

Series Title: The Revelation of Jesus Christ: Behold I Am Coming Soon**Today's Message: Everything is New in Heaven! (pt 2); Revelation 21:3-8**

We find the very title of this message in Revelation 21:5. See, the One seated on the throne says, "Behold, I make all things new!" That means everything in Heaven is new, and you can believe it! You and I cannot comprehend it. For as 1 Corinthians 2:9 tells us, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him". What joy! What hope!

It is this hope and joy that must alter our earthly mindset. It is this "true and faithful" promise/ plan of God that should frame our thinking, shaping our minds so that we "set our hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God." And to "set our minds on things above, not on earthly things." (Col. 3:1-2). With this hope and joy, which shines before us like a lighthouse on a distant shore, our hearts can be set at peace. But it is not only a peace produced by good thoughts, but literally, a peace that is described as, "The peace of God (Phil. 4:7)," and "The peace of Christ (Col. 3:15)." This peace is a gift from God to us from His. From His abundance of peace, He comforts us while we are travelling by faith on this earth.

We must feed ourselves and each other with the encouragement that comes from studying and meditating on the Revelation of Jesus Christ. For, as Hebrews 10:25 commands us for our benefit, "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another— all the more as you see the Day approaching." Exercise one another with glorious truths concerning our salvation: That we were brought from death to life Christ took hold of us; That when we were born again by the Holy Spirit we were made "new creatures in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17)."

The Truth of God revealed in Revelation declares that the Old Order of things must pass away (Rev. 21:4), not to be made over, but replaced, made new, perfectly adorned for our eternal bodily existence in perfect eternal fellowship with God!

In Isaiah 65:17, the New Order is predicted. God says through Isaiah, "For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come to mind." How wonderful it will be when God Himself gathers His beloved ones and removes all memories of death, mourning, crying and pain! No more remorse, regret or repentance!

We would do well to match the eagerness of all creation as creation itself waits for the sons of God to be revealed. Listen to how Paul writes about this to motivate us to live in eager expectation for the appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ: "I expect that our present suffering are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by it own choice, baby the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious

freedom of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. (Rom. 8:18-23)”

My admonition to you, to all of us, is to exercise your mind. Think of these things. Read and reread the Revelation and be happy and blessed. Discipline yourself to develop an eternal world view. Flee from the things that drag you into the mud and mire of this sinful world.

Today we will continue with part 2 of the message we started last week: “Everything is New in Heaven.” But, I have altered the outline by adding a separate section for 21:5. The outline is as follows: 1) The New Order is set in order by God (21:5); 2) The New Order is the Inheritance of the Overcomers (21:6-7); 3) The New Order Excludes the Unrepentant who loved their sins and the world more than they loved God (21:8).

I. (21:5) The New Order is Set in Order by God.

A. John sees Him who was seated on the throne

1. This is God the Father

a) John saw God the Father when he, in a vision, was called up to heaven

(1) Revelation 4:1-2: “After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, ‘Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.’ At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it.”

(2) Revelation 4:9: He who sits on the throne is worshiped.

(3) Revelation 5:1: He who sits on the throne was holding in His right hand a scroll, which He handed to the Lamb.

B. The One sitting on the throne made a declaration without any resistance

1. He sovereignly sets in order the new order by His uncontested word:

a) “Behold, I make everything new.”

b) It is reminiscent of the declaration The Father made through Isaiah, “For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come to mind. (Isaiah 65:17)”

2. Uncontested because the old order of things has passed away (21:4)

a) That means all that caused sin and corruption and death and disease has been removed forever.

(1) The first creation has been uncreated (Rev. 20:11; 2 Peter 3:10)

(2) Satan and all his legions of angels and all unrepentant people have been judged and thrown in the lake of fire, forever removed from the New Order (19:19-20; 20:10; 20:15).

(3) Death and Hades is removed forever from the New Order (20:14)

- C. The new order is vast, expansive and encompasses everything in the new heavens and new earth!
 - 1. Obviously, this includes the redeemed people of the Lord.
 - 2. But it also “extends to the redemption of the earth and even the entire creation.”¹
 - a) “Like the new birth, the new creation is a work of God: ‘Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. (2 Cor. 5:17)’”²
- D. What are you living for? Is your life centered on temporal things?
 - 1. These things are written, having been placed before you for our encouragement.
 - 2. What occupies your mind? Train yourself to think of God-things!
 - a) Set your heart on things above! Col. 3:1
 - b) Set your mind on things above! Col. 3:2
 - c) Think about these things! Philippians 4:9
 - (1) “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable— if anything is excellent or praiseworthy— think about these things.”

