

Jesus Makes Everything New!



SABBATH—MARCH 23

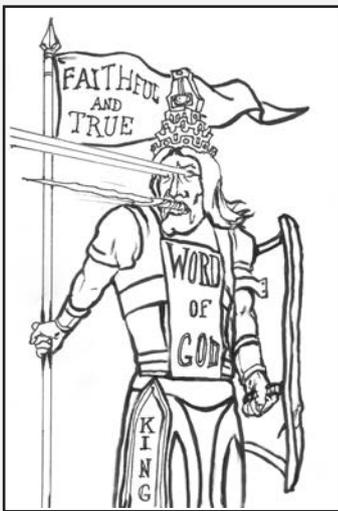
READ FOR THIS WEEK'S LESSON: Revelation 19:6–9; John 14:1–3; Revelation 19:11–16; Revelation 20:1–3; Jeremiah 4:23–26; Revelation 20:4–6; Revelation 21:2–8, 9–21.

MEMORY VERSE: “The One who was sitting on the throne said, ‘Look! I am making everything new!’ Then he said, ‘Write this, because these words are true and can be trusted’ ” (Revelation 21:5, ICB)

BABYLON WILL BE DESTROYED. That is bad news for the people who support this evil religious power. But Babylon's end is good news for God's people (Revelation 19:1–7). Babylon caused the governments on the earth to hurt God's people (Revelation 18:24). So, the end of Babylon shows us that God will free His people and save them.

When Babylon is destroyed, the prayer of God's people in the 5th lock, or seal, finally is answered. They cry out, “ ‘How long will it be . . . before You will punish those [people] on the earth for killing [because they killed] us?’ ” (Revelation 6:10, NLV). Their cry is a symbol for the cries of all people from Abel to the end of time who suffered and were hurt because of sin. God will finally give His people peace and punish the people who hurt them or killed them (Psalm 79:5; Habakkuk 1:2; Daniel 12:6, 7). The book of Revelation shows us that God will end evil and suffering.

It is now time for Jesus to be our King. Revelation's last chapters show us the end of Babylon, Satan, and all evil. We also see that God will make this earth new and bring His kingdom to this earth forever.



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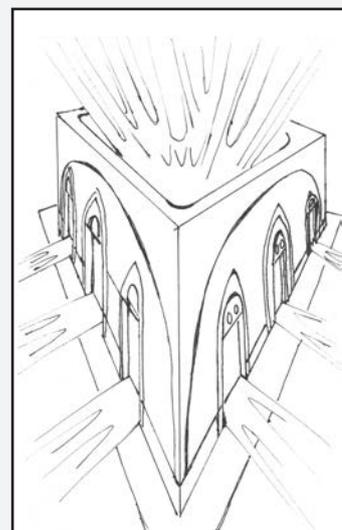
THE LAMB'S WEDDING FEAST (Revelation 19:6–9)

Revelation 19:6–9 talk about the Lamb's wedding (Revelation 19:7) and His wedding feast (Revelation 19:9). Also read John 14:1–3. How does a wedding feast show us that God wants us near Him always, the same as good friends and family?

Jesus left His home in heaven 2,000 years ago to invite His followers to a wedding supper (Matthew 22). This supper will happen after He marries His bride. In other places in the Bible and the writings of Ellen G. White, a "bride" is a word picture for the church. But the word "bride" has a different meaning in the book of Revelation (read Revelation 21:9). Ellen White explains: "The Holy City is named the New Jerusalem. This New Jerusalem is the 'bride, the Lamb's wife.' . . . The book of Revelation shows us God's people as guests at the Lamb's wedding supper. Revelation 19:9. So, if God's people are His **guests**, then they cannot also be the **bride**."—*The Great [worldwide] Controversy [war between God and Satan]*, pages 426, 427, adapted. After Jesus paid the price for our sins at Calvary to show that He was good for His bride, the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:2), He went back to His Father's house to get a place ready for His followers (read John 14:2, 3), who were His wedding guests. While they wait for Jesus, the guests get ready for Him to come back to take them to live in His Father's house.

Revelation 19:8 says Jesus gave His bride clean, white clothes to wear. Clean, white clothes are a word picture for Jesus' holy life. That shows us something important about the guests who live in the city. It shows us that they obey God's law. It also shows us that the good things they do come only from God, who lives in them (Revelation 14:12).

While He was on earth, Jesus told a picture story about a wedding feast (Matthew 22:1–14). One of the guests decided to wear his own clothes, not the wedding clothes that the king gave him. When the king saw this man, the king commanded his servants to throw the man out of the room. Revelation 3:18 shows us that God's people living in the end time need the clothes that He has for them. Jesus tells His people in the end time to "buy" these clothes from Him. That shows us He wants us to give up something to get the clothes. He wants us to give up our trust in ourselves and to trust Him. Our trust in God is the only thing that will save us.



