

The Bible's Use of "Forever"

- Will the Earth remain "forever"?



Jehovah's Witnesses

“God created the earth so that righteous humans could live on it forever. (Psalm 37:29) He put the first human couple, Adam and Eve, in the beautiful garden of Eden, and he gave them and their descendants the responsibility to cultivate the earth and to take care of it.—Genesis 1:28; 2:15.

Today's world is far from the Paradise God meant it to be. However, God has not changed his mind. How will he fulfill his original purpose? As the preceding articles have shown, God will not destroy the earth itself. Rather, he will allow faithful humans to live on it.”

“God took great care to prepare the earth so that we can enjoy life to the full each day. He intends for humans to live on earth forever. (Psalm 37:29; Isaiah 45:18)”

<https://www.jw.org/en/library/magazines/watchtower-no2-2021-may-jun/new-world-paradise/>

Psalms 37:27-29 (NKJV)

“Depart from evil, and do good; And dwell forevermore. For the LORD loves justice, And does not forsake His saints; They are preserved forever, But the descendants of the wicked shall be cut off. The righteous shall inherit the land, And dwell in it forever.”

Psalms 78:69 (NKJV)

“And He built His sanctuary like the heights, Like the earth which He has established forever.”

Ecclesiastes 1:4 (NKJV)

“One generation passes away, and another generation comes; But the earth abides forever.”

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Article: Forever means forever: God's Promises to the Jews

“If God promised a certain land to the seed of Abraham, saying that it would be theirs “forever” (Gen. 13:15), why do so many Christian churches teach that the Jews permanently lost their right to the land? What about all these Old Testament “forever” promises and prophecies made to the Jews? How should we understand the passages that seem to imply that the Israelites have a secure place in God’s plan forever? ...The simple answer is that when God said “forever” he meant it. There’s no need to suggest that God set aside these promises.”

-<https://theopolisinstitute.com/conversations/forever-means-forever-gods-promises-to-the-jews/>

Genesis 13:14-17 (NKJV)

“And the LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: "Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are-northward, southward, eastward, and westward; "for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever. "And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered. "Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you."”

I Chronicles 16:16-18 (NKJV)

“The covenant which He made with Abraham, And His oath to Isaac, And confirmed it to Jacob for a statute, To Israel for an everlasting covenant, Saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan As the allotment of your inheritance,"”

Psalms 105:9-11 (NKJV)

“The covenant which He made with Abraham, And His oath to Isaac, And confirmed it to Jacob for a statute, To Israel as an everlasting covenant, Saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan As the allotment of your inheritance,"”

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Seventh Day Adventists

“It was to be a sign to them that their sovereign God made all things. Speaking of the Sabbath in this sense, God said “It is a sign forever between me and the people of Israel that in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed”” (Exodus 31.17, NKJV). He also asked the Israelites to “keep My Sabbaths as a covenant throughout generations to come, “that you may know that I, the LORD, sanctify you. You shall keep the Sabbath, therefore, for it is holy to you” (Exodus 31:13, 14a, ESV). This showed the permanency of the Sabbath requirement for His followers.”

<https://www.adventist.org/the-sabbath/the-sabbath-throughout-the-bible-and-at-the-end-times/>

Exodus 31:17 (NKJV)

“It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed.”

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The Bible's Use of "Forever"

- What does the word translated "forever" mean?



Isaiah 32:14,15 (NKJV)

“Because the palaces will be forsaken, The bustling city will be deserted. The forts and towers will become lairs forever, A joy of wild donkeys, a pasture of flocks- Until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, And the wilderness becomes a fruitful field, And the fruitful field is counted as a forest.”

Exodus 21:6 (NKJV)

“then his master shall bring him to the judges. He shall also bring him to the door, or to the doorpost, and his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him forever.”

1 Samuel 1:22 (NKJV)

“But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, "Not until the child is weaned; then I will take him, that he may appear before the LORD and remain there forever."”

