

**THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN
CHURCH OF GOD**



**BAPTISMAL
CLASS
Manual**

Revised Edition

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PREFACE

Congratulations!

Beloved, surrendering your life to Jesus Christ is the best decision you have ever made. You are now born-again, a new creature, redeemed by the precious blood of the LAMB. There is great joy in Heaven over you. Welcome to the fold of the Saints. Since Jesus Christ is not ashamed to call you son or daughter and to present you faultless before God the Father, it will be wise to publicly declare your stand as commanded in the Scriptures by submitting yourself for water baptism— Mk.16:15-16, Mt.28:19. It is an outward symbol of an inward reality of genuine conversion. This programme is therefore designed to teach and acquaint every prospective candidate for water baptism with the fundamental beliefs of the Redeemed Christian Church of God, as depicted in the Holy Bible.

Pastor E. A. Adeboye

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INTRODUCTION

Jesus commanded all those who believed in Him to be baptised in water - Matt.28:18-19, Acts 2:38-41. To be “baptised” means to be “totally immersed.”

When a person repents from his/her sin and believes Jesus died for him, before many witnesses, he/she is to be taken to water, immersed in it and brought up again.

Understanding what water baptism is all about is the key to a victorious and liberated Christian life.

The act of going under the water and rising up from it again is a picture demonstrating what has happened to the believer.

The four stages of Christ’s work

1. He died. The believer also died in Him - Rom.6: 6-7.
2. He was buried. The believer was buried with Him – Rom.6:3-4.
3. He was raised. The believer has a new life in Him – Rom. 6:4-5.
4. He ascended. The believer also ascended in Him – Eph. 2:6, Col.3:1.

What does water baptism symbolize?

1. Your funeral service.

A burial service is not to kill a man off. It is only performed when the man is dead already. Because you have “died” in Christ, you bury your old life in water baptism.

2. Your resurrection to new life.

You rise out of the water demonstrating and declaring you are a new creature in Christ – Rom. 6:8-11.

Therefore, in water baptism, we declare to all our friends and acquaintances that we are no longer part of Adam's race and the kingdom of darkness (Col.1:13, 1Cor.15:22, Rom.5:12.) We are a new creature in Christ belonging to the kingdom of God (1Cor.15:45-49, 2Cor.5:17, Eph.2:10.)

THE BIBLE TEACHING

We believe that all the Scriptures, both New and Old Testaments, are written by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit - II Timothy 3: 16-17, Luke 24:25-27. All the Christian teachings and the Christian attitude of the children of God are such that are established in the Holy Bible - II Timothy 3:10-15, 2 Peter 1:21; John 17:17; Psalm 119:105.

We believe that in the Bible are written and revealed unto us the will of God: Man's position to God, the way to obtain salvation, woe and destruction awaiting sinners that refuse to repent and everlasting joy that is kept for the born again souls. All Bible teachings are holy. What the Bible reveals as the will of God are such that we should accept and whatever God writes in the Bible and His Law are to remain unchangeable, for the Heaven and Earth may pass away but the word of God stands for ever - Deut. 4:2; Rev. 22: 18-19; Matthew 24:34-35.

ABOUT GOD: Psalm 33:6-9

As revealed unto us by the Bible, we believe that there is only one God, who is the Creator of both visible and invisible creatures - Genesis 1:1; Psalm 86:9-10; Isaiah 43: 10-11; John 1: 1-3. Only God will be in existence for ever - Rev. 1:8. In God, every creature receives life- John 5:26, Genesis 2:7.

ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

We believe that He is the Son of God, who took away our sins and the Saviour of the world. We also believe that Jesus is God. He was born by Mary the virgin. He is God revealed in flesh. Through Him all things were created - John 1:1-14; 14:9; Matthew 1:18-25; Isaiah 9:6; 53:5-6. We believe in His death on the cross and resurrection by which He brought redemption - Isaiah 53:4-10; I Peter 2:24; John 10:11; Galatians 3:13; Matthew 20:28; I Cor. 15:3; Romans 4:25; 2 Cor. 5: 14; Heb. 9:26.

ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is the third person in the TRINITY. He has the same power and the same glory with God the Father and God the Son - John 14:16-17, 15:26; Matthew 3:16. He is one with the Father and the Son, who is to be worshiped and served. Three Persons that become one are the source of blessings to all creatures in Heaven and on Earth - Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; I John 5:5-7. The Holy Spirit has a great work to perform. He teaches. He speaks to men and bears witness in us - Acts 16:6-7; He performs the work of regeneration for man - John 3:5-6: He also performs the work of sanctification in the born again souls until they are fully sanctified - John 16:8; Eph. 1:17-19; 2 Thess. 2:13; 1Cor. 6: 11. This same Holy Spirit endows believers with gifts they can use - I Cor. 12:7-11. He empowers one in the Lord - Acts 1:8.

ABOUT TRINITY

The egg is comprised of three parts: the yellowish part, the whitish part and the shell part. Despite this three substances, the egg is not three but one. Likewise, we believe that God the Father, God the Son and the Holy Ghost are one God, but made of three Persons, hence they are ONE IN TRINITY - Gen. 1 :26-29; Matt. 3:16-

17; Matt. 28:19.

ABOUT THE DEVIL

We believe that there is a devil who seeks the downfall of every man. He brought sickness, sin and death into the world - Genesis 3:1-16. He seeks the destruction of those who exercise their faith in the Lord, Jesus - Matt. 4:1-11; James 4:7; I Peter 5:8. The devil has several unclean spirits over whom he governs - Matthew 12:24. A time will soon come when he shall be thrown into the pit and chained for one thousand years - Rev. 20: 1-3. After this, he will be put into the lake of fire where he will remain suffering together with his followers forever and ever - Revelation 20: 10; 12:4.

ABOUT MAN

God made man ruler over all the other things He created - Gen. 1:26. God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul - Gen.-2:7. Therefore, man is of three parts, namely: body, soul and spirit. Man is God's ambassador on earth to take control over all other creatures on His behalf on earth - Gen. 1:26-28. God allows man to take part in His work and thereby reveal His love to mankind more than any other creature - Gen. 2:15. This also shows how God elevates man more than the other creatures upon the earth.

REPENTANCE UNTO GOD

Repentance is the godly sorrow for sin with decision to abstain from them - Acts 3:19; 20:21; 2 Cor. 7:10; Mark 1:15; Isa. 55:7; 2 Chron. 7:14; Ezek. 18:21; Prov. 28:13.

JUSTIFICATION AND NEW BIRTH

This is God's grace whereby we are declared righteous, cleansed from our sins, by which we are able to stand before God as though we have never sinned - Acts 13:39; Rom. 3:23-26; 5:1; I Cor. 6:11; Gal. 3:24; Jn. 1:12-13; I Cor. 6:11; Jn. 1:12-13; 3:3; 2 Cor. 5:19; Titus 3:5; I Pet. 1:23; Acts 10:43; Jn. 3:3,5.

SANCTIFICATION (HOLINESS)

Sanctification is the progressive and total separation from sin and worldliness unto God and godliness. It is the carrying on to perfection the work started in regeneration of the spirit and it extends to the whole man – Rom.6:13, 2Cor.4:6. It is the second work of grace after salvation. It is also the special office of the Holy Spirit in the plan of redemption to carry on this work – 1Cor.6:11.

Faith in the truth is instrumental in securing sanctification - Jn.17:15-17, 1Thess.4:3, Heb.2:11, 12:14, Ps.119:9, 11, 2Thess.2:13.

WATER BAPTISM

We believe in baptism in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Ghost - Matthew 28: 19. The teaching is revealed in the New Testament and all Christians must obey this rule of the Lord - Acts 2: 4; 16: 15; 30-33; Acts 18:8; 19:4-5. Every saved soul automatically qualifies for water baptism - Acts 8:29-39; 16:28-33.

We believe that all members of this church should receive water baptism by immersion in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Ghost as believers who will not add or take out of the word of God – Matthew 28:19; 3:16.

Water baptism stands for a sign and example of two things:

(a) It is an outstanding sign and an example of true repentance of a sinner from his/her sins - Acts 2:38; 22:16.

