

## QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

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**On January 22, 2014, we received the following comment and inquiry:**

“Hello, I would like to say that I am a life long witness and have served in an appointed capacity for some years. I find the idea of being a son of God very comforting. I have read the series of articles concerning the earthly hope and the heavenly hope, and although I like the idea of being anointed, I cannot reconcile the evidence in the scriptures for those who will be on earth. I may have missed the explanation for who exactly will inherit the earth. Could you please help me to clear up this understanding so I can research from the scriptures more about this. Thank you so much.”

To the author, thank you for visiting the site and sending your email. We are glad that you are beginning to think heavenward! As Jesus said, ever since John the Baptist, the Kingdom of the Heavens is the goal toward which men press! (*Matthew 11:12*)

You asked for an explanation of who exactly will inherit the earth. Jesus says ‘the meek’ shall. (*Matthew 5:5*) The problem is that we tend to think that ‘inherit’ means ‘live forever on,’ when it means more like ‘prevail’ or ‘dominate.’ In other words, one day in the future, the majority of the residents on earth will be meek. But it does not mean that the meek will never go to heaven, as the articles you refer to explain, **The Cherished Earthly Hope** and **The Glorious Heavenly Hope**. For starters, take another look at **The Real Hope for Life on Earth**. The time will come when the meek ones will complete their time on earth and begin the heavenly ascent, leaving the earth to the next generation of meek ones.

Also, recall that when Jesus ‘arrives,’ he will separate the sheep from the goats. The sheep ‘inherit’ the kingdom of the heavens, and goats will go into destruction. (*Matthew 25:31-46*) Also in the illustration of the wheat and the weeds, the wheat go to the storehouse and the weeds get burned up. (*Matthew 13:24-30*) These are not two hopes, but two destinies. And only one destiny leads to everlasting life, the one in the heavens. It is either life in heaven or death on earth. Jesus left no middle ground.

It is important to note that the term ‘earthly hope’ is a misleading fallacy because it carries the idea that ‘hope’ means ‘destiny.’ The ‘heavenly hope’ is a true destiny because we are not there yet. But we are already on earth so what is there to hope for? If we say ‘everlasting life,’ we have to look to the scriptures to see if Jesus ever told his disciples to pursue everlasting life on earth. The answer is ‘no.’ The only way one comes to the idea of a so-called ‘earthly hope’ is by looking to the book of *Revelation* and making erroneous assumptions. And then taking those assumptions and believing they trump Jesus’ plain and open teachings about the destiny of his followers, namely that they should follow him into the heavens, into the heavenly abodes he prepared for us. (*John 16:1-4*) This is explained further in the article “**Proving Ourselves Worthy of the Christ**.” You might take a look at the series of articles in the section **Transitioning to the Kingdom of the Heavens**. They are written specifically to our brothers among Jehovah’s Witnesses who must make their minds over and accept the teachings of Jesus over and above the teachings of the Governing Body.

Also, here are some questions to consider:

- Do you believe Jesus is the son of God? (*Matthew 16:16*)
- Do you believe Jesus was here to show us ‘the way?’ (*John 14:6*)
- Do you believe Jesus was the greatest prophet and teacher? (*Matthew 12:41-42*)
- Do you believe the gospel accounts accurately reflect what Jesus taught? (*John 21:24-25*)
- Do you believe we should teach the things Jesus commanded? (*Matthew 28:19-20*)
- Do you believe that relying on what Jesus taught will lead to salvation? (*John 5:24*)
- Do you believe Jesus is still alive? (*Matthew 18:20*)
- Do you believe Jehovah wants us to rely on what Jesus taught? (*Luke 9:35*)

If you answer yes to these questions, then you must conclude that the heavens is the goal that we all must pursue. Neither Jesus nor the apostles taught any other hope.

This emphasizes the problem with identifying one’s self as a witness of Jehovah (*Isaiah 43:10*) rather than a witness of Jesus. (*Acts 1:8*) A witness of Jehovah is required to witness about the acts of God according to the ‘old wine’ of the Jewish religious system; whereas a witness of Jesus are required to witness about the ‘new wine’ as taught by Jesus. And as long as one is reading the ‘old wine,’ one’s mind will be veiled. (*2 Corinthians 3:15*)

After you research the information on our site, if you continue to have questions, please do not hesitate to write us again.

**“Elaia Luchnia”**

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