

“I Make All Things New”



Collegiate Quarterly

Teacher's Guide

Surveying the Source

Dan. 12:6, 7; Ps. 79:5; Hab. 1:2; Rev. 21:5

Plotting the Course

The students will:

- ▶ Understand the sequence of events at Christ's second coming.
- ▶ Appreciate Christ's work of restoring not only our lives, but this world.
- ▶ Describe in their own words the events surrounding Christ's second coming.

Preparing to Lead

Ask if anyone has been involved in a motor vehicle accident while driving; then ask the respondents to briefly share their experience and describe damages to their vehicles. *Ask*: “Was the vehicle repaired? How did you like the repair job?”

Did the vehicle look the same and run as perfectly as when it was driven off the showroom floor?”

Say: “Our world is like a vehicle that has been totaled. But God's restoration project will ‘make all things new.’”

Getting Started

A. Ask a student to read the Genesis story about creation. Note the many times that “God saw that it was good.” Are we still living in that perfect world God created? Why not? What has changed? Briefly share recent local and world events in the news, i.e., wars, earthquakes, wildfire destruction, storms, hatred, political strife, crime, and mass shootings. What is God's plan for our world?

B. Laura Lee Oldham, wife of Gaither Homecoming artist Doug Oldham, comments “Preservers set about restoring something to its original glory...But God, in His infinite love, goes us one better. When He restores...His goal is to make everything better than it ever was or ever could be. He makes all things new. Human beings in their best natural state are still imperfect, sinning people. But a person saved and restored can be a new creation and a glorious saint...There truly is nothing ‘as beautiful as something that has been restored.’ And God is the Master of restoration.” (Laura Lee Oldham, *The Gaither Homecoming Bible*, p. 1102).

Materials

Reproducible Activity, Bibles, pens/pencils, paper, hymnals, computer and internet access, poster board, markers, *Early Writings* by Ellen White

Delving Into the Word

A. Restorers of classic cars search diligently for parts as authentic as possible and for paint colors close to the original. They do the best they can. But restoration of classic vehicles or of those being restored from accidental damage does not always turn out perfectly. Christ's restoration project will be greater than anything we can imagine—"all things new." Distribute church hymnals and ask class members to find songs that express their feelings about both the second coming and the new world that He will recreate. Sing a few of these songs, or read the words aloud. Sunday's lesson presents an outline of the sequence of events before Christ's return and restoration of the perfect world He created. Ask members to read those verses, and have one person write a few words on the board to summarize each event.

B. Hand out paper and pens/pencils and ask students to write a short paragraph describing things they would like God to "make new" both in their personal lives and in the restoration of the world that we know. Ask for volunteers to share with the class what they have written. In the chapter, "God's Love for His People," (*Early Writings*, p. 39, 40), Ellen White describes her vision of seeing heaven, along with other worlds. Ask one of the students to read this chapter aloud, or as much of it as time allows. Hand out the Reproducible Activity, and work through it together, focusing on what these verses reveal about God's love for His people.

Discussing the Ideas

1. Why is it important to understand the closing events of our world's history?
2. What is the most important thing in this lesson to share with others?
3. What are you most looking forward to about Christ's second coming?
4. What do you fear most about this event?

5. In Rev. 21:15, John was told to "write, for these words are true and faithful." In these times of "fake news," twisted priorities, and prejudices, why do you think John was told these words were "true" and "faithful"?

6. What experiences has God used to restore you into a new person?

Closing the Activity

"The Bible begins with a garden and ends with a city. It starts with a morning followed by a night and ends with a day that shall know no more night." Walt Harrah summarized these Scripture texts and wrote the song "No More Night."

Share David Phelps' rendition from YouTube—<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4iPIi7sunEU>

Close with prayer, giving "praises to the great 'I Am' that we will live in the light of the risen Lamb."

Twyla Geraci, Belgrade, Montana, USA

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What do these verses show us about God's love for His people?

- Rev. 21:5 _____
- Rev. 19:6–9 _____
- John 14:1–3 _____
- Rev. 19:11–16 _____
- Rev. 20:1–15 _____
- Rev. 7:15–17 _____
- Rev. 21:6, 7 _____
- Rev. 22:1–5 _____
- Rev. 21:2–4 _____
- Rev. 22:6 _____
- Ps. 34:19 _____
- 2 Cor. 4:17, 18 _____
- Isa. 61:10 _____
- Eph. 6:10–13 _____

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