

JOY

Jesus Makes All Things New

LESSON 5



JOY : Jesus Makes All Things New

Heaven Can Wait?

Whatever sin has touched and polluted, God will redeem and cleanse. If redemption does not go as far as the curse of sin, then God has failed. Whatever the extent of the consequences of sin, so must the extent of redemption be. Steven J. Lawson

Let us greet the day which assigns each of us to his own home, which snatches us from this place and sets us free from the snares of the world, and restores us to paradise and the kingdom. Anyone who has been in foreign lands longs to return to his own native land. . . . We regard paradise as our native land.
Cyprian, 3rd Century

The Glorious RETURN of Jesus

A. Christ has conquered death.

1 Thessalonians 4:14 - **For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.**

The trumpet image in 1 Thessalonians 4:16 keys us into this reality.

“Every fiftieth year in Israel was supposed to be a year of jubilee, a year of liberty and rest. In that year, debts would be canceled, slaves freed, and the people and the very land itself would be allowed to rest: no sowing or reaping would be done. It was to be a foretaste of the Bible’s cosmic hope: the time when all our debt will be canceled, when our captivity and bondage to decay and evil will be ended, when the meek will inherit the earth.

Here’s how it would be inaugurated:

Count off seven sabbath years—seven times seven years—so that the seven sabbath years amount to a period of forty-nine years. Then have the trumpet sounded everywhere on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement sound the trumpet throughout your land. Consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you. (Lev 25:8-10)

So the high priest would make atonement, and that would usher in this era of peace. He would take the sacrificial blood into the Holy of Holies and “sprinkle it on the mercy seat, and when he was done and he stepped back out to prove it, then the trumpet would sound, proclaiming rest to all the land. To anyone who has read the New Testament, it all sounds rather familiar: the sounding of the trumpet, announcing the atonement-bought goal of all things (1 Cor 15:52; 1 Thess 4:16). And it should sound familiar, for just as the high priest’s going in to the Holy of Holies was a picture of Christ’s ascension to heaven, so the high priest’s return was a picture of Christ’s. Especially in the jubilee year: atonement made, he returns, the trumpet sounds, and all is jubilee.” Michael Reeves. “Rejoicing in Christ.”

Till God in human flesh I see,
My thoughts no comfort find;
The holy, just, and sacred
Three Are terrors to my mind.
But if Immanuel’s face appear,
My hope, my joy begins;
His name forbids my slavish fear,
His grace removes my sins.
John Newton

B. Christ has promised life.

1 Thessalonians 4:15 - **For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.**

C. Christ is coming back.

1 Thessalonians 4:16 - **For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.**

D. Christ is staying here. 1 Thessalonians 4:17

1 Thessalonians 4:17 - **Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.**

FF Bruce: The truth that the redeemed will meet the Lord is expressed by another technical term (apantesis). “**When a dignitary paid an official visit (parousia) to a city in Hellenistic times, the action of the leading citizens in going out to meet him and escort him back on the final stage of his journey was called the apantesis.**”

The Glorious REIGN of Jesus over All

The Messiah/Christ was God's Anointed King over all.

What thrilled these expectant believers was not that God would rule in Heaven—he already did. Their hope was that one day he would rule on Earth, removing sin, death, suffering, poverty, and heartache. They believed the Messiah would come and bring Heaven to Earth. He would make God's will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Randy Alcorn

Ephesians 1:9-10 - **God made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, 10 to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.**

Colossians 1:19-20 - **For in Jesus all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.**

Philippians 3:20-21 - **But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.**

There is not one inch in the entire area of our human life about which Christ, who is Sovereign of all, does not cry out, "Mine!"

Abraham Kuyper

At Jesus's Return, All Will Be Made NEW

Isaiah 65:17 - **Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth.**

Isaiah 66:22 - **As the new heavens and the new earth that I make will endure before me," declares the Lord, "so will your name and descendants endure."**

2 Peter 3:13 - **In keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.**

Revelation 21:1 - **Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away.**

The new heavens and new earth images are about wholeness, and happiness, and stability, and safety, and community, and fulfillment, and awe, and the presence of God.

“The emphasis in the present heaven is on the absence of earth’s negatives, while in the future new heavens and new earth it is the presence of earth’s positives, magnified many times through the power and glory of resurrected bodies on a resurrected Earth, free at last from sin and shame and all that would hinder both joy and achievement.” - René Pache

This world is our home: we are made to live here. It has been devastated by sin, but God plans to put it right. Hence, we look forward with joy to newly restored bodies and to living in a newly restored heaven and earth. We can love this world because it is God’s, and it will be healed, becoming at last what God intended from the beginning. Paul Marshall

Resurrected bodies are not intended just to float in space, or to flit from cloud to cloud. They call for a new earth on which to live and to work, glorifying God. The doctrine of the resurrection of the body, in fact, makes no sense whatever apart from the doctrine of the new earth.

Anthony Hoekema

All that is harmful to human flourishing will be gone.

Revelation 21:1-4 - **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. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 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. 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.”**

All that is good will flourish.

Revelation 21:22-26 - **And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations.**

We will experience the Fullness of God's Presence

The images in Revelation 21 point to one beautiful reality: God will dwell with his people.

Revelation 21:3: **"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."**

Why does God remove the SEA in Revelation 21:1?

Why is the New Jerusalem a CUBE? (21:2, 16)

1 Thessalonians 4:17 - We shall always be with the Lord.

I can't wait to be clothed in righteousness, without a trace of sin. Yes, it will be wonderful to stand, stretch, and reach to the sky. But it will be more wonderful to offer praise that is pure and won't be crippled by distractions, disabled by insincerity, handicapped by a ho-hum half-heartedness. Now my joy will join with yours, and we will bubble over with effervescent adoration, finally able to worship with the Father and the Son. For me, this is the best part of heaven. Joni Erickson Tada

Better is One Day in Your Courts

What will life in the New Heavens and Earth be like?

Heaven, as the eternal home of the divine Man and of all the redeemed members of the human race, must necessarily be thoroughly human in its structure, conditions, and activities. Its joys and activities must all be rational, moral, emotional, voluntary and active. There must be the exercise of all the faculties, the gratification of all tastes, the development of all talent capacities, the realization of all ideals. The reason, the intellectual curiosity, the imagination, the aesthetic instincts, the holy affections, the social affinities, the inexhaustible resources of strength and power native to the human soul must all find in heaven exercise and satisfaction. Then there must always be a goal of endeavor before us, ever future. . . . Heaven will prove the consummate flower and fruit of the whole creation and of all the history of the universe.

A.A. Hodge

What Do We Do While We Wait Here?

Jesus's resurrection is the beginning of God's new project not to snatch people away from earth to heaven but to colonize earth with the life of heaven. That, after all, is what the Lord's Prayer is about. — N.T. Wright

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Paul Marshall

May God himself,
the God of peace, sanctify you
through and through.

May your whole spirit,
soul and body be kept
blameless at the coming of
our Lord Jesus Christ.

The one who calls you is
faithful, and he will do it.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24