

The Voice of Truth # 540

Behold I make All Things New

Open your Bible at Revelation 21 and the first verse. It is done. We have now reached the end of time, or the limited space in which God specified that his eternal purpose and decree should be accomplished, and we come to the new order of things. He that sat upon the Great White Throne now turned from the judgment of the prisoners and captives of Satan to utter a great heavenly proclamation. Listen - in that fifth verse, **Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha, and Omega, the beginning and the end.**

Slowly we have brought you through the book of Revelation, giving you the history of the church in the first three chapters, and studying the tribulation period from the fourth chapter through the 20th chapter, which closed with the reign of Christ upon earth for 1,000 years. We saw Satan's last attempt to dethrone Christ and his final defeat when he was cast in the lake of fire and all of his followers brought to judgment, which is God's final move to establish his sovereignty, vindicate his character, and assume his eternal government by his omnipotent display of power over Satan and his reign of death.

Now let's notice God's complete fulfillment of his great purpose and plan to rid this earth completely of every stain of sin, of every trace of sin. Now turn to Revelation 21:1.

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* 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 God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more

death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

When the Lord Jesus Christ cried out on the cross, "it is finished", He meant that the ransom price was paid for the release of Satan's captives; justice was fully satisfied, and now the prisoners can be delivered. When he cried, "it is done" in Revelation 16:17, immediately after the seventh bowl of judgment had been poured out, he meant that he had overthrown Satan's kingdom by power and was taking possession of his purchased property. Now after 1,000 years of righteous reign, once again he cries out, "It is done," and this means he's realizing his redemption from the presence of sin, in the complete final destruction of Satan's kingdom of death and the creation of everything new. God has redeemed, by the blood of Christ, all his children and has put away sin forever and eternally, and he has created a new heaven and a new earth and he's crying from the throne, "It is Done." He is saying, I have accomplished it. I have finished what I purposed and planned and ordained from the beginning. Following these words "it is done", He says, I'm Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. He is saying, back in the councils of eternity, I planned, I purposed, I promised, I ordained. I was the beginning and here we have come to the end of what I planned and purposed and it has come to pass, has been brought into existence. Yes, "it is done." I am the end. The battle is over. The victory's won. Isn't that gracious? Now brothers, that's coming one day.

Let's go back to the first verse and see how he brings everything to its final completion and delivers the creation from the presence of sin. John said, **I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away, and there was no more sea.** Immediately following the judgment of

the wicked dead when they are cast into the lake of fire, a new heaven and a new earth came into view. This reveals the fact that we are now dealing with a new creation. Before God brings into being a new heaven and a new earth, the first heaven and the first earth must pass away and it does. John said the first heaven and the first earth were passed away. In Revelation 20:11, he said **the earth and the heaven fled away**. In Matthew 24:35 the Lord Jesus said **heaven and earth shall pass away**. And the prophet Isaiah said, **the heavens shall vanish away like smoke, and the earth shall wax old like a garment. For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth and the former shall not be remembered nor come into mind**. This means that they pass away just as God puts away the sins of the believer and remembers them no more. One day the atmospheric heavens and this earth, which God has chosen to manifest the riches of his grace, will pass away. And as the prophet Isaiah said again, **as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make shall remain before me, saith the Lord, so shall your seed and your name remain**. If we will just let ourselves think a little about our own redemption in Christ, we will understand something of the creation of the new heaven and the new earth. When God saves a sinner, he makes a new creation. He does. The new birth is a new creation. It is God speaking into existence a new being. God does not take a sinner and renovate him, but God gives the sinner a new heart. And when God raises the believer from the dead, he gives him a new body entirely. Of course, we will carry our identity, but it will be a new body. Therefore, when God completes the believer's salvation, he will be completely a new creation, according to 2 Corinthians 5:17, Listen, **therefore, if any man be in Christ, he's a new creation: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new**. That is exactly what is going to happen in the creation of the new heaven and the new earth. The former things will pass away and he says, **behold I make all things new**. If you patch up an old garment it isn't new, but if you throw away the old garment and make a new garment from new cloth it's a new garment. God's going to throw away this old earth and make a new earth, that is, speak into existence a new heaven and a new earth. I know men scoff at and ridicule such ideas, but listen what the apostle Peter said, **knowing this first that there shall come in the last day's scoffers, walking after their own lust and saying where is the promise of his coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation**. Men may scoff at this truth, that the world will be destroyed, but God says it will, that

