

Scenario of Events in These Last Days, part 11 quotes

1 Event #30 — The Redeemed will not only be able to enjoy, explore and learn about all of creation on the new earth, but they will also be able to explore God's entire universe, travel to other inhabited worlds, converse with its citizens, and will ever be discovering more about God's righteous character and His infinite love.

"For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, what he hath prepared for him that waiteth for him. Thou meetest him that rejoiceth and worketh righteousness". Isaiah 64:4-5.

"There [on the earth made new] the redeemed shall know, even as also they are known. The loves and sympathies which God Himself has planted in the soul shall there find truest and sweetest exercise. The pure communion with holy beings, the harmonious social life with the blessed angels and with the faithful ones of all ages who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb, the sacred ties that bind together "the whole family in heaven and earth" (Ephesians 3:15)--these help to constitute the happiness of the redeemed.

"There, immortal minds will contemplate with never-failing delight the wonders of creative power, the mysteries of redeeming love. There will be no cruel, deceiving foe to tempt to forgetfulness of God. Every faculty will be developed, every capacity increased. The acquirement of knowledge will not weary the mind or exhaust the energies. There the grandest enterprises may be carried forward, the loftiest aspirations reached, the highest ambitions realized; and still there will arise new heights to surmount, new wonders to admire, new truths to comprehend, fresh objects to call forth the powers of mind and soul and body.

"All the treasures of the universe will be open to the study of God's redeemed. Unfettered by mortality, they wing their tireless flight to worlds afar--worlds that thrilled with sorrow at the spectacle of human woe and rang with songs of gladness at the tidings of a ransomed soul. With unutterable delight the children of earth enter into the joy and the wisdom of unfallen beings. They share the treasures of knowledge and understanding gained through ages upon ages in contemplation of God's handiwork. With undimmed vision they gaze upon the glory of creation--suns and stars and systems, all in their appointed order circling the throne of Deity. Upon all things, from the least to the greatest, the Creator's name is written, and in all are the riches of His power displayed.

“And the years of eternity, as they roll, will bring richer and still more glorious revelations of God and of Christ. As knowledge is progressive, so will love, reverence, and happiness increase. The more men learn of God, the greater will be their admiration of His character. As Jesus opens before them the riches of redemption and the amazing achievements in the great controversy with Satan, the hearts of the ransomed thrill with more fervent devotion, and with more rapturous joy they sweep the harps of gold; and ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands of voices unite to swell the mighty chorus of praise.” Great Controversy, p 677-678.

“There, when the veil that darkens our vision shall be removed, and our eyes shall behold that world of beauty of which we now catch glimpses through the microscope; when we look on the glories of the heavens, now scanned afar through the telescope; when, the blight of sin removed, the whole earth shall appear in **“the beauty of the Lord our God,” what a field will be open to our study! There the student of science may read the records of creation and discern no reminders of the law of evil. He may listen to the music of nature’s voices and detect no note of wailing or undertone of sorrow. In all created things he may trace one handwriting--in the vast universe behold “God’s name writ large,” and not in earth or sea or sky one sign of ill remaining.**” Education, p 303.

“To dwell forever in this home of the blest, to bear in soul, body, and spirit, not the dark traces of sin and the curse, but the perfect likeness of our Creator, and **through ceaseless ages to advance in wisdom, in knowledge, and in holiness, ever exploring new fields of thought, ever finding new wonders and new glories, ever increasing in capacity to know and to enjoy and to love, and knowing that there is still beyond us joy and love and wisdom infinite--such is the object to which the Christian’s hope is pointing.**” God’s Amazing Grace, p 363.

2 How vast is God’s universe?

When God created the stars of the heavens, He stretched them out “like a curtain” (Psalms 104:2) so that they had space in between them. Each star is separated from one another by “slightly more than 1 parsec” (The Structure of Our Universe: Distances within the Galaxy, article published in The Astrophysics Spectator, Issue 4.06, April 18, 2007, by Dr. Jerome James Brainerd, at <http://www.astrophysicsspectator.com/topics/overview/DistanceGalacticScale.html>, accessed 4-1-12). A parsec is 3.25 light years, or 19 trillion miles, and so each star is more than 3.25 light years apart.

These stars are grouped together in their own particular portion of space, and the grouping of stars is called a galaxy. Astronomers estimate that each galaxy is made up on average of “100 billion stars” (Astronomer Carl Sagan, in *Cosmos: A Personal Voyage*, Episode 7 of 13, titled *The Backbone of Night*, approximately at 55:12 minutes, first broadcast by Public Broadcasting Service on November 9, 1980). They also estimate that each galaxy is separated from other galaxies “by distances on the order of millions of parsecs” (Wikipedia Online Encyclopedia, under *Galaxy*, at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galaxy>, accessed 4-1-12). Thus each galaxy is separated by more than 3.25 million light years, or at least 19 quintillion miles (that’s 19,000,000,000,000,000,000).

