

No. 49 A Cleansed Earth—Is It Possible?

PLEASE NOTE: Help those concerned about environmental problems to put their trust in God's solution, not in human efforts. If you wish, you may use the artwork provided to illustrate points where indicated

OUR PLANET NEEDS TO BE CLEANSED (4 min.)

Jehovah God created the earth to be a beautiful, clean home for mankind (Ge 1:28-31)

He assigned humans the work of caring for the earth (Ge 2:15)

Eventually, the entire earth would become a paradise

Humans have failed to care for the earth; instead, they have polluted it

They cannot prevent God from accomplishing his purpose for the earth (Ps 135:6)

Why is the earth so polluted, how will it be cleansed, and how can you be involved?

WHY IS THE EARTH SO POLLUTED? (6 min.)

The pollution of earth's environment is a symptom of a more serious underlying problem

The earth has become filled with *moral uncleanness*—attitudes and practices that are out of harmony with God's righteous standards [Read Deuteronomy 32:4, 5]

Moral uncleanness began when Satan influenced Adam and Eve to rebel against God (Ge 3:1-5)

Adam and Eve rejected God as Ruler and chose to set their own standards of right and wrong

What has been the result?

Many people are selfish and greedy (2Ti 3:2-4)

Those who act selfishly often cause harm to others or to the environment (Ps 10:3, 7, 8)

HOW WILL GOD CLEANSE THE EARTH? (8 min.)

To fulfill his purpose for the earth, God will cleanse it—morally and physically

God has cleansed the earth in the past, and he will do so again (Ge 6:11-13; 2Pe 3:5-7)

Soon he will cleanse the earth completely and permanently (Re 21:5; w14 9/1 6 ¶1)

God will remove wicked people, who cause harm [Read Revelation 11:18] (w08 8/1 7 ¶4-6)

God will not destroy the earth or mankind; he will establish a figurative “new heavens and a new earth” [Read 2 Peter 3:13] [Image 1]

The “new heavens” represents a righteous government, God's Kingdom

The “new earth” represents a new earthly society over which God's Kingdom will rule

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT THE CLEANSING OF THE EARTH? (9 min.)

Trust in Jehovah to cleanse and restore the earth [Read Psalm 37:3]

It is proper to care for earth's environment now, but human efforts cannot bring a complete solution (Ec 1:15; Jer 10:23; g 12/07 11 ¶6-8)

Trusting solely in human efforts will lead only to frustration (Ps 37:8, 9; Isa 2:22; w13 7/1 12-13)

All who want to be part of God's new world must learn his righteous standards and live by them (2Pe 3:11; w13 8/15 23 ¶2)

Millions are already doing so (Isa 11:9; w14 9/1 6 ¶3)

If you trust in Jehovah, you can share in restoring the earth and turning it into a paradise (Isa 65:17-25; c/ 82 ¶14-15) [Image 2]

What joy and satisfaction that will bring!

YOU CAN BE CONFIDENT THAT THE EARTH WILL BE CLEANSED (3 min.)

Jehovah will fulfill his purpose for the earth and mankind (Isa 55:10, 11)

May you be among those who live forever and “possess the earth” (Ps 37:10, 11, 29)

[Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section.

Not all cited texts need to be read or commented on. See *Ministry School* book, pages 52-55, 166-169]

TO BE COVERED IN 30 MINUTES

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