(b) Anybody who is baptised is joined with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection - Romans 6:1 -end; Col. 2:13. Therefore, anybody who is baptised is dead to the world and the evils thereof - Galatians 6: 14.

BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

All born-again souls should ask for the Holy Spirit from above, as the Apostles were ordered to wait in Jerusalem until they were filled from above. It is the promise of the Father. It is God's gift, which He gives to those who obey Him - Luke 24:49; John 4:14-26; Acts 1:4-5; Acts 5:32; Acts 8:14-17. It is God's promise unto them who are far and all whom the Lord shall call - Acts 2:38-39. Any Christian who receives the baptism of the Holy Spirit must speak in tongues - Acts 2:4; Acts 10:44-46; 19:2-6.

ABOUT PRAYER

A Christian without condemnation of heart has right to thank God and in adoration and in prayer unto the Lord always - Zech. 12:10. His soul thirsts for God - Psalm 42:2. The Holy Spirit helps his infirmities in prayer - Rom. 8:26. We must pray only in the name of JESUS - John 16:23; I Tim. 2:1-5. Without faith, our prayer shall be powerless before God - James 1:6-8; Heb. 11:6. Those who are unable to pray annoy God - Isa. 43:22; Isa. 64:6-7. Much trouble and danger

are encountered in such act - Zech. 1:4; Dan. 9:13-14; Hosea 8:13-14. We are commanded to pray and not to faint and without ceasing - Colossians 4:2; I Thess. 5:17; I Cor. 7:5; Luke 18: 1. The Apostles put prayer first in their lives and they spent much time in prayer - Acts 6:4; Rom. 1:9; Col. 1:9. It is God's plans and order that we should pray to receive all the goods He has promised in His treasure for us - James 4:2; Dan. 9:3; Matt. 7:7-11; 9:24-29, Luke 11: 13; Mark 9:29.

ABOUT RESTITUTION

Restitution is a mark of true repentance. This is payment or restoration of what is damaged - Ex. 22:3. Whatever cannot give us a clear conscience before man and God, should be restituted without delay - Lev. 6:1-7, Luke 19:8; Prov. 28: 13; Acts 24: 16.

DIVINE HEALING (HEALING WITHOUT MEDICINE)

Healing without medicine is biblical - Matt 4:23; Psalm 103:3. Sickness is caused by the fall of man. The force behind this is Satan - Job 2:1-9; Luke 13:16; Acts 10:38. However, Jesus came to destroy the work of the devil - I John 3:8. Christ purchased our soul from the curse of sin. He bore our infirmities and carried our sorrow - Matt. 8: 15-17. By His stripes we are healed - Isaiah 53:4-5; Gal. 3:13, 1 Pet. 2:24. Healing without medicine is of the Gospel - Matt. 9:35; Mark 6:10-18. We read that the twelve Apostles and the seventy disciples combined healing with their ministry of the Gospel - Lk. 9: 1-2; 10: 1-9. The Lord commanded us to go into the world, not only to teach the nation, but that we should also heal the sick - Matt. 28: 19-20; Mark 10:1; 16:15-18.

WE CAN OBTAIN OUR HEALING IN THESE FOUR WAYS:

1. By individual prayer - John 14: 13-14.
2. By two or group of people who have agreed to pray by faith - Matt. 18: 19-20.
3. By the laying of hands on the head - Mark 16:18; Act 9:17-18; 28:8.
4. By the ministry of Elders, anointing the sick with prayer of faith - James 5: 14 - 15, Mark 6:12-13.

SPECIAL NOTICE: Before we can work by healing without medicine, we would have sacrificed our lives to the doing of the Law - Romans 6:13-19; 12:1; Matt. 16:24; 2 Cor. 8:1-5. many miracles were performed by the Apostles -Acts 9:33-42; 19:11-12; 28:8-9.

WORLDLINESS FORBIDDEN

The Bible teaches us to abstain from all appearance of evil - I Thess. 5:22; 2 Tim. 2:21-22. Therefore, we must not see our church members in dancing halls, reveling, for such things are works of the flesh. All people doing such things shall not inherit the Kingdom of God - Gal. 5: 19-21. " For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries:

4 Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you:" 1 Pet. 4:3-4; Prov. 31 :4-5; Rev. 1 :5-6; Gen. 19:30-38.

