

GOD IS MAKING REDEEMED IMAGE BEARERS NEW

YEAR: KNEEL / FOCUS: I AM AN IMAGE BEARER
SERIES: GOD IS THE IMAGE — I AM THE IMAGE BEARER

BIG TRUTH: GOD IS MAKING REDEEMED IMAGE BEARERS NEW

2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 5:16; Romans 8:29

BIBLE VERSE: REVELATION 21:3-5

“And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.’ And He who was seated on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things new.’ Also He said, ‘Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.’”

BIG IDEAS

- Redeemed image bearers live with purpose today because Jesus is coming soon.
- Redeemed image bearers look forward to the day when God will remove all sin, death, and sorrow.
- Redeemed image bearers can have peace and hope today because God’s promises are trustworthy and true.

BIBLE PASSAGE: REVELATION 21:1-27

KNEEL - I AM AN IMAGE BEARER

The Kneel Year is an exploration of what it means to worship God with our all (Luke 10:26-28). Worship is not something that is limited to a service once a week, but instead occurs every day, in all of life. We are unceasing worshippers. Worship never stops, it only changes directions. In order to worship God with all of our heart, soul, strength, and mind, we must embrace our identity as image bearers. It is out of that identity that we can begin to live for God’s glory in all of life (Colossians 3:17).

SERIES AIMS



Every student should know that...

- They were created in God’s image and likeness for the purpose of worship.
- Value, purpose, significance, and worth are found in and flow from God alone.



Every student should feel...

- Awe that God created them in His own image.
- Loved by their heavenly Father who knows them better than they know themselves and still pursues them.



Every student should strive to...

- Understand and embrace who God created them to be.
- Talk about gender and identity as a gift from the Lord for His purposes and His glory.
- Memorize the Bible verse each week.



Every student should want...

- To have a deeper relationship with the God who made them in His image.
- To pursue a lifestyle of worship that centers on the true Savior and rejects false saviors.

GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week’s Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



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“And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.’ And He who was seated on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things new.’ Also He said, ‘Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.’”

God is making all things new and when Jesus returns, He will usher in the new heaven and earth.

“And He who was seated on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things new.’”

- Before Jesus ascended into heaven, He promised to return one day. When He returns, He promises to bring with Him a new heaven and earth. This will be the dwelling place of God and His redeemed people. God promises in His Word that He is making all things new.
- Because the world and mankind are broken by sin, God will not leave them as they are. God is going to right all the wrongs in the world. He is going to make things new and perfect again and this will be the eternal home of all redeemed people.

God will dwell with His redeemed image bearers on the new earth.

“...Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God.”

- One of the promises that God’s people have to look forward to is dwelling with God Himself on the new earth. When God makes all things new, He will make the new earth perfect. It will have no sin to cause a barrier between God and man.
- God will live on the earth with His redeemed people. There will be no corruption or sin on the new earth. There will be nothing to hinder man’s relationship with God.

God will remove all sorrow and His people will be made new in glorified bodies.

“He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

- In Revelation 21, John’s vision of Christ’s return and the new earth reveals that God will remove all sin and sorrow from the world. Once Jesus returns, there will be no more sin, death, sorrow, or pain on the earth. People will no longer feel sorrow and hurt.
- God will wipe away every tear and there will only be joy and happiness. No longer will sin cause sorrow and tragedy. Instead, there will be eternal rejoicing and praising of Jesus as Lord.

GOD IS MAKING REDEEMED IMAGE BEARERS NEW

BIG IDEA #1: REDEEMED IMAGE BEARERS LIVE WITH PURPOSE TODAY BECAUSE JESUS IS COMING SOON.¹**[THIS]**

When Jesus ascended into heaven after His resurrection from the dead, He promised to return again one day. He also promised that He was preparing a place for His people. In Revelation 21:1-27, we see a picture of Christ's return. What this vision tells us is that God's people live today looking forward to that day when Christ returns. Now, in this present life, God's image bearers live for the return of Jesus. This is what His people look forward to. Because this life is not all that there is, the hope of every believer is the life to come. God's promises are true and we can look forward to the day when all things are made new forever.