In the book of Revelation, the Lamb's "bride" is a word picture for the New Jerusalem.

ARMAGEDDON ENDS (Revelation 19:11–16)

Revelation 19:11–16 tell us that Jesus has another name: “Word of God” (Revelation 19:13, ERV). Revelation 19:15 says a “sharp sword came out of” His mouth (ERV). What do these things tell us about the war of Armageddon between Jesus and Satan?

These verses use word pictures to show us that Jesus will win. Jesus beat Satan in heaven. Jesus beat Satan in the wilderness. Jesus beat Satan at the cross. And Jesus will beat Satan at the Second Coming.

“Soon a small black cloud appears in the east. It is half the size of a man’s hand. It is the cloud that is around the Savior. Far away, this cloud looks dark. God’s people know that this cloud is Jesus coming back. In silence they watch the cloud while it comes near the earth. The cloud turns from dark to light the nearer it comes to the earth until it is a huge white cloud. The bottom of the cloud is a burning fire. Above the cloud, there is a rainbow. This rainbow shows God’s Special Agreement with His people. Jesus is a brave and strong warrior who never loses a fight. He is no longer a ‘Man of sadness [sorrows]’ [Isaiah 53:3, NKJV] who came to earth to drink the cup filled with shame and suffering. Now He comes as the winner in heaven and on earth. He comes to judge all people: both living and dead. He is the One who is Loyal and True. ‘He is right when he judges and makes war.’ The armies of holy angels that were in heaven (Revelation 19:11, 14) follow Him. The holy angels sing a beautiful song. . . . No human words can explain how wonderful Jesus’ coming will be! No human can make a picture in his or her mind of its beauty.”—Ellen G. White, *The Great [worldwide] Controversy [war between God and Satan]*, page 641, adapted.



“The bottom of the cloud is burning fire. Above the cloud, there is a rainbow. This rainbow shows God’s Special Agreement with His people.”—Ellen G. White, *The Great [worldwide] Controversy [war]*, page 641, adapted.

In 2 Thessalonians 1:8–10, Paul also writes about Jesus’ Second Coming. At that time, all the governments and religious powers on earth that turned against Jesus are destroyed. God’s people will be saved forever.

Revelation 19:9, 17, 18 talk about two dinners. If you are a guest at the first dinner, you can eat. If you are a guest at the second dinner, you ARE the food! The difference between the two dinners shows us how the war between Jesus and Satan touches everyone on earth. What do the two dinners teach us about why we need to be loyal to Bible truth and the work that God gives us to do in the end time?

THE 1,000 YEARS IN HEAVEN (Revelation 20:1–3)

Revelation 20:1–3 and Jeremiah 4:23–26 show us what happens during the 1,000 years after Jesus takes His people to heaven. What happens on earth at that time? What is John really telling us when he says that Satan is “tied . . . with the chain for 1,000 years” (Revelation 20:2, ERV)?

The 1,000 years is named the “millennium.” It starts with the Second Coming. At that time, Satan and his evil angels are “tied . . . with the chain.” Spiritual bodies cannot be tied with a real chain, right? So, this chain is a symbol. It shows us that Satan is “tied up” and trapped by the things that happened because of his evil choices. God’s Seven Last Troubles destroy the earth and kill all the evil people living on it. The earth is now the same as it was before God made everything in it (Genesis 1:2). The earth becomes Satan’s prison during the 1,000 years that God’s people are in heaven. There are no more humans on earth for Satan to lead into sin and to harm. So, during that time, Satan and his demons only can think about the awful things that happened because they turned against God.

Revelation 20:4–6 talk about God’s holy people during the 1,000 years. Where are they?

During the 1,000 years, God’s people live in the places Jesus made ready for them (read John 14:1–3). They sit on thrones as kings and priests, or holy leaders. They judge the people who lived on the earth. Jesus promised His followers, “ ‘you who followed me will also sit on 12 thrones. And you will judge the 12 tribes [family groups] of Israel’ ” (Matthew 19:28, ICB). Paul says that the saints will judge the people who lived on the earth (1 Corinthians 6:2, 3).

At this time, God’s people will look at His decisions. All during history, Satan caused humans to not believe that God was fair. During the 1,000 years, God allows His people to study His records of earth’s history. They will find answers to all their questions about why some people were not saved. They will have the answers to questions about their own lives. At the end of the 1,000 years, all their questions about God’s fair decisions will be forever answered. God’s people will see that everything that Satan said about God was a lie. Then they will be ready to witness what God will do to Satan and his followers.



During the 1,000 years, all Satan and his demons can do is think about the awful things that happened because they turned against God.

A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH (Revelation 21:2–8)

After the 1,000 years end, God will destroy sin fully. Then He will make the earth new again. The new earth will be the home of God's people. What will we see on the new earth?