SWEARING AND CURSING FORBIDDEN.

All Christians should not swear, curse or blaspheme for we were not taught of Jesus in such way. "Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not. " Rom. 12:14. Swear not at all, neither by Heaven nor by the earth or any other swearing. Instead, let your yes be yes, and your no be no, so that you do not run into condemnation - Matt. 5:34; James 5: 12.

DUE REVERENCE TO PARENTS AND AUTHORITY

All Christians are to obey the law of the country, obey the government and authorities. They should honour their parents and elders - I Pet. 2:13-14; Rom. 13:1-5; Eph. 6:1-3; Mark 7:10-13; I Tim. 5:1-2, 6:1-2; Lev. 19:32; Prov. 23:22; Acts 5:27-29; 4:18-20. But in case there is conflict between God's word and their directives, God is to be obeyed.

REBELLION AGAINST CHURCH AUTHORITY FORBIDDEN

Rebellion against a church minister is against the will of God. Those who rebelled against Moses did not escape unpunished - Numbers 12:1-10; 16:1-4; 32. The Bible teaches that we should obey our spiritual leaders and submit to them - Heb. 13: 17; Jos. 1: 16-18; Deut. 17: 12; Jude 8-9.

DEBTS FORBIDDEN

Any member of this church must not willfully enter into a debt which he will find difficult to repay. The Bible teaches us, "owe no man anything, but to love one another." - Rom. 13:7-8.

ABOUT DEBT:

1. Monetary debt.

2. Debt of promise or vow - Ps. 105:8.
3. Debt of time - Eccl. 3: 1-8.
4. Debt of not preaching the Gospel - I Cor. 9:16-17.

Cut your coat according to your cloth - Leviticus 12:6-8; Luke 2:22-24.

OUR GARMENT

We believe that any born-again soul is a child of God and is clothed with white garment which is the righteousness of Christ. It is received freely, a gift unto them that lead a victorious life - Rev. 19:7-8. Furthermore, we are advised to put on charity, which is the bond of perfection - Col. 3:13-14. It is not our policy to have special robes.

We believe that all members must be moderate in adornment - I Tim.2:8-9; I Pet. 3:1-6; Gen.35:1-4; Exo. 32:1-8, Isa. 3:16-26; I Cor. 11 :4-10; Exo. 33:5-6.

LAYING OF HANDS AND ANOINTING THE SICK

We believe in the laying of hands and anointing the sick on the head in the name of the Lord and that prayer of faith shall save the person - James 5:14-16; Mark 16:17-18. Nevertheless, we do not use any other method which are not in accordance to Bible teaching. Such traditions include sanctification of water for the sick to drink, or to perform special washing for the sick in a flowing river, the use of robes or garments or to carry small stick in form of cross about or candle and such things. They are not biblical. The order of the Lord is that we should heal the sick free of charge - Matt. 10:8. We do not receive money or charge money before we offer prayer for anybody. All those using the above materials for healing shall perish with them - Mark 16: 18; James 5:14; Matt. 10:7-8; Mark 6:13.

HOLY MATRIMONY

Marriage is honourable in all - Hebrews 13:4. Therefore, all members who wish to marry should do so in the church. They are not to follow the worldly pattern with drumming and dancing, drunkenness or should not wear clothes that bring sin. Their joy is to be moderate and glorify God - I Cor. 7:30-31; I John 2:15-17; Rm.12:2.

TITHES AND OFFERING

Regular payment of tithes and offering is obligatory because it is God's command. Tithe is God's way of providing for the ministers in the Church. The ministers and other church employees are paid their food allowance through tithes. The offering is used to cater for the needy in the church. Tithes and offering must be paid on every income e.g. salary, profit from business transaction, gifts etc. - Malachi 3:8-12; Gen. 14:19-20; Num. 18:20- 21; Deut. 26:12-13; Lev. 27:30; Heb. 7:2-5; I Cor. 16:2; Matt. 23:23.

N.B: TITHE IS EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE MINISTER'S WELFARE - Matt. 10:40-42; 2 Kings 4:8-17; I Sam. 9:5-10.