settles it. He also says we'll have a new heaven and a new earth and that settles that. In our last study we saw how this earth passes away in 2 Peter 3:7 **But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved under fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.** Let me give you a literal reading of it. But the heavens and the earth are held in check, stored with fire, and reserved unto the day of judgment and perdition of the ungodly. But the apostle Peter also tells us in 2 Peter 3:13, **Nevertheless we, according to promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.** So, all through the word of God we find the promise of the new earth and the new heaven, but we also see that God has to clear the slate of all the old creation before he can bring into display the new creation. That is why we are told in the first verse of our study today; **the first heaven and the first earth were passed away.** This dissolution of heaven and earth takes place simultaneously with the final judgment of the Great White Throne. Then when the heaven and the earth are totally annihilated, and it will be; because the God who created matter can destroy matter. God will bring into display the new heaven and the new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness. It'll be a place for his people to dwell in, where there'll be no sin to grieve them, and mar their happiness, because no sin will ever enter there. And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie, but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life. Chapters 20 and 21 set forth the eternal state. The thousand-year reign of Christ on earth was a time of renewal, lifting the curse from the ground, freedom from Satan and the dominion of sin, but not a deliverance from the presence of sin in the flesh. It is still the old creation held in check under the rule of the rod of iron, but after the last enemy is put under foot, which is death, then we behold the new heaven and the new earth; for the former things are passed away. Then we could cry hallelujah, hallelujah, the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

As we look at this new heaven and new earth, it is interesting to notice the contrast between the old earth and the new earth and the new order of things. And the first thing I call your attention to is in verse 1, there is no more sea. In the Greek, the verb is present tense, is. The first earth was destroyed by water and

the sea became the prison house of the bodies of the demon spirits. The second judgment will be by fire in which this planet will be burned up and pass away and cease to exist. On the new earth there will be no need of seas because the new earth will be populated only with those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life, that is God's elect. I want you to get this truth, you listen. God's elect cannot sin. God's elect cannot fall. Because Christ the elect one, I'm talking about the eternal state of now, is the head of the new creation. And all of God's elect are held in him and by him. Therefore, in the new earth and the new heaven there will never be any more rebellion on the part of any individual, whether it be angels or the redeemed. All rebellion will be over forever and ever, praise the Lord. Every individual or every inhabitant of heaven, every one of the redeemed, will be made in the likeness of the Son of God and they will hate sin, decide against sin, just as the Lord Jesus Christ does. In passing I'll give you another thought. On the new earth, space will mean nothing to the redeemed. We'll talk about that later on.

In verse 4 he says, there'll be no more tears, **for God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.** There'll be no more wounded hearts. One of the hardest battles that the believer has to go through is ridicule, fun making, and meeting the contemptuous spirit on every hand. If you can think of the new society in which we will live, that every individual will be a new creation with new bodies in which there's no sin, no jealousy, no hatred, no rebellion. You can understand that there will be no tears. Then on the other hand, there'll be no tears when we behold the reward of the wicked because our sympathy and judgment will always be on the side of Christ, **and God shall wipe away all tears.**

