

# Renewal: He Makes All Things New

*(preached 1/2/22)*

*Please turn to Revelation 21.*

LAST WEEK we spoke of the enduring power of God and His plan and went through Isaiah 49 to show how the Lord created and set all in motion before we were ever born! Both God and His plan are above and will endure through the plans of the devil and the evils of this world. Our faith must be in eternal God and His unstoppable plan vs. the temporary things and pleasures of this world.

**When our faith is in the eternal rather than the temporary, we will have stability and security in our lives.**

**When our hope is in the temporary things of this world, we get tossed around like a small ship on a stormy ocean.**

FISHED. The world likes to fish for us—it throws out bait that’s alluring to our flesh and, if we take it, we have “hooks in our jaws” as the Lord says in the Bible.

HUNTED. The world likes to hunt for us and where we’re driven is a matter of where our faith is. Bad circumstances can drive us crazy, or into depression and bitterness.

*Let it drive us toward Jesus instead.*

- Let the evil of the world drive us to our knees to cry out to God.
- Let it flush us out so that we run to the Scriptures to hear what God is saying.
- Let it cause us to run...back to church and fellowship with other Christians.

HE WILL RENEW. When a medical condition, a loss, drama, a financial setback, or anything else that opposes us is actively hunting and shooting at us and we choose to run to Christ, He will renew us.

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

START OVER. Lots of people look at the New Year as another chance to start over and perhaps find a better path than the year before. I would like to bring to our attention a word—literally—that I believe the Holy Spirit gave for us: RENEW/RENEWAL.

Let me read one of my favorite set of verses of all time, and I tend to read them at most every funeral I do:

**Revelation 21:1-5 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> 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.

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

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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.”

<sup>5</sup> 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.”

NEW 4 TIMES. The word “new” appears 4 times in these 5 verses and the Greek translation for said word is *“freshness, especially having to do with age.”*

**In other words, as of the events taking place in this phase of God’s Kingdom, God is starting over.**

ENDURE. HEAVEN NOT DEFILED. Hold on: we learned last week that God is eternal and whatever He creates will endure through the devil and evil of the world. Adam & Eve didn’t maintain their righteous status or immortality because of the Devil. In the moment of their disobedience, the curse of sin & death defiled all of creation EXCEPT the New Jerusalem and the realm of Heaven.

REMAINED PURE AND ETERNAL. WALLS. God and His heavenly creation remained pure and immortal, because God is above sin and death has no dominion over Him. If you need a visual, imagine the walls of the NJ keeping out anything that’s evil or corrupts...which is exactly what John sees when he’s given a “tour” of the Holy City in verse 27 of the same chapter we just read from.

**Revelation 21:27 (ESV)**

<sup>27</sup> But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

GRAND PLAN. Remember the Grand Plan which we just read in verses 1-5: to take what’s up there, bring it down here, and make down here just like what’s up there. Jesus will personally lead this effort and we are blessedly assured He will be 100% successful.

**The Devil can't mess it up like He did in Eden.** As of Revelation 21 the Devil & his angels are in the Lake of Fire where he'll stay forever.

**THUS WHEN GOD MAKES ALL THINGS NEW THIS TIME, IT'S FOREVER.**

BORED? Do you ever get bored? Don't the "new" things of this earth wear out and lose our interest? The first time I saw Star Wars it was great. The 2<sup>nd</sup> time, not so great. A new video game is exciting until I finish it and replaying it isn't the same...then it's time for a new one so I can have the feeling again. A new cell phone is great until its outdated and slows down, then it's time for an upgrade. The excitement over the upgrade is short lived.

HEAVEN BORING? When our thinking is on this earthly level Heaven sounds boring and here's why: because the preacher tells us that the things of Heaven will go on forever. At least here on earth, church service lasts a couple hours and then we're done. Work is around 8 hours and it's over. As we talked about last week, things both good and bad are temporary and something new comes along. ***So when the carnal mind contemplates forever it gets nervous and is afraid that, without constant renewal, it will be bored.***

IMMORTAL RENEWAL. Our minds also get renewed by the Lord, however, and once we're in our resurrected bodies everything withing and without us gets a makeover. Behold, He makes all things new. The best way I can say this is that every moment of every day will be renewal.

SMALL LEVEL NOW. We experience this on a small level even now. Are there times when you're experiencing joy and time just seems to stop? Even more accurate, it's as if you're outside of it? By the time you "come back down to earth" it's hard to believe that a whole hour, or six hours, or the day passed that quickly.

TIME DRAGS ON. Conversely, when we're miserable doesn't time drag out? For those experiencing chronic pain, for example, an hour seems like an eternity.

JOY = OUTSIDE OF TIME. In the experience of joy and celebration, all parts of us are experiencing REfreshment and REnewal constantly which is why we come outside of "time."

**God is outside of time, as is Heaven and the NJ.** The new bodies given at the Resurrection will also be. Forever, eternity are outside of time.

***This process has already started.*** On the day of our Salvation, our spirit was renewed:

**Titus 3:4-7 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared,

<sup>5</sup> he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,

<sup>6</sup> whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

<sup>7</sup> so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Paul uses two words we need to attend to: ***regeneration and renewal***.

