
A New Reality

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth,
for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away,
and the sea was no more.

2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem,
coming down out of heaven from God,
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
“Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man.
He will dwell with them, and they will be his people,
and God himself will be with them as their God.

4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes,
and death shall be no more,
neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore,
for the former things have passed away.”

5 And he who was seated on the throne said,
“Behold, I am making all things new.”

Also he said,
“Write this down,
for these words are trustworthy and true.”

Sermon Outline:

I. Future (Revelation 21:1, 5)

A. New Creation

B. True World

II. Past (Revelation 21:2)

A. Coming Down

B. Bride Dressed

Discussion Questions

1. What causes you to take your eyes and heart off of the wonderful future that awaits you with your Lord?
2. Why do you think this vision was so encouraging to the Apostle John? In other words, where is John at the time of this vision and why is he there (See Rev. 1:9)? Why would this vision encourage the seven churches of Asia Minor to whom he writes (See Rev. 2:3, 9-10, 13; 3:10)?

3. Why will this new earth be wonderful beyond compare? (See verses 3-4, 7-8)? How does the Apostle John describe the final dwelling place of all believers? Where does the Apostle John receive this vision for the future (cf. [3:12](#); [Is. 60:11-22](#); [65:17-19](#); [66:22](#))?
4. What is significant about the new city being described as a bride? How are the bride and the holy city related (cf. 19:7-8; 21:2)?
5. How well does the Apostle John know what God has promised in His Word? Compare 21:3-4 with the following: (cf. [Ezekiel 37:27](#); [Is. 25:8](#); [35:10](#)). How should his example inspire and motivate us?
6. How certain is this prophecy about the consummation of all things (cf. v. 5 with 19:11)? How should this steady us when doubt creeps into our minds?
7. What one way would you live differently if you really believed Jesus' promise that He will make all things new? How should this promise encourage you as you experience the effects of aging?

Going Deeper

1. What difference should Jesus' promise "to make all things new" make in your prayer life?

William Burkitt writes that Jesus' promise to make all things new ought to "encourage us to go to Christ in prayer for renewing grace for ourselves and our friends and family.

Surely he that makes new heavens can make new hearts,
he that renews an old world, can renew us in the spirit of our minds,
and make old things pass away, and cause all things to become new."

- William Burkitt, [Expository Notes with Practical Observations on the New Testament](#).

2. Daniel 11:32 says that "the people who know their God will display strength and take action." Therefore, what is it that you learn about the nature and attributes of God from this passage? Why not close your study by taking time to praise the Lord in prayer for what He reveals to you about Himself in this passage?