In Revelation 21:1, John saw "a new heaven and a new earth" (ERV). The Bible talks about three heavens: the sky, outer space, and the place where God lives (read 2 Corinthians 12:2). In Revelation 21:1, John means the first heaven: God makes new the sky or the air we breathe. The word "new" in Greek is "kainos" (ki-'nos). "Kainos" means something made better than it used to be. "Kainos" does not mean God makes something new that was not there before. No. God will clean this planet with fire. Then He will make it the way it used to be before sin, but even more beautiful.

It is interesting that the first thing that John says about the new earth is that there is no sea. When John says "there was no sea" (Revelation 21:1, ERV), he no doubt means the sea around him on Patmos Island. This island was a word picture for what John felt while he lived there as a prisoner. He felt alone and sad. So, for John, a new earth with no sea means we will not be alone and sad anymore.



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Read about the new earth in Revelation 21:2–8 and also in Revelation 7:15–17. How is the new earth the same as the Garden of Eden in Genesis 2?

God's people will live free from suffering and death on the earth after God makes the earth new again. God will live with His people forever. God's living with His people helps us understand that there will be no more suffering or death ever again. Our God living with us on the new earth will turn the earth into a temple.

There will be no more tears, death, sorrow, crying, or pain. All of these things happen because of sin. When God ends sin forever, "all the old ways are gone" (Revelation 21:4, ERV).

Mary and Martha understood that God has the power to make all things new. When their brother, Lazarus, dies, Martha says to Jesus, " 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died' " (John 11:21, ERV). The sisters knew that death had no power when Jesus was around. In the same way, God will live with us on the new earth, and free us from the pain and the suffering we now see and feel in this life. Jesus promises us that hope.

THE NEW JERUSALEM (Revelation 21:9–21)

In Revelation 21:9–21, John gives us a picture of the capital city of the new earth: the New Jerusalem. What will we see on the outside of the city?

The New Jerusalem is named the Lamb's bride. John uses the word picture of a bride to show us that the city is the Lamb's wife. The New Jerusalem also is the place where Jesus will live with His people. The city has a very high wall around it. The wall has 12 gates. There are three gates on each of the four walls around the city. That means you can enter the city from any direction. It shows us that in the New Jerusalem anyone can come to God anytime.

The city also is built in the shape of a cube. A cube is a square that has a top, bottom, and sides, the same as a box. All sides of a cube are the same length, width, and height. When all sides of a cube are the same size, the cube is named a perfect cube: "The city was 12,000 *stadia* [about 1,500 miles] long, 12,000 *stadia* wide, and 12,000 *stadia* high" (Revelation 21:16, 17, ERV). What happens when we multiply the 12 edges of this perfect cube with how long each side of the cube is (12,000 *stadia*)? Then we get: 12 sides x 12,000 *stadia* = 144,000 *stadia*. The number 144,000 is a word picture for the 144,000 people in Revelation 14:1–5 who are alive on earth at the Second Coming. We must remember that in the Old Testament temple the Most Holy Room also was a perfect cube: the room was 30 feet long, 30 feet tall, and 30 feet wide (1 Kings 6:20, ICB, Nlrv). The cube shape of the New Jerusalem helps us see that the holy city also is meant to be the same as the Most Holy Room on the new earth. So, the New Jerusalem will be the center of our worship of God.

How does the inside of the New Jerusalem, in Revelation 21:21–22:5, look the same as the Garden of Eden? What does it mean that "nothing that God judges guilty will be there in that city" (Revelation 22:3, NLV)?

The river of life flows from God's throne down the middle of the city (Revelation 22:1, 2; Genesis 2:10). The tree of life grows on both sides of the river. God's people use the tree's leaves for healing (Revelation 22:2). There is no sickness in the new earth. But God's people use the leaves to heal the pain that sin caused them in the past.



The tree of life grows on both sides of the river of life. God's people use the tree's leaves for healing (Revelation 22:2).

ADDITIONAL THOUGHT: Read Ellen G. White, “Without [not wearing] a wedding garment [clothes],” pages 307–319; “Desolation [ruin] of [on] the Earth,” pages 653–661; “The Controversy [war between God and Satan] Ended,” pages 662–678 in *The Great Controversy*.

The book of Revelation ends with the same promise that it started with: the promise of Jesus’ Second Coming and His kingdom that lasts forever. Jesus’ Second Coming is the most important part of the book.

Jesus is coming soon. We continue to wait for Him to come back. While we wait, we must have a clear understanding of the messages in the book of Revelation. We can get this understanding by reading the book again and again until this earth’s history ends. The messages in the book of Revelation help us remember some important things while we wait: (1) We must keep our eyes on Jesus, who is our only hope. (2) Jesus is the answer to everything our hearts wish for in life. And (3) Jesus holds the future of this earth and our own future in His hands.

