

TEXT Revelation 21:1-27; 22:1-5

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURE II Peter 3:13,14

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to explain that this sin-polluted earth will pass away after the White Throne Judgment, and God will create new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness shall dwell.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. — II Peter 3:13

KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. — Isaiah 65:17

ANSWER
TITLE:

SEARCH
TITLE:

Chapter Thirteen

The New Heaven and New Earth

REFERENCE INFORMATION

The earth on which we now stand, that seems so big and solid under our feet, is going to pass away. The heavens also which now exist will be no more. What John saw in his vision were not a renovated earth and a rebuilt heaven, but a new heaven and a new earth.

At the Great White Throne Judgment, “the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them” (Revelation 20:11). Creation, which has been

defiled by sin, will not be able to stand before the Judge of all the earth. When all enemies are put under the feet of Christ, the defiled elements themselves shall vanish away like a vapor. God is going to create new heavens and a new earth untainted by the presence of Satan or any of his followers.

The new heavens and the new earth will surpass anything which man is capable of describing.

YOUR OPENER

The New Heaven and New Earth

TEXT: Revelation 21:1-27; 22:1-5

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: II Peter 3:13,14

KEY VERSE: For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. — Isaiah 65:17

Imagine walking through one of twelve enormous gates—each made of a single pearl—and being surrounded by massive walls of crystal-clear jasper. People may stroll along streets of pure gold, to a beautiful, pure river that is also crystal clear. On either side of the river is the tree of life bearing twelve kinds of fruit. Everyone is so happy! There is no sorrow or crying or pain. This City was prepared for you by God himself. It is more than just an imaginary scene. It was revealed by God to John the Revelator, and it will someday become a reality to us if we prepare for it here on earth.

RESPONSES

1. The Great White Throne Judgment. Use this question to reflect on that lesson, and continue to show the sequence of events.
2. Encourage the students to read their descriptions. This is a good time to talk about the good things in store for the Christians. See Titus 3:7.
3. Encourage your students to share their thoughts. Help them to realize that the effects of the curse will be gone, and we will be in our glorified bodies. There will be nothing to cause pain, nor will there be reason for grief or sorrow. Emphasize the differences which will be apparent when “the former things are passed away.”

1. What great event precedes the coming of the new heaven and the new earth? See Revelation 20:11.
2. Write a brief description of the new Jerusalem that John saw.
3. Explain what the absence of sorrow, pain, crying, and death will mean to you.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

4. Revelation 21:7 tells us that “He that overcometh shall inherit all things.” What constitutes an overcomer? See I John 5:4,5; Revelation 2:26; 12:11.

5. Who will be excluded from the new Jerusalem?

6. Who is the Light in this City? How does that relate to us today? See John 8:12; Matthew 5:14-16.

7. II Peter 3:13 lets us know that there will be only goodness in the new heavens and new earth. Not everyone will be able to enter. How can you be sure you will have a part in this wonderful place?

4. Allow time for your students to give their thoughts as to the characteristics of an overcomer. Some points mentioned will likely be: one who is born of God and has faith in Jesus; one who keeps the Word of God to the end; and one who, through the Blood of the Lamb, gives testimony and loves not his own life. You might want to continue your discussion by bringing out the rewards of the overcomer. See Revelation 2:7,11,17; 3:5,12,21.

5. The point of this question is to help the students realize that sin separates (Revelation 22:14,15; Isaiah 59:2). Unless we avail ourselves of salvation we will be cast into eternal punishment. See Hebrews 2:3 and Revelation 20:15.

6. The glory of God and the Lamb (Jesus) are the Light. Discuss how Jesus brought the Light of salvation to mankind (John 3:17). After we are saved we become a Light in the world. See Matthew 5:14-16.

7. This verse tells us that righteousness dwells in the new heavens and the new earth. Only those who have been redeemed by Jesus' Blood will be able to dwell in that wonderful place. After your students respond to the question, you will have a good opportunity to wrap up this lesson as well as the theme for the whole quarter, by encouraging the students to be sure that they are prepared. See Revelation 22:14 for qualification to enter the City Foursquare.

YOUR WRAP-UP

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

Why do you suppose this present earth is to be destroyed since Satan, his angels, and followers will all be cast into Hell?

Can we expect the new heavens and new earth to be much like the present? See I Corinthians 2:9.

What will not be found there?

Will there be any cemeteries?

Will there be any monuments to great persons of the past?

Why will time no longer be divided by days and nights?

John saw the river of life flowing from the Throne of God. Who else saw such a river? See Ezekiel 47:1.

THINGS TO DO

Bring a world globe to class and talk about the fact that the earth, as it now exists, will be destroyed and a new earth will be created.

Bring a picture of a landscape revealing bright sunlight and deep shadows (or any picture with shadows). Ask students if there will be shadows in the New Jerusalem, then explain.

Clip pictures from magazines or catalogs, of very costly items (gold coins, jeweled rings, necklaces, crowns) and, where possible, the cost or value of those items. Show these to your students, then remind them of the New Jerusalem with its streets of gold, walls of jasper, gates of pearl, and a foundation of precious stones.