Again, he says, **there shall be no more death.** In the new earth there will be no more graveyards, no more funeral processions, no need of funeral homes, no one will ever die. Death, the last enemy, has been put under the feet of Christ and banished forever. That's shouting grounds, isn't it? Then he says, there will be no more sickness, also there'll be no more sorrow. Can you conceive of a land in which there's no sickness and sorrow? There'll be no more crying, neither shall there be any more pain. In our new bodies, there'll be no disease, no sin to cause sorrow. There'll be no disappointments to cause crying. There'll be no time of depression. There'll be no misunderstandings, because he said the former things

are passed away, the old life is gone forever. I sit here before this microphone talking to you people all over the nation and I'll be frank with you, I can't conceive of the fullness of such a society, such a life. Won't that be summer? Won't that be some home to live in? I stand amazed in his presence, I mean literally amazed, to think that all of that is for me. It may be for you, but it's for me. All of that is provided for me in Christ. I'm looking forward to that day because all things will be made new. I can suffer here. I can wait in patience. I can obey him in love and in suffering, because one day I will have my new body and I'll live in my new home on the new earth, because the Bible says, **for the Lord God himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, with the trump of God, and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefor comfort one another with these words.** The fact that one day I'll be with the Lord forever, is a comfort to my aching heart. Someone might say, well, are you sure? Yes, I'm sure. Because God's word cannot be broken. Get it now, hold it. His word is backed by the God of resurrection. And what he has promised, he shall bring to pass. So we'll have a new world, a new area, a new city, and a new society, and a new home. Someone has said that the Book of Romans is the courtroom of the Bible, and is the "Book of Much Mores", according to Romans 5:9, 10, Romans 9:22, and Romans 11:12, And they say that the Book of Revelation is the throne room of the Bible, and is no longer "Much More", but thank God, it is no more. For we have reached the spiritual perfection in Christ Jesus our Lord. There'll be no more striving, no more longing to be more like Christ, because we'll be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Won't that be wonderful, believers?

In Revelation 21:2, **I saw the Holy City, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride, adorned for her husband.** Yes, there'll be a new city, the new Jerusalem. The only way the apostle could describe the beauty and the glory of that city was by saying, it was as a bride adorned for her husband. Let's not forget that God said, behold, I make all things new. The old capital city of the earth during the kingdom age, and the millennial temple, will pass away in the passing of the old earth. But the new earth will have a new Jerusalem prepared with such beauty and glory that no language can describe it. Who can describe the beauty of a bride as she steps forth from her chamber prepared to meet the

bridegroom? This is the city which Christ told his disciples about, **I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you (take you by force) unto myself. That where I am, there ye may be also.**

This is the city which Abraham looked for, which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. This is the city that the saints of all ages have sung about, waited for, longed for, prayed for, looked forward to seeing. Won't that be a gracious day, when we move into our new home, our eternal home, where there'll be no sin, where there'll be no terrible night, no pestilence that wasteth at noonday. There'll be no tempest roaring forth from the chambers of the earth to kill and destroy. There'll be one eternal day to forever and ever adore and worship and look upon our blessed Lord. In our next study, we'll take you for a visit through that city. In connection with this city, let me call your attention to a statement in verse 3. **And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is 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 let's read that next verse, **And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him.** In our eternal home, the Lord Jesus Christ will have surrendered everything back to the Father, and we'll behold the eternal Godhead, God himself, who shall dwell in the midst of his people, and we shall see him face to face. This is that dispensation of the fullness of times, in Ephesians 1:10, of which the Apostle Paul said that God will gather together in one, all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth, even in him.

The new earth will be the place where God sets his throne in the new Jerusalem as his tabernacle, and his people shall dwell with him, and his servants shall serve him. No doubt John just stared in amazement. He was seeing things that must have shaken his faith. For he that sat upon the throne said, John, wait a minute, wait a minute, John. Write, John, for these words are true and faithful. I'm telling you what is going to come to pass. I'm showing you the eternal state in which you will live one day with all the believers. Tell them to believe me. Tell them that these words are true and faithful. My friend, I want to tell you, I stand literally amazed at God's eternal words and see what is coming to pass, what God is

providing for his children, how you believers are longing to be with Christ. You're waiting for that home on the other side. There is that deep cry in your hearts, oh, that I could behold him face to face, if I could just see him. If I could be with him, the God that loved me and gave himself for me, poured out his grace upon me and sent his Holy Spirit to draw me, to love me and to be so patient, to teach me and bring me day by day nearer that home, where I shall see him. To think that one day we shall behold him face to face in our perfection.

