is highly polished, it shines beautifully.

Jasper comes in many colors—white, red, gold, brown, black, and occasionally, a lovely green. Some pieces are one solid color, some are of two colors, and some combine many colors. Sometimes the stone is streaked, or it may appear as flowing, wavy bands known as rainbow jasper.

Note how the characteristics of jasper are like the redeemed who will one day live in that Holy City. People of all nationalities and races will be there. The New Earth will have many types of personalities, abilities, and talents. The ignorant and the learned, the poor and the rich, the black and the white here on earth will find themselves in the New Earth as a community of equality, dignity, and beauty—all transformed by the grace of God. Like Jasper, they may be of different hues, but they will all carry the same shine from the transforming power of God.

Preview

Some scientists tell us that this earth will dry up, the last human being drinking the last drop of water. Some say that an asteroid will hit our earth and all life will be destroyed. Some predict this earth will be destroyed by aliens from other planets. Some foresee glaciers of ice several miles high that will submerge this earth. Others predict that AIDS or some other plague will end life. Still others think that we will evolve into god-like beings and do away with war and crime so that this will be a near-perfect world.

All these are human surmisings. God has told us some sure things about the future of this earth. He who made this earth in the beginning knows the future. And God has some marvelous surprises for us.

1 Corinthians 2:9 hints at the wonders. “Eye hath not _____, nor _____ heard, neither have entered into the _____ of man, the things _____ hath prepared for them that _____ him.”

Points to Ponder

The Bible calls the inheritance of the saved a country (Hebrews 11:14-16). Here, our Saviour will lead His people to fountains of living waters. He will introduce them to the Tree of Life, which yields its fruit every month. Its leaves are for the service of the nations. The ever-flowing streams are as clear as

crystal. Beside them are waving trees that cast their shadows upon the pathways of the righteous as they go from place to place. The broad plains swell into beautiful hills with mountains nearby that are covered with verdure, plants, and trees—the perpetual habitation of animals and birds. In these peaceful surroundings, God's people make their homes.

God created this world to be inhabited, and He will come back to this planet again when it is made new once more.

Isaiah 25:21, 22: "And they shall build _____, and _____ them; and they shall plant _____, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another _____; they shall not plant, and another _____; for as the days of a tree are the days of my _____, and mine elect shall long _____ the work of their hands."

Nuts & Bolts

1. When Jesus comes again, what will happen to this earth?

2 Peter 3:10-12: "But the day of the _____ will come as a _____ in the night; in the which the _____ shall pass away with a great _____, and the _____ shall melt with fervent _____, the _____ also and the works that are therein it shall be _____ up. Seeing then that all things shall be _____, what manner of _____ ought ye to be in all holy _____ and _____, looking for and hastening unto the _____ day of the _____, wherein the heavens being on _____ shall be dissolved, and the _____ shall melt with fervent _____?"

2. Will the New Earth be a real place?

2 Peter 3:13: "Nevertheless we, according to his _____, look for _____ heavens and a _____ earth, wherein dwelleth _____."

3. What will people in the New Earth be like?

Philippians 3:21: The Saviour "shall _____ our vile _____, that it may be _____ like unto his _____ body, according to the working whereby he is _____ even to _____ all things unto Himself."

Jesus, after His resurrection, had a real body of flesh and bones (Luke 24:36-43). So will the righteous—after the resurrection or translation—have real bodies (1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17; 1 Corinthians 15:51-53).

4. What city will be the capital of the New Earth?

Revelation 21:2: "Then I John saw the holy _____, new _____, coming down from _____ out of _____, prepared as a _____ adorned for her _____."

5. Find out the following about this great city (Revelation 21:10-27).

- a. Number of gates _____
- b. Number of foundations _____
- c. The streets of the city are made of _____
- d. The gates are made of _____

6. What is the source of light for the city?

Revelation 21:23: "The _____ of _____ did lighten it, and the _____ is its light thereof."

7. Where will the inhabitants live?

John 14:2: "In my Father's _____ are many _____; if it were not so I would have told you."

8. What will the inhabitants do?

Isaiah 65:21: "They shall build _____, and inhabit them; and they shall _____, and eat the _____ of them."

9. Will there be marriage in heaven?

Matthew 22:30: "For in the resurrection they neither _____, nor are given in _____, but are as the _____ of God in heaven."

10. Will the inhabitants go to worship there, and if so, how often?

Isaiah 66:23: "From one new _____ to another, and from one _____ to another, shall all _____ come to _____ before me, saith the Lord."

11. What five things will be missing there? (See Revelation 21:4)

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____

12. How long will Jesus reign in the New Earth?

Revelation 11:15: "He shall reign for _____ and _____."

13. What will happen to our memories of this old world?

Isaiah 65:17: “The _____ shall _____ not be _____,
nor come into _____.” We will not forget the good things God has done.
But He will erase the memories that cause remorse, regret, disappointment, grief, or anger.

Words to Remember

Antediluvian: Before the flood of Noah.

Translucent: Transmitting light—transparent.

Antidote: Remedy for a bad effect.

Eradicate: To completely remove or destroy.

The Difference Between

Ambassador: God has sent us as ambassadors—to be representatives of the Kingdom of God here on earth.

Witness: To bear testimony to what one has seen, heard, or experienced personally.

Continuity: Connected with the former one.

New Earth: New, not as though it was not there before—but new in terms of transformation and renewal.
God will renew this earth and restore it to its original perfection and beauty.

I Truly Believe

Jesus is eagerly waiting to give to each saved person wonders untold and perfect joy throughout the long ages of eternity. He has a special place just for you.

If it is really the desire of your heart, please place a check in the box that precedes each commitment.

- I am glad Jesus has gone to prepare a place for me.
- I am looking forward to living in the New Earth with Jesus.
- I accept Jesus as my friend and plan to be with Him forever.
- I plan to do everything necessary to prepare to live in the New Earth.

My Prayer

Dear Father,

I want to thank You for loving me so much that You plan to share the beautiful New Earth with me forever. I now surrender my life totally to You. Come into my heart. Prepare me to live in that perfect land, where I shall be with You forever. In Jesus' wonderful name I pray. Amen.