DON'T BE AFRAID – WEEK 7

The Last Time You'll Ever Cry: Revelation 21–22

BIG IDEA

The end is a new beginning.

Revelation does not end with God abandoning creation. It ends with God renewing it.

"I am making everything new!"
—Revelation 21:5

The Christian hope is not simply that we go to heaven, but that God restores creation, removes the curse, and dwells fully with his people.

COME AND SEE

See the World God Is Making

Read **Revelation 21:1–7; 22:1–5.**

John's vision is surprisingly physical: a city, river, trees, fruit, nations, streets, and people. God is not throwing creation away. He is restoring it.

What will NOT be there?

- **Chaos and fear** — "there was no longer any sea" (21:1)
- **The curse of sin** — "No longer will there be any curse" (22:3)
- **Death, mourning, crying, or pain** (21:4)
- **Evil and impurity** (21:27)
- **A temple** — because God and the Lamb are fully present everywhere (21:22)
- **Darkness and threat** — no night, no closed gates (21:23–25)

Discuss

1. What surprises you most about John's picture of the new creation?
2. Which promise in Revelation 21–22 speaks most deeply to you right now?
3. What would relationships, work, worship, and creation be like completely free from the effects of sin?
4. How does this picture differ from the common idea of "going to heaven"?

FOLLOW ME

Let the Future Reshape the Present

What **will** be there?

God

The greatest promise is not streets, beauty, or even reunion with people we love.

“They will see his face.”
—Revelation 22:4

God himself is the center of the new creation.

Renewed Creation

There are rivers, trees, fruit, beauty, culture, nations, and human activity.

We were made for creation, and creation was made to flourish under God.

People

The nations remain present in God’s renewed world. Our humanity and cultural distinctiveness are not erased but redeemed.

Creativity and Purpose

The new creation suggests meaningful work, responsibility, creativity, service, and continued discovery.

Our lives now are part of God’s preparation of us for his kingdom.

The Life of God

The river of the water of life flows from God’s throne.

Biblical eternal life is not merely endless existence. It is life filled with the goodness, power, love, and presence of God. And through Christ, that life begins now.

Discuss

1. What part of the new creation are you most eager to experience?
2. How does the promise of meaningful life and purpose in God's future change the way you view your work now?
3. Where is God currently forming your character?
4. Where are you merely surviving instead of living from the life Christ gives?

GO AND BE

Live the Future Now

Revelation is not meant only to satisfy our curiosity about the future, but to shape our life now.

If God is making everything new, Christians should begin living like people of the new creation.

Ask:

- Where can I bring **healing instead of hurt**?
- Where can I bring **truth instead of deception**?
- Where can I bring **reconciliation instead of division**?
- Where can I bring **beauty instead of ugliness**?
- Where can I bring **hope instead of despair**?
- Where can I bring **life instead of decay**?

Reflect

What part of your life currently feels most affected by the curse?

A relationship?
Your body?
Your work?
Grief?
Fear?
Disappointment?

Hear God's promise over that place: **"I am making everything new."**

How could that change the way you carry it?

THIS WEEK

Choose one place where you see the effects of the old creation.

Then deliberately do something that reflects the new creation.

Bring healing.
Bring truth.
Bring generosity.
Bring reconciliation.
Bring beauty.
Bring hope.

Become a small preview of the world God is making.

PRAY

Lord Jesus, thank you that sin, suffering, death, and decay do not get the final word.

Teach us to live today as citizens of the world that is coming. Make us people who bring healing, light, truth, beauty, reconciliation, and life.

When we are discouraged by what is broken, remind us how the story ends.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.