[THEREFORE]**What distracts you from living for Christ's return?**

Matthew 24:44 tells us that no one knows when Christ will return. What we do know is that He will come again and it will surprise many people. When we become distracted with this present life, we stop looking forward to His return. When we become content and satisfied with the things of this world, we stop hoping in His return. Hebrews 9:28 says that Christ will return looking for those who are waiting eagerly for His return.

[THIS]

As God's redeemed people, we should live each day expecting His return. We do this by intentionally planning our day to fulfill God's purposes. Every believer has a purpose to fulfill. When we live expecting Christ's return, we will seek to live out that purpose because we know that His return could be any moment. We must live our lives in such a way that we are able to share the gospel with those in our circle of influence who do not yet believe. We must live serving others because we know that Christ's return is close.

[THEREFORE]**In what ways can you live out your purpose as God's image bearer in a way that others will know that Jesus is your treasure?**

Romans 12:10 tells us to outdo one another in showing brotherly affection. As we live looking forward to Christ's return, we will live out His commands to love one another. We will also be prepared and ready for His return because we do not know when it will be as Matthew 24:36 tells us.

How does the knowledge that God is making all things new help you live more intentionally this week?

2 Corinthians 5:17 and Isaiah 43:18-19 teach us that God is making things new and He makes people new when He redeems them. We are transformed into new beings when we repent and believe in Jesus. This sets us free to serve God. When we live remembering that this life is not forever and one day we will live in the new earth, we can live intentionally for God knowing that He will reward those who serve Him faithfully.

1. Revelation 21:1-27: God's people can live with purpose today because Jesus is returning one day and all things are being made new.

GOD IS MAKING REDEEMED IMAGE BEARERS NEW

BIG IDEA #2: REDEEMED IMAGE BEARERS LOOK FORWARD TO THE DAY WHEN GOD WILL REMOVE ALL SIN, DEATH, AND SORROW.²

[THIS]

One day Christ will return and right the wrongs committed by mankind on this earth. Now, because of sin, the image of God is distorted in man. Sin mars God's image placed on every person at their creation, but one day God will redeem that image. God's people can look forward to the day when God makes all things new. Revelation 21:4-5 reveals that there is coming a day when all things will be new again. There will be no more sorrow, death, or pain in the world. Revelation 21:4 tells us that God will remove sin and sorrow. Man will no longer feel the pain of death. Sickness and tragedy will no longer plague mankind and the world. Life as it was supposed to be will be restored.

[THEREFORE]

Read Revelation 21:4-5. How does the knowledge that sorrow and death will be no more bring you hope?

This world is full of sorrow and death. Both are consequences of sin and reveal the brokenness of this present world. Romans 8:18 reminds us of our future when the present sufferings will seem like nothing compared to the glory of God. 2 Timothy 1:10 also reminds us that Christ defeated death when He rose from the dead on the third day. We can live with hope because we know that death and sorrow will be no more one day. This life will end and with it all pain.

What does it look like for believers to walk through pain and suffering well?

James 1:2-4 tells us as believers to count it joy when we face trials and suffering. This may seem like an impossibility, to find joy in our pain, but James is teaching that there is a joy that comes from our hope in Christ that doesn't depend upon our circumstances. John 16:33 reminds us that though we face difficulties in this world, we can do it well because we know that Jesus has overcome everything in the world. This means that we live in the truth that the hardships we suffer in this life are not our eternity and will only last for the span of this world.

[THIS]

When God makes all things new, there will be no more sin. Revelation 21:27 tells us that there will be nothing unclean on the new earth. This means the image of God that mankind bears will no longer be distorted. We will live in our glorified bodies, fully sanctified, or like Christ on the new earth. The removal of sin is how God will make His redeemed image bearers new. God's people look forward to this day when they no longer battle their sin nature. All things will be new and we will be free from sin and its painful consequences. Nothing will hinder our relationship with God or each other.