1 Samuel 20:23 (NKJV)

“And as for the matter which you and I have spoken of, indeed the LORD be between you and me forever.”

I Samuel 27:12 (NKJV)

“So Achish believed David, saying, "He has made his people Israel utterly abhor him; therefore he will be my servant forever."”

I Chronicles 28:4 (NKJV)

““However the LORD God of Israel chose me above all the house of my father to be king over Israel forever, for He has chosen Judah to be the ruler; and of the house of Judah, the house of my father, and among the sons of my father, He was pleased with me to make me king over all Israel.”

The Bible's Use of "Forever"

- What does the word translated "forever" mean?
- Some "forevers" that weren't "forever"
 - Circumcision

Genesis 17:11-14 (NKJV)

“"and you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you. "He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised, every male child in your generations, he who is born in your house or bought with money from any foreigner who is not your descendant. "He who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money must be circumcised, and My covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant. "And the uncircumcised male child, who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that person shall be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant."”

Galatians 5:1-6 (NKJV)

“Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage. Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law. You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.”

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Exodus 12:14 (NKJV)

“So this day shall be to you a memorial; and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a feast by an everlasting ordinance.”

Colossians 2:16,17 (NKJV)

“So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.”

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Exodus 40:15 (NKJV)

“"You shall anoint them, as you anointed their father, that they may minister to Me as priests; for their anointing shall surely be an everlasting priesthood throughout their generations."”

Hebrews 7:11-17 (NKJV)

“Therefore, if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need was there that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be called according to the order of Aaron? For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law. For He of whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no man has officiated at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood. And it is yet far more evident if, in the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another priest who has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless life. For He testifies: "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek."”

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Leviticus 24:7-9 (NKJV)

“"And you shall put pure frankincense on each row, that it may be on the bread for a memorial, an offering made by fire to the LORD. "Every Sabbath he shall set it in order before the LORD continually, being taken from the children of Israel by an everlasting covenant. "And it shall be for Aaron and his sons, and they shall eat it in a holy place; for it is most holy to him from the offerings of the LORD made by fire, by a perpetual statute."”

II Chronicles 2:4 (NKJV)

“Behold, I am building a temple for the name of the LORD my God, to dedicate it to Him, to burn before Him sweet incense, for the continual showbread, for the burnt offerings morning and evening, on the Sabbaths, on the New Moons, and on the set feasts of the LORD our God. This is an ordinance forever to Israel.”

John 4:19-24 (NKJV)

"The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. "Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. "You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.""

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II Peter 3:7 (NKJV)

“But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.”

II Peter 3:11,12 (NKJV)

“Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?”

Matthew 24:35 (NKJV)

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.”

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Deuteronomy 4:25-28 (NKJV)

“When you beget children and grandchildren and have grown old in the land, and act corruptly and make a carved image in the form of anything, and do evil in the sight of the LORD your God to provoke Him to anger, "I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that you will soon utterly perish from the land which you cross over the Jordan to possess; you will not prolong your days in it, but will be utterly destroyed. "And the LORD will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the LORD will drive you. "And there you will serve gods, the work of men's hands, wood and stone, which neither see nor hear nor eat nor smell.”

Deuteronomy 6:10-19 (NKJV)

“So it shall be, when the LORD your God brings you into the land of which He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give you large and beautiful cities which you did not build, "houses full of all good things, which you did not fill, hewn-out wells which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant-when you have eaten and are full- "then beware, lest you forget the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. "You shall fear the LORD your God and serve Him, and shall take oaths in His name. "You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are all around you '(for the LORD your God is a jealous God among you), lest the anger of the LORD your God be aroused against you and destroy you from the face of the earth. "You shall not tempt the LORD your God as you tempted Him in Massah. "You shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, His testimonies, and His statutes which He has commanded you. "And you shall do what is right and good in the sight of the LORD, that it may be well with you, and that you may go in and possess the good land of which the LORD swore to your fathers, "to cast out all your enemies from before you, as the LORD has spoken.”

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