The book of Revelation helps us remember something else important that we must do before the end of this earth’s history can happen. God gave us the job of telling everyone on earth the message that He is coming back soon. We must not wait until that time and do nothing now. We must share God’s special message for this time. “The Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come!’ ” (Revelation 22:17, ERV). We must join the Spirit and the Bride in sharing God’s invitation with other people. The Bible names this invitation the Good News about Jesus. We must announce this Good News to all the people on the earth.

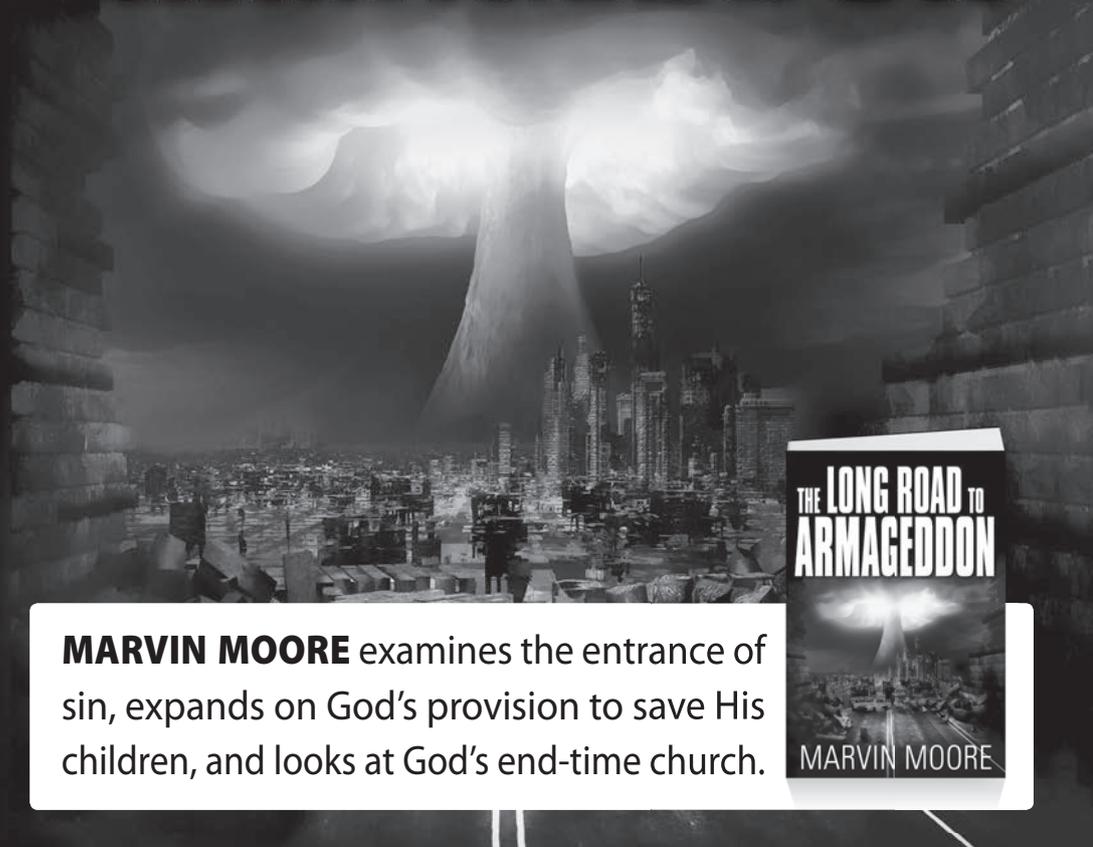


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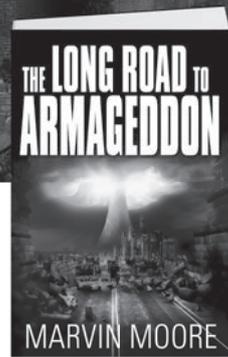
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- ① Think about the 1,000 years and the judgment that happens **after** the 1,000 years are over. God gives the saved 1,000 years to get **all** their questions answered before He punishes the people who turned away from Him. What does that tell us about God’s love for us and His mercy?
- ② Revelation 1:3 promises blessing to the people who listen to, read, follow, and obey the special warnings and messages in the book of Revelation. What have you learned from this book that you need to follow and obey?

THE LONG ROAD TO ARMAGEDDON



MARVIN MOORE examines the entrance of sin, expands on God's provision to save His children, and looks at God's end-time church.



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FOR THE LAST DAYS

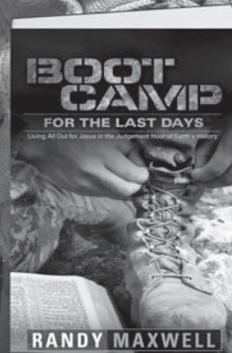
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RANDY MAXWELL

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