

4-28-2024 Sunday Sermon Message
Devotional of the Week: Psalm 91:1-16
The Text: Revelation 21:1-7

Title: **What God Is Doing to Renew Heaven and Earth**

God planned to create a new heaven and a new earth by removing the devil who sinned in heaven and polluted the heavens and earth that God had created with sin, death, and curses.

The Apostle John, who foresaw this scene in the Holy Spirit, testified:

"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.⁴ 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."(Revelation 21:3-4)

God first decided to remove the sins that the devil had brought and defiled the whole world. God gave His chosen people, Israel, the Law to cleanse them of their sins by sacrificing animals to shed their blood for their sins. But the blood of the beast could only forgive the sins of their flesh and but not able to remove the sins of their consciences (Hebrews 9:13).

Because of this, God became flesh because only the blood of Jesus, His only begotten Son, God the Word, could remove the sins that were rooted in their consciences. The Apostle Paul testified to the Hebrews about this:

"How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"(Hebrews 9:14)

For the past two thousand years, God has brought Christians who have believed in the gospel of Christ, who have been redeemed by the blood of Christ, who have died in Christ, and who are alive in Christ, first from the sinful world to heaven, to take

up residence in the New Jerusalem, the dwelling place that God has prepared for them:

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:¹⁷ 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.¹⁸ Wherefore comfort one another with these words."(1 Thessalonians 4:16-18)

After the rapture, God will put the world into the great tribulation ruled by the antichrist, the man of sin and the son of perdition. First, the Jews and all Gentiles who do not believe in Jesus Christ are to be judged by God because of their sin of not believing in Jesus Christ. The prophet Jeremiah prophesied of these days as the time of Jacob's trouble:

"Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it. "{Jeremiah 30:7)

Even in the times of great tribulation, they can repent and believe in Jesus Christ, but they cannot be born again by the Holy Spirit because the Holy Spirit has left the earth with Christians. Concerning the blessing of those who do not accept the mark of the beast and worship the image to the end:

"And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years."Revelation 20:4)

The Lord Jesus Christ, who returns to the earth at the end of the Great Tribulation, will judge the Antichrist and the False Prophet and cast them into the lake of fire:

"And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with

which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.”(Revelation 19:20)

Finally, before the Lord Jesus Christ establishes the Millennium, He will seize the Devil and throw him into the endless pit for a thousand years, shutting him up:

“And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.² And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,³ And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.”(Revelation 20:1-3)

The Bible says that in Christ's millennial kingdom, the number of Jews and Gentile nations will be as numerous as the sand of the sea. God will release Satan after a thousand years. God allowed Satan to deceive them in order to determine who would enter the new heavens and the new earth. However, the nations on the four sides of the earth, Gog and Magog, will not be able to overcome Satan's deception and will follow Satan to war. The apostle John testifies about what they will do at this time:

“ And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.”(Revelation 20:9)

Finally, God will carry out His final judgment, which is to bruise Satan's head, just as He said to the serpent in the Garden of Eden. He finally removes the devil who has polluted heaven and earth with sin:

“And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.”(Revelation 20:10)

God will raise up the souls of all those who have lived according to their consciences without knowing the law or the gospel, and He will judge them according to their deeds, and He will cast those who are not written in the Book of life into the lake of fire for the final judgment. At this time, God will destroy death forever by casting our last enemies, death and hell, into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:11-14)

Finally, after creating the new heavens, the new earth, and the New Jerusalem forever, He sits on His throne and says:

“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.⁶ 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.⁷ He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.”(Revelation 21:5-7)

Why, the Lord said, **“Behold, I make all things new.”** We have to know what he said. We must not forget that all things are still enslaved to corruption and death because of the sins of Satan and man. We should see from the testimony of the Apostle Paul why they want to share in the glory of God's children:

“For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.²⁰ For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,²¹ Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.”(Romans 8:19-21)

Amen! Hallelujah!