

THE GOD OF EVERYTHING NEW

TEXT: (Revelation 21:1-8, GWT)

¹ I saw a new heaven and a new earth, because the first heaven and earth had disappeared, and the sea was gone. ² Then I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, dressed like a bride ready for her husband. ³ I heard a loud voice from the throne say, "God lives with humans! God will make his home with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There won't be any more death. There won't be any grief, crying, or pain, because the first things have disappeared."

⁵ The one sitting on the throne said, "I am making everything new." He said, "Write this: 'These words are faithful and true.'" ⁶ He said to me, "It has happened! I am the A and the Z, the beginning and the end. I will give a drink from the fountain filled with the water of life to anyone who is thirsty. It won't cost anything. ⁷ Everyone who wins the victory will inherit these things. I will be their God, and they will be my children. ⁸ But cowardly, unfaithful, and detestable people, murderers, sexual sinners, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars will find themselves in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."

INTRODUCTION

1. "Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short" (Revelation 12:12, NIV)

I. THE GOD WHO DWELLS WITH HUMANS

A. God Will Make His Home with Them

1. "For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known" (I Corinthians 13:12, KJV).
2. "We don't yet see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us" (I Corinthians 13:12, MSG)!
3. "I heard a loud voice from the throne say, 'God lives with humans'" (Revelation 20:3, GWT)!
4. "'Woe to me!' I cried. 'I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty'" (Isaiah 6:5, NIV).

B. They Will Be His People

1. "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light" (I Peter 2:9, NIV).
2. "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand" (John 10:28, NIV).
3. "'And you are clean, though not every one of you.' For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean" (John 13:10-11, NIV).
4. "And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever" (Revelation 20:10, NIV).

C. God Will Wipe Away Their Tears

1. "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There won't be any more death. There won't be any grief, crying, or pain, because the first things have disappeared" (Revelation 21:4, GWT).
2. "For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes" (Revelation 7:17, NIV).
3. "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes" (Revelation 7:17, NIV).
4. "My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God" (Psalm 42:2, NIV)?

II. THE GOD WHO MAKES All Things New

1. "I saw a new heaven and a new earth, because the first heaven and earth had disappeared, and the sea was gone" (Revelation 20:1, GWT).

A. The God Who Creates

1. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1, NIV).
2. "He (Jesus) is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together" (Colossians 1:15-17, NIV).
3. "The one sitting on the throne said, 'I am making everything new'" (Revelation 21:5, GWT).
4. "And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit" (II Corinthians 3:18, NIV).

B. The God Who Confirms

1. "Then he said, 'Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true'" (Revelation 21:5, GWT).
2. "Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you" (James 4:8, ESV).
3. "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me" (Revelation 3:20, NIV).

C. The God Who Completes

1. "He said to me, 'It has happened! I am the A and the Z, the beginning and the end. I will give a drink from the fountain filled with the water of life to anyone who is thirsty. It won't cost anything. Everyone who wins the victory will inherit these things. I will be their God, and they will be my children'" (Revelation 21:6-7, GWT).
2. "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart" (Hebrews 12:2-3, NIV).

III. THE FUTURE IS NOW

A. Fight the Good Fight of Faith

1. "Fight the good fight of the faith" (I Timothy 6:12, NIV).

2. "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith" (II Timothy 4:7, NIV).
3. "When our enemies heard that we were aware of their plot and that God had frustrated it, we all returned to the wall, each to his own work.
From that day on, half of my men did the work, while the other half were equipped with spears, shields, bows and armor. The officers posted themselves behind all the people of Judah who were building the wall. Those who carried materials did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other, and each of the builders wore his sword at his side as he worked" (Nehemiah 4:15-18, NIV).

B. Take Hold of Eternal Life

1. "Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses" (I Timothy 6:12, NIV).
2. "Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure" (I John 3:2-3, NIV).
3. "Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did" (I John 2:6, NIV).

C. Hope for Tomorrow

1. "If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men" (I Corinthians 15:19, NIV).
2. "But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure" (I John 3:3, NIV).

CONCLUSION

1. "Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (II Corinthians 5:17, KJV).