But how many galaxies are there? In the 1980's, astronomers estimated there to be at least “100 billion galaxies” composing the known universe of space (Astronomer Carl Sagan, in *Cosmos*, Episode 7 of 13, titled *The Backbone of Night*, approximately at 55:05 minutes, first broadcast by Public Broadcasting Service on November 9, 1980). Yet in the years since 1980, due to the Hubble telescope images of deep space and ultra deep space, scientists then estimated there to be at least 200 billion galaxies in the observable universe.

Show **Hubble Deep Field Image**

(A very narrow dark patch of stary sky was focused upon by Hubble for ten consecutive days between December 18 to 28, 1995. The area of sky was only about the width of a dime viewed from 75 feet away, and the resulting image was assembled from 276 separate exposures with the Wide Field and Planetary Camera 2 (WFPC2). Just a few stars in our Milky Way galaxy are visible in the foreground and are vastly outnumbered by the menagerie of about 1500 far more distant galaxies, some nearly as faint as 30th magnitude, or nearly four billion times fainter than the limits of human vision.)

Show **Hubble Ultra Deep Field**

(An extremely narrow dark patch located in the constellation Fornax, was focused upon by Hubble between Sept. 24, 2003 and Jan. 16, 2004, and represents 11.3 days of exposure time. The area of sky it focused upon was like looking through an eight-foot-long soda straw to the end, and the resulting image was assembled from 800 exposures taken over the course of 400 Hubble orbits around Earth. Only a handful of stars within the Milky Way galaxy can be seen in the image, but they are vastly outnumbered by the nearly 10,000 far more distant galaxies which are billions of light-years away.)

But in this year of 2016, “Astronomers came to the surprising conclusion that there are at least 10 times more galaxies in the observable universe than previously thought.” (NASA website, October 13, 2016 article titled: *Hubble Reveals Observable Universe Contains 10 Times More Galaxies Than Previously Thought*, at <https://www.nasa.gov/feature/goddard/2016/hubble-reveals-observable-universe-contains-10-times-more-galaxies-than-previously-thought>, accessed 11-24-16). This means that instead of there being just 200 billion galaxies, there are now estimated to be 2 trillion galaxies in the observable universe, and most of these are waiting to be discovered by advancing telescopes!

Just how large a number is 2 trillion galaxies? Picture yourself taking a single grain of sand, putting it on the tip of your finger and then holding it up to the starry sky. Then realize that “the patch of sky” that this single tiny grain of sand “covers contains 10,000 galaxies”! (Institute of Physics, article titled Sand Galaxies, at <http://www.physics.org/facts/sand-galaxies.asp>, accessed 11-24-16).

So each star is 3.25 light years away from every other star, and there are 100 billion stars in a galaxy; each galaxy is 3.25 million light years away from every other galaxy, and there are estimated to be 2 trillion galaxies!

3 Does the Bible describe that God has created other worlds which have intelligent beings dwelling on them like on earth?

“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, **by whom also he made the worlds**”. Hebrews 1:1-2.

The Greek word for “worlds” used here is “aion”, which translates and means “an age, beginning of the world” (Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance, word #165). This means that there were other worlds of created living things which God had given a beginning age to besides the earth.

All of these “worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear” (Hebrews 11:3). This reveals that all of these other worlds and their living things were created by the word of God and thus they did not come into existence by chance, nor did they evolve over billions of years of trial and error mutations of simple celled organisms that were somehow already living and existing. But they were all intelligently and purposely created by God for a specific reason.

The Bible also mentions that these intelligent beings which God created on these others worlds regularly come to visit with God at different intervals:

“Now there was **a day when the sons of God [from other worlds] came to present themselves before the LORD...Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD**”. Job 1:6, 2:1.

“But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, **To the general assembly and church of the firstborn**”. Hebrews 12:22-23.

“For as the new heavens and the new earth...shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain. And it shall come to pass, that **from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me**, saith the LORD.” Isaiah 66:22-23.

The living inhabitants of these other worlds “dwell in” the “heavens” (Revelation 12:12), which is plural. The Greek word for “heavens” used here is “ouranos”, which translates and means “elevation, heaven — as the abode of God” (Strong’s, word #3772). As God, the Lord God Michael/Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit and all the angels live in a real abode called heaven which is situated in a particular place among the stars - which we know to be through the open space in the Orion Nebula, then these other intelligent inhabitants also dwell and thrive in a real abode of their own that is situated in another particular place among the stars where they all serve God according to His will.