PROPHECY IN THE CHURCH

We believe in all the prophecies in the Bible. Likewise, we believe that we can be given the gift of prophecy by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit - I Cor. 14:29. Despise not prophesying - I Thess. 5:20. However, any prophecy that is against the Bible is rejected.

CHURCH DISCIPLINE

Above all, whatever is not Bible teaching should be ignored entirely by all members. If there be found any member disobeying these teachings, he may be disciplined privately. If any backslider will not admit discipline and retrace his way, he may be disciplined openly as it is written in Matthew 18:15-18, so that truth may be established by the witness of two or three according to the word of God. Rebuke them that sinned before all that others may fear - I Tim. 5:20; I Cor. 5:1-13; 2 Cor. 2:6-11; Heb. 12:5-12.

ONE HUSBAND, ONE WIFE, CORRECT DIVORCE AND RE-MARRIAGE

The word of God teaches us that monogamy has been the order since the beginning of the law of Christ. Divorce is permissible only when a life partner has committed adultery. Even then, none of the two should be married to a new partner while both are yet alive - Matt. 5:31-32, 19:9; Mark 10:11-12; Lk. 16:18; Rom. 7:2-3; Malachi 2:13-16; Gen. 2:18; Matt. 19:4-6; 1:18-20; I Cor.7:10-11.

NAMING & DEDICATION OF CHILDREN

We believe that after a child is born, he/she should be named on the eighth day. The parents should also bring him/her unto the Lord for dedication –I Samuel 1 :22-24; Matthew 19:13-15.

HOLY COMMUNION OR THE LORD'S SUPPER

It is instituted by our Lord Jesus Christ shortly before His death. He commanded all Christians to gather together regularly to share the bread and wine till He comes back again - Lk. 22:11-20; Matt. 26:26-29; Mk. 14:22-25; I Cor. 10:16-21; Acts 2:42; 20:7; I Cor. 11:23-30.

THE CHURCH OF GOD

The born-again souls are called the Church of God - Eph. 1:22; Col. 1 :1-18; Eph. 3:10; 5:24-29. It is the assembly of the believers, the sanctified souls in Christ Jesus, those who we call the Holy people of God -I Cor. 1:2; Acts 14:23; Phil. 4:15; Acts 13:2-8. Therefore, all those that God has called gather together in a place and are fed with the word of God - Acts 2:41-47. They accept Christ as the Head of the Church. They gather from time to time to worship God in truth and in spirit to share the bread and eat. Their major assignment is to spread the Gospel of Christ to all Nations - Matt. 28: 19.

THE LORD'S DAY

We believe that the first day of the week called Sunday is a special day which believers should separate as the Lord's day during which time they are to gather to worship - Acts 20:7; I Cor. 16:2; Rev. 1:10. The Lord resurrected on the first day of the week - Mark 16:9; John 20: 1-10; 19:20, 24-28.

THE DEDICATION OR SEPARATION

Dedication is very important for the children of God for the Lord is holy - Jn. 17:19; I Pet. 1:15-16. If we want God to be our Father, we must separate and dedicate ourselves unto God - 2 Cor. 6:17-18. God called us unto holiness - I Thess. 4:7; Rom. 12:1-2.

THE DEAD IN CHRIST

We believe that a believer who sleeps in the Lord is with Christ already - Phil. 1:21-23; 2 Cor. 5:1-9. Paul said that it is better to come out of this flesh and be with the Lord forever in our heavenly home. Further still, he emphasises that "But I would not have you to be ignorant brethren concerning them which are asleep that ye sorrow not even as other which have no hope." I Thess. 4:13-19. Therefore all members should separate themselves from the things of this world in worshipping the dead by which we become idolaters - Deut. 14:1.

RESURRECTION

We experience daily the resurrection of the Spirit, all the born-again souls who are passed from death to life - Eph. 6:14; Rom. 6:11; Jn. 5:20. As this body is dissolved, immediately we are entering into our heavenly home or house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens - 2 Cor. 5:1-8. There is resurrection of the body. Jesus taught us plainly that the buried body will be raised up from the tomb at the later day - Jn. 5:25-27; 28-29. Paul also explained this to us - Acts 24: 15; I Cor. 15:22, 42-44; Phil. 3:21; Dan. 12:2. Only holy people will be at the resurrection of those who belong to Jesus when He appears but the sinners shall resurrect as people whose names are not found in the Lamb's Book - Rev. 20:4-5; Jn. 5:28-29; Rev. 20:12-15.

