

New Heaven, New Earth, New Jerusalem
Message 05 in the series, “What Happens When We Die?”

A. The Bible opens with God creating the world and establishing a garden where God and man live in harmony.

“Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!...” Genesis 1:31 (NLT)

“Then the LORD God planted a garden in Eden in the east, and there he placed the man he had made. The LORD God made all sorts of trees grow up from the ground—trees that were beautiful and that produced delicious fruit. In the middle of the garden he placed the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. A river flowed from the land of Eden, watering the garden and then dividing into four branches. The first branch, called the Pishon, flowed around the entire land of Havilah, where gold is found. The gold of that land is exceptionally pure; aromatic resin and onyx stone are also found there. The second branch, called the Gihon, flowed around the entire land of Cush. The third branch, called the Tigris, flowed east of the land of Asshur. The fourth branch is called the Euphrates. The LORD God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it. But the LORD God warned him, ‘You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden— except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, **you are sure to die.**’” Genesis 2:8-17 (NLT)

“The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too. At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves. When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man and his wife heard the LORD God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the LORD God among the trees. Then the LORD God called to the man, ‘Where are you?’ He replied, ‘I heard you walking in the garden, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked.’” Genesis 3:6-10 (NLT)

The Garden of Eden:

- Tree of life
- Tree of knowledge of good and evil
- Fruit trees for food
- Trees with pleasant aromas
- A river flowing from Eden
- Precious stones and gold
- God walking on earth with man
- Evening— indicating there is a day and night

1. When Adam sinned a curse fell on the earth and messed up everything!

“When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam’s sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.” Romans 5:12 (NLT)

“...Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return...” Genesis 3:17-19 (NIV)

“Then the LORD God said, ‘Look, the human beings have become like us, knowing both good and evil. What if they reach out, take fruit from the tree of life, and eat it? Then they will live forever!’ So the LORD God banished them from the Garden of Eden, and he sent Adam out to cultivate the ground from which he had been made. After sending them out, the LORD God stationed mighty cherubim to the east of the Garden of Eden. And he placed a flaming sword that flashed back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.” Genesis 3:22-24 (NLT)

2. From that time on, all creation has longed for the day when everything will be set right again.

“Against its will, all creation was subjected to God’s curse. But with eager hope, the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God’s children in glorious freedom from death and decay. For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.”

Romans 8:20-22 (NLT)

B. God promised one day He would redeem and restore all that was lost!

“Look! I am creating new heavens and a new earth, and no one will even think about the old ones anymore. Be glad; rejoice forever in my creation! And look! I will create Jerusalem as a place of happiness. Her people will be a source of joy. I will rejoice over Jerusalem and delight in my people. And the sound of weeping and crying will be heard in it no more. No longer will babies die when only a few days old. No longer will adults die before they have lived a full life. No longer will people be considered old at one hundred! Only the cursed will die that young! In those days people will live in the houses they build and eat the fruit of their own vineyards. Unlike the past, invaders will not take their houses and confiscate their vineyards. For my people will live as long as trees, and my chosen ones will have time to enjoy their hard-won gains.” Isaiah 65:17-22 (NLT)

“‘As surely as my new heavens and earth will remain, so will you **always be my people**, with a name that will never disappear,’ says the LORD.” Isaiah 66:22 (NLT)

“But we are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth he has promised, a world filled with God’s righteousness.” 2 Peter 3:13 (NLT)

C. The Bible closes with God creating a new Earth and establishing the heavenly city of Jerusalem, where God and humanity dwell together.

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, ‘Look, **God’s home is now among his people! He will live with them**, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.’ And the one sitting on the throne said, ‘**Look, I am making everything new!**’ And then he said to me, ‘Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true.’ And he also said, ‘It is finished! I am the Alpha and the Omega—the Beginning and the End. To all who are thirsty I will give freely from the springs of **the water of life**. All who are victorious will inherit all these blessings, and I will be their God, and they will be my children.’... ‘Come with me! I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.’ So he took me in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and he showed me the **holy city, Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God**. It shone with the glory of God and sparkled like a precious stone—like jasper as clear as crystal... The wall was made of jasper, **and the city was pure gold**, as clear as glass. The wall of the city was built on foundation stones inlaid with twelve precious stones... And the main street was pure gold, as clear as glass. I saw no temple in the city, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. And the city has no need of sun or moon, for the glory of God illuminates the city, and the Lamb is its light. The nations will walk in its light, and the kings of the world will enter the city in all their glory. **Its gates will never be closed** at the end of day because there is no night there... Then the angel showed me a **river with the water of life**, clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb. It flowed down the center of the main street. On each side of the river **grew a tree of life**, bearing twelve **crops of fruit**, with a fresh crop each month. The **leaves were used for medicine to heal the nations**. **No longer will there be a curse upon anything**. For the throne of God and of the Lamb will be there, and his servants will worship him. And they will see his face, and his name will be written on their foreheads. And there will be **no night there**—no need for lamps or sun—for the Lord God will shine on them. **And they will reign forever and ever.**” Revelation 21:1-7, 9-11, 18-25, 22:1-5 (NLT)

The New Jerusalem:

- Tree of life that produces healing and fruit to eat
- A river flowing from the throne
- Springs of water called the “Water of life”
- A City of pure gold
- Streets of pure gold
- Precious stones
- God’s home (Heaven)— on the earth where He dwells with man
- NO night or darkness— because God is the Light
- Open forever— for there is no more curse

Aspect	Eden	New Jerusalem
Trees & Food	Tree of life; tree of the knowledge of good and evil; fruit trees for food; trees with pleasant aromas	Tree of life; trees producing healing and fruit to eat
Water	A river flowing from Eden throughout the garden	A river flowing from the throne and springs called the “Water of life”
Materials	Pure gold and precious stones	City of pure gold; streets of pure gold; precious stones
God’s Presence	God walks on Earth with man	God’s home (Heaven) is on Earth where He dwells with man
Light / Night	Evening present— indicating day and night	No more night or darkness because God is the Light
Access / Curse	Closed off after the curse	Open forever— for there is no more curse