

13. “I Make All Things New” (1Q 2019—Revelation)

Biblical material: Rev. 19:6–19; John 14:1–3; 2 Thess. 1:8–10; Rev. 21:1–21; Jer. 4:23–26; 1 Cor. 6:2, 3.

Quotes

- When God makes all things new, he will make us spiritually and morally as pure as flawless crystal, he will give us a body like the body of his glory, he will renovate all creation to take all futility and evil and pain out of it, and finally he himself will come to us and let us see his face. And so forever and ever we will live with pure hearts and glorious bodies on a new earth in the presence and the glory of our heavenly Father. *John Piper*
- God intends to make all things new; he does not plan to make all new things. *Nancy Sleeth*
- The fact that God will someday forge a new heaven and a new earth doesn't impugn the core value of this present heaven and earth. In fact it underscores the eternal worth and goodness of creation. In the end, God won't wipe out the universe and whisk us away to some spiritual realm. Rather, he will refashion this world so that it will finally be what God intended it to be from the first. *Mark Roberts*
- Even though we might never live in a new home here on earth, even though we might never be satisfied with the home that we have, the Lord says I am making a place that is far better for you. It's a heavenly home. *Timm Meyer*
- The saints shall bear the image of the second Adam, as now they bear that of the first, and shall live for endless ages. Sin, being thus struck out of existence, in the utter destruction of all evil-doers, shall never rise up again to mar the handiwork of God. The universe shall be as clean as it was before the rebellion of Satan, and God shall be all in all. *J.N. Andrews*

Questions

Why is it so important to make everything new? What does God include in this statement? How does God achieve his primary objective in the end? Why can't God remake a sinless Satan? In what way will we relate to our former lives when we are made new? What is the main point of the great controversy in God's eyes?

Bible summary

Rev. 19:6–19 is the universe's celebration over God's victory, which is one not by might or power, but through God's demonstration that he is not the person the Devil has portrayed but a true and loving Father that values “the other” above all. Rev. 21:1–21 describes the new heaven and the new earth, and New Jerusalem. John 14:1–3 is Jesus' promise to return. 2 Thess. 1:8–10 reminds us that this is a coming for judgment. Jer. 4:23–26 reveals the destruction that is caused as God begins the process of making everything new. God comes to judge, and we are also made judges (1 Cor. 6:2, 3.).

Comment

The end of Revelation is the ultimate end—when God lives with his people. The last two chapters of the book are truly a wonderful climax to the whole plan of salvation and the vindication of God in the great controversy. We look forward to an eternity in the presence of our loving God, for God created us to be immortal. That’s why we seem so out-of-harmony here, in this world of sin and death where nothing lasts. God planned for us to live with him forever. As C. S. Lewis writes, “If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world.”

God is both Creator and Sustainer of the universe. The ongoing involvement of God is as important to affirm as his original creative work. It reminds us that God is intimately involved in our own personal lives, and that there is progress and direction in everything despite the randomness and chaos introduced by sin. The reassurance of the Creator is that he is with us always, and that in the end he will make all things new. God comes to make all things new, to transform this sad existence into his eternity of joy. His answer to our sense of pointlessness and insignificance is the assurance of a God-filled present and an eternity in His presence.

“The trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised never to die again, and we will be changed. For this perishable body must be clothed with a body that never perishes. This mortal life must be clothed with immortality. When this perishable body has been clothed with a body that never perishes, and this mortal life has been clothed with immortality, then the Scripture will come true that says, ‘Death has been totally conquered and destroyed.’” 1 Corinthians 15:52-54 FBV.

Our hope is to be so full of hope that we overflow with hope, so that we can share this hope with others by the power of the Holy Spirit! We are not just to be hope-ful people, but people full of hope! What attracts others to the hope?—Christians who are so full of hope that they cannot keep the good news to themselves, they just have to share it.

Jesus is the excitement and fulfillment of hope in your life. In the words of John Bunyan, the author of *Pilgrim’s Progress*, “Hope is never ill when faith is well.” God wants our faith and hope to be well, to be spiritually healthy. He came at great sacrifice to himself to bring this good news to us—we who once had no hope now have hope!. With God, hope lives eternally now, and will be fulfilled soon as Jesus comes to complete his promise of hope.

Ellen White Comments

The work of redemption will be complete. In the place where sin abounded, God’s grace much more abounds. The earth itself, the very field that Satan claims as his, is to be not only ransomed but exalted. Our little world, under the curse of sin the one dark blot in His glorious creation, will be honored above all other worlds in the universe of God. Here, where the Son of God tabernacled in humanity; where the King of glory lived and suffered and died,—here, when He shall make all things new, the tabernacle of God shall be with men, “and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God.” And through endless ages as the redeemed walk in the light of the Lord, they will praise Him for His unspeakable Gift,—Immanuel, “God with us.” {DA 26.3}

Christ’s plan is the only safe one. He declares, “Behold, I make all things new.” “If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature.” {YRP 361.2}

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