REGENERATION means rebirth or complete renovation. When was the last time you renovated a part of your house like the kitchen or bathroom? Your spirit and mine have already received a complete do over by Christ. ***The way it is right now is exactly the way it will be forever.*** Yes, our bodies, minds, and hearts need the same upgrade but please remember this: our spirits are now remade into the perfect image of Jesus.

**OUR SPIRIT IS DONE, COMPLETE.** No more marinating or cooking required. No more changes or upgrades. The rebirth and renovation of our spirit selves shines with the glory of the Lord! We're already part way there. We've already received part of God's promise for eternal regeneration.

RENEWAL is almost the same word as regenerate and speaks to refreshing. I love **coffee** and, when I go to a restaurant, I love it when the server refreshes my cup. At that point its half gone and cooled down to lukewarm and I didn't even realize the temp drop. When she pours new hot coffee into my mug and I drink it, though, I get that instant pleasant "hit" to my pallet. Now imagine if my cup were full of fresh hot coffee all the time...sort of like "my cup runneth over."

INSIDE LIKE HEAVEN: UNDEFILED. I repeat that while we are waiting for our bodily resurrection, we've already received the first and most important part of it which is the regeneration and renewal of our spirits. God created a place INSIDE us that's just like Him and heaven: there's a righteous wall around it where it cannot be defiled by sin or the devil.

HIS WILL IN US. His will being done on earth as it is in Heaven is also our bodies—placed on earth and made from the dust of the earth. ***The Lord has secured our spirits as His and it lives in constant newness.***

#### **Psalm 51:7-12 (ESV)**

<sup>7</sup> Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

<sup>8</sup> Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.

<sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

<sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

<sup>11</sup> Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

<sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

**We already have what David only dreamed of!**

HEART, MIND, BODY? So how about our hearts, minds, and even bodies? ***Does the Lord promise a right now renewal of these?***

**Isaiah 40:28-31 (ESV)**

<sup>28</sup> Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

<sup>29</sup> He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength.

<sup>30</sup> Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted;

<sup>31</sup> but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

**Verse 28:** God is everlasting! Not temporary, not corruptible, not defiled, but immortal and forever! What He creates is immortal and forever!

**Verse 29** speaks of the mortal parts of us...which is everything apart from our spirits. He gives POWER to our hearts, minds, and bodies! The word “power” in Hebrew translates: “might, force, fruit, wealth.” Ironically, the concordance goes on to infer that this power is comparable to that given to a ***dinosaur***...no joke! We’re given T-Rex power.

**Verse 30** this is not about being young. In other words, the power God gives isn’t the natural energy a younger person has. As a matter of fact, please see that He gives the T-Rex stuff to those whose strength is failing, who have grown weak.

**Verse 31** who is this might given to? “Those who wait for the Lord.” What does “wait” mean? It doesn’t mean sitting around and waiting. ***It means to look for, or look FORWARD to.*** Remember what I said a few sermons ago? ***The saints of the past drew today strength from the future prophetic promises of God.***

CARNAL MIND DWELLS NOW. The earthly carnal mind doesn’t see what good the future does for it, and wants only to dwell in the present. The eternal regenerated spirit within us, however, is outside of time and draws from God’s promises for the future to renew us now. “Those who wait for/upon the Lord” are those who know and look forward to His Kingdom is coming, His will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.

CHRISTMAS MORNING. Like a kid on Christmas morning, they anticipate the return of Jesus as a guarantee, that their resurrection is coming, and Kingdom will touch down here and make things just like they are in Paradise.

HIS PURPOSE. Running and not getting tired doesn't speak of jogging. Walk and not running out of gas doesn't mean walking the mall for exercise. The Lord speaks of running HIS race and walking HIS walk! Of the fulfilling the plan and purpose He has for His Church! Paul said it this way "don't grow tired of doing good works" and goes on to say that, in due time, we will receive eternal recompense.

### **Isaiah 43:18-19 (ESV)**

<sup>18</sup> "Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old.

<sup>19</sup> Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

***Do you feel like you're walking through the wilderness right now?*** The Lord will make a way! He's doing a new thing!

### **Lamentations 3:22-24 (ESV)**

<sup>22</sup> The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end;

<sup>23</sup> they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

<sup>24</sup> "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."

***Everything that's eternal is new every moment*** including the love and mercy of God!

### **Isaiah 65:17-25 (ESV)**

<sup>17</sup> "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.

<sup>18</sup> But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness.

<sup>19</sup> I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people; no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress.

<sup>20</sup> No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not fill out his days, for the young man shall die a hundred years old, and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed.

<sup>21</sup> They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

<sup>22</sup> They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

<sup>23</sup> They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity, for they shall be the offspring of the blessed of the LORD, and their descendants with them.

<sup>24</sup> Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear.

<sup>25</sup> The wolf and the lamb shall graze together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain," says the LORD.

- The Kingdom of God is coming soon, coming on the heels of our King and Lord Jesus Christ.
- He is the Right Hand of Father God and will carry out His will here on this planet. There will be no more temporary.
- No more “this too shall pass.” No more come and go. No more regime changes.

**ETERNITY WILL BE OUR REALITY. TIME WILL DISAPPEAR. THERE WILL ONLY BE NEWNESS.**