Show your students some things which are difficult or impossible to burn (a rock, a piece of iron or steel, asbestos, etc.) Explain that it will be the supernatural power of God that will destroy the heavens and earth, even as it was the power of His Word that spoke the worlds into existence.

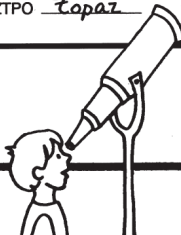
Answers for ANSWER

It's Going to Be Great!

New heavens and a new earth! And John tells us of a holy city, the New Jerusalem, coming down out of Heaven! Doesn't that sound exciting? The activity below has some questions, scrambled words, and missing words. Read the verses given and complete the activity. You'll find out about some exciting things awaiting you.



- Read Revelation 21:4 and list five things there will not be in the New Jerusalem.
1. tears 2. death 3. sorrow 4. crying 5. pain
- Light in the holy city will be like which stone? Jas p e r (Revelation 21:11)
- Why does the New Jerusalem have no need of the sun or moon? Glory of God, Lamb is Light, Lord God giveth light (Revelation 21:23; 22:5)
- What lives in the middle of the city? Tree of Life (Revelation 22:2)
- The pure river of water of life comes from where? Out of the throne of God and of the Lamb (Revelation 22:1)
- What were made of gold? Streets; of pearl? 12 gates (Revelation 21:21)
- R I G H T E O U S N E S S will dwell (or be present) in the earth. (II Peter 3:13)
- Unscramble the names of these stones which help make up the foundation of the wall of the city. (Revelation 21:19,20)
a) DELEMAR emerald d) PHRISAEP sapphire g) IJCTAHN jacinth
b) SERJAP jasper e) LBYRE beryl h) YADSRNOX sardonyx
c) AZTPO topaz f) SATMYHET amethyst i) DISRAUS sardis

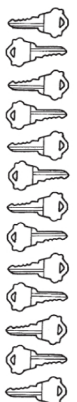
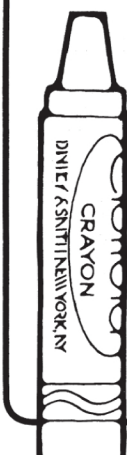


Answers for Extra Activities

Activity Page 41

Color the Key

If you read the key verse in the Bible, color the key yellow.
If you said the key verse in your own words, color the key orange.
If you memorized the key verse and said it to your teacher, color the key blue.
If you did all three, color the key red.
See how many red keys you can get!



Psalms 118:22
Nehemiah 1:8
II Timothy 3:1
Matthew 24:44
John 14:3
Revelation 19:9
Revelation 13:8
Matthew 24:22
Revelation 1:7
Isaiah 35:1
Hebrews 9:27
Revelation 4:11
II Peter 3:13

Activity Page 43

It's Going to Happen!

What's the right order of events? Look over the list of last days happenings on the left. Then write them down in the correct order on the lines to the right. As you think about them, ask yourself, Am I ready?

White Throne Judgment
Rapture
Signs of the Times
Revelation of Christ—Armageddon
Marriage Supper
New Heaven and New Earth
Tribulation Plagues
Millennial Reign

SIGNS OF THE TIMES
RAPTURE
MARRIAGE SUPPER
TRIBULATION PLAGUES
REVELATION OF CHRIST ARMAGEDDON
MILLENNIAL REIGN
WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT
NEW HEAVEN AND NEW EARTH

I can't wait!

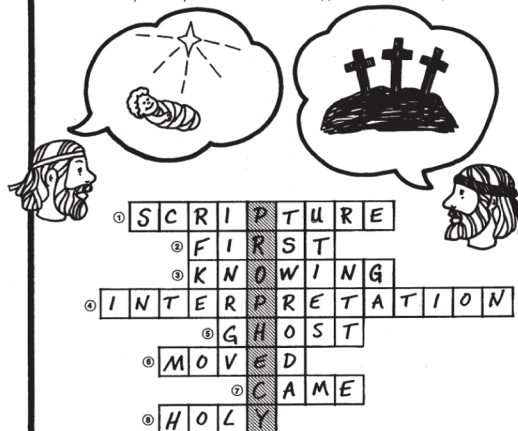
I hope it's not tonight!



Activity Page 42

How Do We Know?

How do we know what will happen in the future? Fill in the missing words in the Bible verse at the bottom of the page. Then use the numbered words from that verse to complete the puzzle. Your answer will appear in the shaded squares.



① **KNOWING** this ② **FIRST** that no prophecy of the ③ **SCRIPTURE** is of any private ④ **INTERPRETATION**. For the prophecy ⑤ **CAME** not in old time by the will of man; but ⑥ **HOLY** men of God spoke as they were ⑦ **MOVED** by the Holy ⑧ **GHOST**.

II Peter 1:20,21

Activity Page 44

Who Should Be Ready?

Those who are ready to go up in the Rapture will live and reign with Jesus. Fill in the crowns with the names of people you know. Then remember to **pray** that they will be ready when Jesus comes.