The Bible also reveals that the reason why God created and then stretched “out the heavens as a curtain” (Isaiah 40:22), thus providing so much space in between each star and each galaxy, was so that the stary universe would be spread “out as a tent to dwell in” (Isaiah 40:22). It was God’s propose for these other created worlds and their intelligent inhabitants to have their own particular place to dwell in this vast celestial expanse of space. This means that it is highly probable that these other inhabited worlds, however many they are, are each located in their own particular galaxy, and God chose the galaxy which we call the Milky Way to create us and the world we live in.

4 What are these other worlds and its inhabitants like?

“The Lord has given me a view of other worlds. Wings were given me, and an angel attended me from the city to **a place that was bright and glorious. The grass of the place was living green, and the birds there warbled a sweet song. The inhabitants of the place were of all sizes; they were noble, majestic, and lovely. They bore the express image of Jesus, and their countenances beamed with holy joy, expressive of the freedom and happiness of the place.** I asked one of them why they were so much more lovely than those on the earth. The reply was, “We have lived in strict obedience to the commandments of God, and have not fallen by disobedience, like those on the earth.” Then I saw two trees, one looked much like the tree of life in the city. The fruit of both looked beautiful, but of one they could not eat. They had power to eat of both, but were forbidden to eat of one. Then my attending angel said to me, “None in this place have tasted of the forbidden tree; but if they should eat, they would fall.” **Then I was taken to a world which had seven moons. There I saw good old Enoch, who had been translated.** On his right arm he bore a glorious palm, and on each leaf was written “Victory.” Around his head was a dazzling white wreath, and leaves on the wreath, and in the middle of each leaf was written “Purity,” and around the wreath were stones of various colors, that shone brighter than the stars, and cast a reflection upon the letters and magnified them. On the back part of his head was a bow that confined the wreath, and upon the bow was written “Holiness.” Above the wreath was a lovely crown that shone brighter than the sun. **I asked him if this was the place he was taken to from the earth. He said, “It is not; the city is my home, and I have come to visit this place.” He moved about the place as if perfectly at home.** I begged of my attending angel to let me remain in that place. I could not bear the thought of coming back to this dark world again. Then the angel said, “You must go back, and **if you are faithful, you, with the 144,000, shall have the privilege of visiting all the worlds and viewing the handiwork of God.**”
Early Writings, p 39-40.

This was just two inhabited worlds that sister White was able to visit in vision. But how many more inhabited worlds are there throughout this vast universe of God? If just 1 percent of all the galaxies estimated to be in God's universe each contained just one inhabited world, then there would be 20 billion inhabited worlds! If just 1/1000 of 1 percent of these galaxies contained inhabited worlds, then there would be 20 million inhabited worlds! And how ever many inhabited worlds there are, they all can be visited by the Redeemed!

"Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God." 1 Corinthians 2:9-10.

5 "...they desire a **better country, that is, an heavenly**: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city." Hebrews 11:16.

"The glory of the eternal world has been opened before me. I want to tell you that Heaven is worth winning. It should be the aim of your life to fit yourself for association with the redeemed, with holy angels, and with Jesus, the world's Redeemer. **If we could have but one view of the celestial city, we would never wish to dwell on earth again.** There are beautiful landscapes on earth, and I enjoy all these prospects of loveliness in nature. I associate them with the Creator. But I know that if I love God, and keep his commandments, **there is a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory reserved in Heaven for me. Beautiful as are the scenes of earth, they can bear no comparison to the glories of the eternal world....**God desires us to contemplate heavenly things. He desires us to behold the matchless charms of the divine character, and by beholding we shall become changed into the same image, through the power of his transforming grace." Signs of the Times, April 8, 1889 par 13.

"Dear children, the future abode of the saints will be all over glorious, and will you strive to be there? Let your minds dwell upon the glories of heaven, for this you may do with safety, and this will bring substantial joys, and will make you heavenly minded. If you have trials here, and feel lonesome, look away from this dark world to the bright glories of heaven. Set your affections upon heavenly joys, and then you will not feel so deeply the trials and disappointments of this life, for you will feel that you have a home in glory, a crown, a harp, and a lovely Saviour there. Strive for that blest inheritance which God has promised to those that love him, and keep his commandments." Youth Instructor, October 1, 1852 par 9.

6 “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; **While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen:** for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.” 2 Corinthians 4:17-18.

“For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; **that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge,** that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. Now unto him that is **able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think,** according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.” Ephesians 3:14-21.