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

The Second coming of Jesus Christ will be in physical form and will be visible to all in like manner as He was seen ascending up to Heaven -Acts 1 :9-11; Jn. 14:3. His return will be in two stages:

- (i) CHRIST'S RETURN IN THE SKY AND RAPTURE: The Saints or Bride of Christ will be raptured to meet Christ in the sky - I Thess. 4:15-17; I Cor. 15:51-52; Matt. 24:40-44; 25:10; Rev. 19:7-9; 2 Cor. 5:10. After the rapture comes the tribulation
- (ii) HIS RETURN TO THE EARTH: He will return to the earth to judge the sinners and the ungodly - Rev. 19:19-21; 2 Thess. 1:7-10; Jude 1 :14-15; Zech. 14:3-4; Rev. 1 :7; Acts 1 :9-11. Then the Battle Of Armageddon - Rev. 16:13-16; 19:11-21.

THE TRIBULATION PERIOD

The time between His coming to receive the bride or saints into Heaven and His coming to administer judgments will be the time of tribulations - Matthew 24:21, 22-29; Rev. 9:16; Isa. 26:19-21; Mk. 13:19; Jer. 30:7; Dan. 12:1; Malachi 4:1; Rev. 13:1-end; 2 Thess.2:1-12.

THE MILLENNIAL REIGN (Christ's 1,000 Year's Reign)

After Christ appears upon earth, He will set up His Kingdom with the holy people for one thousand years - Rev. 20:1-6; 2:26-27. These one thousand years will be

entirely different from any kingdom ever set on earth. The kingdom will be of peace all over - Isaiah 2:2-4. There will be no deaths -Isaiah 65: 18-20. There will be no poverty - Mich. 4:4; Isa. 65:21-25. Christ is the ONLY KING in the Kingdom - Daniel 2:44-45; 7:13-14; 22, 27; Isa. 11 :1-end; Isa. 35:1-end; 65:18-25.

SATAN IN PRISON

At the time of the millennium reign, Satan will be chained - Rev. 20:2-3. It will be the time of peace and blessings to mankind also - Isa. 11:6-9;65:25; Hos. 2:18; Zech. 14:9-20; Isa.2:2-4.

THE COMING JUDGEMENTS

We believe that there will be three special judgments.

They are:

a. THE JUDGEMENT OF THE BELIEVERS:

This will start immediately believers are caught up in the sky. They shall stand before Christ. After this judgment, they will descend down with Christ upon the earth - 2 Cor.5:10; 1Cor. 3:3,11-15; James 1:12; Rom. 2:16; 14:11-13; Rev. 19:7-9.

b. THE JUDGEMENT OF THE NATIONS:

This will be the time when Jesus had appeared upon the earth between the millennium reign - Acts 17:31; Joel 3:2; Zech. 14:15; Jude 1:14-15; 2 Thess. 1:7-10; Rom. 2:16; Rev 1:7; Malachi 16:21; Matt. 25:31.

c. THE JUDGEMENT OF THE UNBELIEVERS - OR THE WHITE THRONE JUDGEMENT:

This will happen after Christ's one thousand years reign on the white throne - Rev. 20:11-15; 2 Pet. 3:7; Dan. 12:2.

ETERNAL LIFE AND ETERNAL PUNISHMENT

The Bible teaches us that there is in existence eternal punishment and eternal life - Matt. 25:41-46. The wicked people will be sent to hell fire made of sulphur and be tormented both day and night in the presence of the Holy Angel and the Lamb. The punishment will continue forever and ever - Rev. 14:10-11; Lk. 16:24; Mark 9:43-44.

NEW HEAVEN AND NEW EARTH

The word of God teaches us that after the judgement, this wicked world would be removed. God will create a new Heaven and a new Earth in which HOLINESS will exist - Matt. 24:35; 2 Pet. 3: 10-13; Rev. 21 :1-13; Isa. 65:17,66: 22.