[THEREFORE]

How can you defeat sin today knowing that one day sin will be no more?

2 Corinthians 5:17 tells us that we are new creations now when we are in Christ. This means we can resist the temptation to sin and defeat it in this life. This is a daily action until Christ returns and ushers in the new earth. Galatians 5:16 reminds us to walk by the Spirit and not by our flesh. We can live today looking forward to the day when there is no more sin by submitting to God's Spirit and denying our sin nature.

What can you do this week to begin living in light of eternity instead of your present circumstances?

2 Corinthians 4:18 teaches us to set our minds on the things that we can't see, which are eternal things. The things we can see are temporal and not a part of our forever home. Colossians 3:2 reminds us to set our minds on eternal things. Doing this helps us live for eternity and not for our present circumstances.

2. Revelation 21:4: One day God will wipe away every tear and there will be no more sorrow or pain.

GOD IS MAKING REDEEMED IMAGE BEARERS NEW

BIG IDEA #3: REDEEMED IMAGE BEARERS CAN HAVE PEACE AND HOPE TODAY BECAUSE GOD'S PROMISES ARE TRUSTWORTHY AND TRUE.³

[THIS]

In Revelation 21:5, we see that all God promises and says He will do is trustworthy and true. In this life, full of its sin and brokenness, not many things are trustworthy. In this life and the one to come, we can trust God. He will do what He says He's going to do. There has never been a time in the history of the world that God hasn't done what He said He would do. This means that God's promise that He is making all things new and will return one day can be trusted. Redeemed image bearers, or God's people can trust His promise of an eternal life free from sin, sorrow, and death. They can trust that one day they will live with God in their eternal home that is perfect and good.

[THEREFORE]

What causes you to doubt God's promise to make all things new?

When we focus on the things of this world, we can forget God's promise to make things new. Psalm 101:3 teaches us to set our minds on the things of God and we will remember His promises are true. Isaiah 26:3 tells us that when we are focused on God, our minds and hearts are at peace because He is trustworthy. It is when our eyes move from focusing on our faithful and trustworthy Father that we begin to doubt.

[THIS]

God's people can live in this present world with hope and peace because we live knowing this life is not all that there is. Thankfully, our best life isn't to be had on this fallen and broken earth. Just as Revelation 21:1-27 shows us, our best life is yet to come. God has promised a new life for all of His people, a life free from the sorrow of death and the consequences of sin. Even if we face great sadness and tragedy in this life, we can face these things with hope and peace, knowing that there is a new life to come. God's Word is true and our hope is in Him and Him alone. We do not have to despair when it seems that sin and sorrow reign and rule in this world because God has said He is coming again to right all wrongs and when He does return, He will banish death to hell and sin will be no more.

[THEREFORE]

Why do you think we often give in to anxiety and fear instead of walking in the "peace that surpasses understanding"?

Matthew 6:22 teaches us that the eye is the lamp of the body. What we focus on will determine the amount of peace and hope we have. When we focus on ourselves or the troubles of this world, we will forfeit the peace we could have. Psalm 119:18 teaches us to ask God to open our eyes to see the wondrous things He has done. This will remind us of who God is and help us to partake of the peace we can have knowing our future with Him.

How have you found God's Word to be trustworthy and true in your own life?

God's Word is truth and from it we can guide our lives to obey Him. Proverbs 15:1 tells us that a soft answer turns away wrath. When we live out God's Word, we find that it is true. Psalm 34:18 tells us that God is near the brokenhearted. When we experience sorrow, God is near to us. Lastly, James 1:5 tells us that when we lack wisdom, we can ask God and He gives it. As we seek to do these things, we will find that God's Word is true in these things which means it is true in all things.

3. Revelation 21:5: God is faithful. His promises are trustworthy and true.