

# GOD IS MAKING ALL THINGS NEW

## THE STORY: NEW CREATION

### BIG TRUTH: GOD IS MAKING ALL THINGS NEW

Isaiah 66:22, Isaiah 65:17, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Romans 8:29, 2 Peter 3:13, Romans 8:23, Revelation 3:12

### BIBLE VERSE: REVELATION 21:5

*“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

- A new heaven and earth are coming.
- A people made new from every tribe, tongue, and nation is coming.
- New worship that is holy and undivided is coming.

### BIBLE PASSAGE: REVELATION 21

John, while exiled to the Island of Patmos, has a vision of the new heaven and earth. In his vision, he sees that God will make all things new by ushering in a new earth that no longer has sorrow, pain, and sin in them. Those who have believed in Christ will live forever with God in this new earth.

### THE STORY

The Story is the good news of the gospel. All of Scripture tells the Story of God the Father’s work to redeem a people from the power of sin through God the Son so that they might live for His glory through the power of the Holy Spirit. During this series we will explore the four main movements of the Story of God, and our response to the life-altering Gospel Story!

### BIG AIMS



#### Every student should know that:

- God is the author, subject, and hero of the gospel story
- Salvation comes by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone



#### Every student should strive to:

- Describe the gospel message through Creation, Fall, Redemption, and New Creation
- Memorize the Bible verse each week



#### Every student should feel:

- Brokenness over the depth of our sin against God
- Joy in Jesus, our Savior and King



#### Every student should want:

- To study the Bible so that they can better understand God’s story of redemption
- To share the gospel story with those who are separated from God in their sin

### 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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## BIBLE VERSE: REVELATION 21:5

*“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.’”*

### When Christ returns, He will make all things new.

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

- While John was exiled to the Island of Patmos, he had a vision of what would happen at Jesus’ return. Part of John’s vision was of the new heaven and earth. God promises to make all things new when Jesus returns to the earth to gather His redeemed people.
- When God makes all things new, there will be no more sin in the world. The new heaven and earth will be perfect and all of God’s redeemed people will live in them with no sorrow or heartache.

### Christ will rule over the new heaven and earth.

*“And He who was seated on the throne...”*

- God is the Sovereign Ruler over everything now. He has always been and will always be. There is nothing outside of His control or reign. When sin entered the world, God’s perfect world was broken. According to God’s plan, this world is ruled by sin, though it is not more powerful than God. The sinfulness of man continues to reign in this life as God allows it.
- One day, when Christ returns, bringing with Him the new heaven and earth, sin will be no more. Christ will take His right place as Lord and King over all things. There will be no more sin or brokenness.

### The promise of all things being new is trustworthy.

*“...Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”*

- What God promises to do, He does, always. God never breaks a promise, nor does He say something is going to happen and it does not happen. God is in control of everything and nothing is outside of His power or what He allows. When God promises to make all things new, He will make all things new.
- God has promised that one day Jesus will come back to the earth and usher in the new heaven and earth. The present heaven and earth will no longer be as Christ begins His eternal rule on the new earth with His redeemed people.

# GOD IS MAKING ALL THINGS NEW

## BIG IDEA: A NEW HEAVEN AND EARTH ARE COMING.<sup>1</sup>

### [ THIS ]

During Jesus' ministry on earth, He promised to return one day to gather His followers together to live and reign with Him on a new earth. Before Jesus ascended into heaven after His resurrection, He promised that He was making all things new. This means that the sinful world that we live in will be no more one day. In its place will be the new earth, free of sin and death. Matthew 25:31-46 promises Christ's return one day. Titus 2:13 describes the return of Christ as the appearance of God's glory. This promise of Christ's return involves the end of our current world, which is broken and sinful. God's promise to overcome sin was fulfilled through the life and death of Jesus. His promise to make all things new will be fulfilled completely when Christ returns and this world no longer exists. Just as God makes the hearts of His redeemed new, He will make the heaven and earth new.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**Should the promise that God will make all things new lead you to hope in and pray for Christ's return? Why/Why not?**

In 2 Peter 3:10-13, we have the wonderful promise that Christ will return one day and that with His return, we will experience a new heaven and earth that are full of righteousness and not sin. As believers, our minds and hearts should be looking toward the coming of Christ because He will bring with Him our new home that will be free from the sin and sorrow of this life as Luke 12:36 reminds us.

### [ THIS ]

In Revelation 21, John's vision of end times reveals to us a magnificent picture of the new heaven and earth. This new earth will be free of sin, which means there will be no sorrow, pain, or death. We can gain an understanding of how marvelous and different the new earth will be when we take notice of the building materials that will be used to construct the new earth. In John's vision, the new earth is described as being constructed from materials that we consider very precious now, such as gold and precious jewels. If God uses what we consider very precious in this life to pave the streets of the next earth, this new earth will be far more wonderful than the greatest thing we've ever experienced in this life.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**Read Revelation 21:9-27. In what ways does this picture of new creation encourage you to live for Christ now?**

In 2 Peter 3:14-18, Peter encourages believers to live faithfully to Christ while they wait for the new heaven and earth. As we wait for Christ's second coming, we should live diligently and faithfully for Him on this earth. Colossians 3:1-2 teaches us to live in this life with our eyes and hearts set on the one to come. This helps us remain faithful to God in this sinful world. Hebrews 10:23 teaches us we should hold fast to our belief in Christ because Christ is faithful, and we know that He will return one day.

