

Out with the Old, In with the New

Primary Scripture: Revelation 21:1–8 (NIV)

OPENING REFLECTION

As one year ends and another begins, we naturally reflect on what has been and what lies ahead. Scripture reminds us that God is not only concerned with new calendars and fresh starts—but with **new creation**. Revelation 21 invites us to lift our eyes beyond temporary change and anchor our hope in God’s promise to make *all things new*.

Before you begin, take a moment of silence and ask God to prepare your heart to hear His truth.

READ SCRIPTURE TOGETHER

Revelation 21:1–8 (NIV)

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away... He who was seated on the throne said, ‘I am making everything new!’ ...”

BIG IDEA

God will make all things new—including me and you.

This passage reminds us that the Christian hope is not just about going to heaven someday, but about **complete renewal**—of creation, of our bodies, and of our lives through Christ.

KEY TRUTHS FROM REVELATION 21

1. God Promises a New Place

- God will create a **new heaven and a new earth**.
- There will be **no separation** between God and His people.
- God will dwell fully and forever with those who belong to Him.

Reflection Question

- How does the promise of God dwelling fully with His people reshape how you think about heaven?

2. God Promises a New Way of Living

Revelation 21 describes a future marked by the **absence of suffering**:

- No more death
- No more mourning
- No more crying
- No more pain

The broken realities of this world will pass away because God Himself makes everything new.

Reflection Question

- Which of these promises speaks most deeply to your current season of life—and why?

HOPE FOR THE PRESENT, NOT JUST THE FUTURE

While this renewal will be completed in eternity, Scripture reminds us that believers already experience **new life** now through Christ.

“If Christ is in you... the Spirit gives life because of righteousness.” (Romans 8:10, NIV)

As followers of Jesus, we live **between what is already true spiritually and what will one day be fully realized**.

Discussion Question

- In what ways do you feel the tension between the brokenness of this world and the hope God has promised?

A SOBERING REALITY: JUDGMENT AND CHOICE

Revelation also makes clear that **everyone will stand before God**.

- All will be judged
- Eternal life is found only in Christ
- Salvation is not earned—it is received by faith

“Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.” (1 John 5:12, NIV)

Personal Reflection

- Are you confident about where you will spend eternity? Why or why not?

LIVING THE NEW LIFE NOW

For those who follow Christ, Scripture calls us to live differently **now**, not just wait for what’s to come.

ABC for Believers

Always Be Christlike

“Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children...” (Ephesians 5:1–2, NIV)

Discussion Question

- What does “living new” look like practically in your daily life as you move into a new year?

ABC for New Faith

If you are exploring faith or ready to take a step toward Jesus:

- **A – Admit** you are a sinner in need of grace
- **B – Believe** Jesus is Lord and Savior
- **C – Confess** Him as Lord and commit to follow Him

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son...” (John 3:16, NIV)

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you most from Revelation 21?
2. What “old things” might God be inviting you to release as you move forward?
3. How does the promise of God making all things new give you hope today—not just for eternity?

4. What is one way you can live more intentionally for Christ in the coming year?

PRAYER RESPONSE

Take time to pray silently or aloud.

- Thank God for the hope of new creation
- Ask Him to reveal areas where renewal is needed
- Invite Him to lead you into new life through Christ

CLOSING ENCOURAGEMENT

You do not have to carry the old into the new.

Because of Jesus, **renewal is possible**, assurance is available, and hope is secure.

"I am making everything new." — Revelation 21:5 (NIV)