II. (21:6-7) The New Order is the Inheritance of the Overcomers.

- A. (21:6a) “It is done”
 - 1. The Great Voice from Heaven spoke these words signifying the end of redemptive history.
 - a) Reminiscent of Jesus’ final words on the cross when He accomplished redemption for His people. John 19:30 records, “It is finished!”
 - b) What the Father started, beginning with the First Gospel revelation in Genesis 3:15, to the redemption of His people finished by Christ on the Cross, up through the Uncreation to the New Creation, God declares the end of redemptive history.
 - (1) Time is no more! Eternity begins!
 - 2. He who speaks, the Father, declares His authority to declare the end of redemptive history by calling Himself the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.
 - a) God started history, and He will end history.
 - 3. Notice, also, that our Lord Jesus Christ refers to Himself as the Alpha and the Omega in Revelation 22:13. This statement offers proof of His full deity and equality with the Father.³
- B. (21:6b) A present invitation to the readers of the Revelation: “To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life.”
 - 1. Who will live in the New Order of God?
 - a) The one who thirsts for God and His righteousness found in Christ alone.

¹ Tony Garland quote.

² Tony Garland

³ John MacArthur

- (1) This phrase describes people who recognize their deep, desperate spiritual need. They “hunger and thirst for righteousness.” (Matt.5:6)
 2. It is an invitation from God to you, my friends!
 - a) Relief is found in Christ alone! “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me.” (John 7:37)
 - b) Hear Him in Revelation 22:17, “The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take of the free gift of the water of life.”
- C. (21:7) Who will gain this eternal inheritance, which is a free gift from God?
1. He who overcomes
 - a) What a faith-building promise! “He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son.”
 - (1) Who are the overcomers?
 - (a) We know from previous studies in Revelation that the overcomers are true and professing Christians; that is people who truly regenerate believers!
 - (i) Those who are saved through faith in Christ: both His person and His work, including His resurrection from the dead!
 - (2) The Apostle John describes who is the overcomer in his epistle: “...for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.” (1 John 5:4-5)
 - (a) An overcomer is not an overcomer because of his works or efforts, but because of the One whom he has believed, that is, the Lord Jesus Christ!
 2. The inheritance is a gift from God! Like an earthly inheritance, the things which are inherited are received not by merit or effort, but only because of our relationship to Christ who merited both our salvation and our standing as sons of God. Therefore, God the Father gives the inheritance to His sons (believers). **(see Rom.8:14-17)**
 3. A challenge for believers: Why do we fuss and strain for the temporal things of earth? Why do we compete, even against fellow believers, for “earthly morsels when all the while [we] have bank accounts swelling with eternal value?” (Garland)
 - a) Listen to how Paul redirected the Corinthian believers who were boasting about their favorite preacher. He writes forcefully, “So then, no more boasting about men! All things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future— all are yours, and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God.” (1 Cor. 3:21)

- b) Philippians 2:1-5 teaches us the more excellent way to live: “If you have any encouragement from being united in Christ, if any comfort from His love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, have the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:”

(1) Become heavenly minded!

III. (21:8) The New Order will exclude the unrepentant who loved their sin and the world more than God.

A. John lumps the unrepentant in the following categories:

1. **The Cowardly** (fearful): These were they who loved the world. They took the mark of the beast and worshiped his name— they compromised out of fear! These fearfully denied Jesus Christ before men, out of fear (Lk. 12:8-9). Men like the Pharisees who “loved the praise of men more than the praise of God. (John 12:43)”
2. **The unbelieving**: There are NO UNBELIEVERS among the overcomers. “He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on him. (John 3:36)
3. **The Vile** (abominable): These in short, lived a lifestyle partaking in behaviors that God hates. They lived their lives in rebellion against God’s Law.
4. **Murderers**
5. **The sexually immoral**: these people fearlessly partake in every form of sexual behavior prohibited by God in His Law.
6. **Sorcerers**: “those who prepare drugs for magical purposes or ritual witchcraft.”⁴
7. **Idolaters**: Literally, idol worship. Also possessed by a controlling love of things.
8. **All liars**: Including people who suppress the truth about God, deceiving other people. This includes promoting false ideas about God (See Romans 1:18-23)

B. This chilling verse, which John was commanded to write down, is a last call to repentance. If the joys of heaven cannot win someone to Christ, a strong warning from God is required.

1. Many people may object to these words of condemnation, saying that they are not like anyone described here.
 - a) But, even if they claim not to be a coward, etc, their unbelief will condemn them (John 3:36). And if they claim not to be a liar...well, the Bible says this: “Who is the liar? It is the man who denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a man is the antichrist— he denies the Father and the Son (1 Jn 2:22).

⁴ Tony Garland provided this definition taken from *Friberg’s “Analytical Lexicon of the Greek NT*

- C. But God is merciful to the repentant! Many Christians were once what is described in verse 8. But, as Paul says to those who did come to believe: "That is what you once were. But you were washed, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. (1 Cor. 6:11). **Jesus came to save sinners! Be saved today!**
- D. Each one of us were at one time dead in our trespasses and sins and were by nature objects of God's wrath (Eph. 2:1-3). But you were saved by the washing of rebirth by the Holy Spirit (see Titus 3:3-8; and Ephesians 2:4-9). How wonderful to realize that because He saved you, you will live with Him eternally, without any hint of sin or sin's stain! We owe it to people to tell them the Good News from God, that Jesus Christ is both Savior and Lord!