

Jehovah's Witnesses on the Eternity of our Earth

Earth is the third planet from the sun in our solar system. The Bible tells us that God created the earth and all the universe in six consecutive 24-hour periods by simply speaking things into existence (cf. Ex. 20:9-11; Ps. 33:6-9; Heb. 11:3). The word of God tells us that this earth and solar system will one day be destroyed by fire and replaced by “*new heavens and a new earth*” (II Pet. 3:7, 12; Rev. 21:1). Jehovah's Witnesses believe, however, that “the earth will never be destroyed; it will last forever” (What is God's Purpose for the Earth; 1996 [all quotes take from the “Official Jehovah's Witness web site / www.watchtower.org]). This article shall examine the Jehovah's Witnesses belief that this current earth will “last forever.”

Jehovah's Witnesses (JWs) on God's Purpose for this Earth

The JWs believe God's eternal purpose for the earth is to be a “paradise where humans will live forever” (Ibid.). Said paradise will occur after the battle of “Armageddon, and all wicked people removed” (ibid.). Satan will be imprisoned for 1000 years, and then “Jesus Christ will rule as King over this earth for 1000 years (Rev. 20:6)” (ibid.). “The transformation of the earth into a paradise will take place under a government that exercises its dominion from heaven, a Kingdom with Jesus Christ as King. ([Matthew 6:9, 10](#)) First, that Kingdom will ‘bring to ruin those ruining the earth.’ ([Revelation 11:18](#); [Daniel 2:44](#))” (The Meek Shall Inherit the Earth: How? *The Watchtower* October 1, 2004). Furthermore, the JWs believe that “If our first parents, Adam and Eve, had not pursued a course of sin, they would have had a close relationship with Jehovah God eternally on a paradise earth” (You Can Believe in a Paradise Earth? *The Watchtower* November 15, 2003).

JWs on Life in the Earth During the 1000-Year Reign of Christ

Life on earth during Christ's 1000-year reign will be one of peace (no wars). Said peace will even extend to the animal and human relationship (Isa. 11:6-9). Paradise earth will be a place where people are forever young, have perfect health, enjoy material wealth, and live forever (Live Forever on a Paradise Earth /1993). Those chosen by God to live on the earthly paradise will spend their time building new homes and planting gardens while enjoying all this peace with the animals in the field (Isa. 11:2-9; 65:21, 25) (The Meek Shall Inherit the Earth: How? *The Watchtower* October 1, 2004).

JWs on Heaven (as Opposed to Paradise Earth)

“The Bible states that only a limited number of faithful Christians—namely, 144,000 of them—are raised as spirit creatures to live in heaven” (The Hereafter-Where Will it Be? *The Watchtower* October 1, 2000). “By providing the ransom sacrifice of Jesus Christ, God began gathering the 144,000 almost 2,000 years ago, and indications are that this group is now complete. (Acts 2:1-4; Galatians 4:4-7) ... Those asleep in the grave but who are in God's memory will be resurrected, not to heaven, but to life on a cleansed earth” (ibid.).

JWs Address the Confusion over Heaven or Paradise Earth

JWs believe that the confusion that exists over heaven and paradise earth revolves around the issue of whether the soul of man is eternal or non-eternal. The JWs believe that the soul of every created being dies at death and remains either in “God's memory” or is annihilated forever. The JWs look to the

creation of Adam at Genesis 2:7, citing that God breathed into him a life-giving soul, and when Adam died, so did his soul because Adam was a living soul. The JW's contend that if Adam and Eve would not have violated God's laws in the Garden of Eden, they would have lived forever in paradise earth. God's original purpose, therefore, for the earth was that it be an everlasting paradise. Once man sinned, he ruined this; yet God never forgot His eternal purpose for the earth (a paradise for humanity) (see *You Can Believe in a Paradise Earth / The Watchtower* November 15, 2003).

Bible Truth regarding Earth and Heaven

The JW's believe that it is all man's desires to live on the earth forever (The Hereafter- Where Will it Be? *The Watchtower* October 1, 2000). The apostle Paul, however, stated that it would be "far better" to depart this world and be with the Lord (Phil. 1:23) because, "to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Phil. 1:21). Paul said that he currently did not possess his heavenly home but rather was "pressing" to attain the "prize of the High calling of God in Christ Jesus" which was "citizenship in heaven" (cf. Phil. 3:13, 20). Paul then connected the Christian to this same heavenly hope by stating, "Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, be thus minded" (Phil. 3:15). Dear friend, why put your hope in an earth that will eventually pass away and be destroyed (II Pet. 3:7; I Jn. 2:16-17; Rev. 21:1)?

The JW's confusion is not only dependant upon their view of the eternity of the soul, but also in the realm of God's eternal kingdom. The JW's believe that God will establish a future kingdom on the earth with Christ reigning a 1000 years. The idea of God's kingdom being a future place on earth where people will stay young, healthy, prosperous, and in peace is a fanciful idea that is construed by a myriad of twisted scriptures. Laws of hermeneutics are violated when the JW's take passages out of context and apply them to their fanciful ideas of heaven and paradise earth. The JW's fail to realize that God's kingdom is spiritual, not physical (cf. Jn. 18:36; Rom. 14:17). The view of Isa. 2:1ff and Dan. 2:44 speaking of a future earthly kingdom is destroyed when one looks to Jesus fulfilling these scriptures near and directly after His death (cf. Mk. 9:1; Lk. 24:44; Acts 2:1ff etc.). The church of God's people (the kingdom of God) will be resurrected to live with the Lord in the "new heaven and new earth" (cf. I Thess. 4:13-18; Rev. 21:1). God's eternal purpose is not to resurrect people to this current earth but rather to heaven (Eph. 1:3-4).