We have one more contrast that sets forth, here in closing, in the 7th and 8th verse. The two eternal states, and the two classes of people who will inhabit the eternal world. In verse 7 we see **the overcomers** who occupy the new city on the new earth. They are the sons of God. Listen to verse 7. **He that overcometh shall inherit all things, and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.** He shall inherit all things; I will be his God, and he shall be my son. My son! We are told in Romans 8 that we are heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ. Therefore, with Christ we inherit all things because we've overcome in him. What does it mean to overcome? Listen to 1 John 5:4. **Whosoever is begotten of God overcometh the world, and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.** Overcomers are begotten of God. They're sons of God. **As many as receive him, to them gave he authority to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.** Just to think, that back in time, that individual heard the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Let's think back in time. Let's make it personal. I heard the gospel of blood redemption in Christ. The Holy Spirit opened my heart and showed me what I was by nature, who I was by nature, and the judgment I was under, and showed me I was condemned to die, I deserved to die, and to be cast in the lake of fire. I did not turn down the offered redemption. I turned to Christ and began crying after Christ as my Lord, Savior, Redeemer, and Substitute, and God saved me for Jesus' sake. I thought it gracious to be counted among, and I do think it gracious to be counted among God's despised few. I walked through this wilderness below, looking for a city which hath foundations whose builder and maker is God. I esteem the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of the world. I confess that I'm a stranger and a pilgrim on earth. I choose to suffer with the children of God rather than accept the deliverance because I look forward to a better resurrection. The world does not understand me. The world turns its back on me, but I cannot be disobedient to the heavenly

vision. I have no certain dwelling place here, but I look for one to come. My friend, are you in that number? Are you looking for one to come? The day of grace is almost over, and the pearly gates will soon be closed. Sweet deliverance will soon be past forever. The sun will soon set. The eternal night will begin. Your eternal state will then be fixed.

Let me read that eighth verse. We'll have time for it. **But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.** Now, here we have the "Sons of Satan." Their eternal abode is their own choice.

The wicked are divided into eight classes, only eight. And you who reject Christ fall in one of them. Let's name them, and ask yourself the question, "Is it I?"

The **Fearful** – those who are afraid they won't hold out, afraid of death, afraid of coming judgment, afraid to flee to Christ – just afraid. They live their lives in fear.

Unbelieving – These realize they are lost, but they will not take God at his word, will not cry out against unbelief. They know nothing of the fountain of cleansing for sin.

Abominable – the hateful, who are always hating, revolting against God, living in a state of rebellion. In the end, God will cast them out as unclean, as a vile person.

Murderers – The bible says Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer. When you see hatred in the heart of an individual, it signifies that he has missed Christ. Hatred expresses itself in criticism. They do not have eternal life abiding in them.

Whoremongers – This is the man that practices fornication, who is filled with lust, who goes whoring after the world with all its lust. His one aim is to satisfy the lust of his body. He takes pleasure in it; it is his god. It consumes his life, destroys his soul, and brings him down to the pit.

Sorcerers – This is all magicians, slight of hand performers, ventriloquists, witches, wizards, fortune tellers, etc. Under this head comes all magic enchantments, drug

addicts, spiritism, so-called faith healers. They are all sons of Satan, children of hell, and know nothing about blood redemption in Christ.

Idolaters – These are idol worshippers, whether the idols are images of stone, iron, silver, gold, a mental image, a religious experience, or anything the individual puts in the place of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Scripture says, **Thou shalt have no other gods before me.** When you do, it shows that you have missed Christ, because the sinner coming to Christ must accept him as Lord of all, or He cannot be Savior at all.

And last, **Liars.** This takes in all hypocrites, deceivers, and those who misrepresent the truth. This covers the larger part of the religious world. They pretend to be blood-bought, but know nothing about Christ.

My friend, what class are you in? Where will you spend eternity? Why do you reject the Lord Jesus Christ, and choose to believe the lie, Satan? You can't win against God Almighty.