### **How should the promise of new creation influence our personal evangelism?**

Romans 1:16 reminds us that it is the gospel that saves people. This means if anyone is going to be saved from their sin, the gospel is the way in which they will be. Matthew 24:14 teaches us that it is part of God's plan for the gospel to go into all the world and when we share the gospel in our daily lives, we are being obedient and able to participate in God's plan.

1. Revelation 21:5: When Christ returns, He will bring with Him a new heaven and earth. The old will pass away and the new will reign forever.

## BIG IDEA #2: A PEOPLE MADE NEW FROM EVERY TRIBE, TONGUE, AND NATION IS COMING.<sup>2</sup>

### [ THIS ]

Presently, God's redeemed people are scattered throughout the earth. As the gospel spreads, people all over the world are hearing the truth, believing the truth, and becoming part of God's family. Though God's church is unified in Spirit and purpose, it is not gathered in one place. It is scattered throughout in local bodies of believers serving in their own countries, cities, and towns. God promises to bring His people together in the new earth. One day, God's people will worship Him together. People from every tribe, tongue, and nation will be joined together in the new heaven and earth to worship Christ forever.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**Knowing that God's family is made up of people groups from every nation, how can you be more engaged with believers and unbelievers from different ethnicities?**

In Daniel 7:14, we see that the kingdom of God now and in the future is made up of people from all over the world. We can join with other believers from different nations by serving God with them. By joining with other churches in other cities, states, and countries, we get a picture of what the body of Christ will be like one day when He returns.

### [ THIS ]

When Christ returns and brings the new earth, every redeemed person will be gathered together as one body. There will no longer be the need for local bodies of believers in cities and towns because there will only be believers on the new earth. The new earth will be the home of only those people who followed Christ on earth now. Once He returns and ushers in life on the new earth, all people who didn't believe will have been judged and condemned to eternal separation from God. Then, those who have believed will live with Christ on the new earth. There will be no more separation between people groups and ethnicities. God's redeemed people will be one body living together with Him forever.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**Read Revelation 21:3-5. How will the body of Christ be different in the new earth?**

When God gathers His people to live on the new earth, there will be nothing to defile it. Only the people who have believed in Christ will live there. Revelation 7:9 shows us that in the new earth, there will be no separation of nations. The people living on the new earth will not be identified by their ethnicity or country of origin. Instead, there will be one place and one people—the people of God.

**Knowing that only God's people will live in the new earth, what are excuses that you use when you don't share the gospel with others?**

In Revelation 20:11-15, John's vision reveals that all people will be judged one day. Those who have not believed in this life will be cast into eternal destruction. Those who have will be allowed to enter heaven and then the new earth. Revelation 21:27 also reminds us that only those who have been redeemed will live on the new earth. No persecution we face in this life for sharing the gospel will compare to the glory of the new earth.

2. Revelation 7:9: God's family of believers is made up of people from every tribe, culture, and nation. When God makes all things new, this body will be gathered together as one.

# GOD IS MAKING ALL THINGS NEW

## BIG IDEA #3: NEW WORSHIP THAT IS HOLY AND UNDIVIDED IS COMING.<sup>3</sup>

### [ THIS ]

All that we do on earth now is tainted by sin. Though we are redeemed and set free to worship God, our worship is a struggle because we still battle our flesh, or sin nature. When we worship now, our minds struggle to place our attention upon Christ. We may find ourselves distracted by our daily struggles, or we may worship with the wrong motives. We may seek to be known through our worship instead of making God known. We are burdened in this life with the cares of this world. These burdens affect our worship. We do not spend our days thinking about and praising God for who He is. Instead, we think about all that we must accomplish in a day and the many things that cause us worry or anxiety. We often struggle with misplacing our worship. We worship creation instead of the Creator. We worship other people or things instead of worshipping God. In the new creation, our worship will be perfect.

### [ THEREFORE ]

#### How do you struggle now to worship God in a holy and undivided way?

In Psalm 135:15-18, we get a picture of how our worship could become misplaced. When we fashion idols, or false gods, or we make material things on this earth the focus of our lives, we are worshipping idols. Romans 1:23 also shows us how we can worship creation and things we create instead of worshipping God.

#### What disciplines or behaviors help you worship God appropriately?

In 1 Timothy 4:15, Paul writes to Timothy to practice the spiritual things that Paul just discussed in his letter. By focusing and disciplining ourselves to immerse ourselves in God's Word, we will worship Him correctly. Psalm 143:5 teaches us that when we remind ourselves, or think about who God is and all that He has done, we will respond in worship.

### [ THIS ]

When Jesus returns to the earth, He will judge those who did not believe in Him in this life and He will reward His followers for the works they did in His name. The current earth will be destroyed and a new earth will replace it. In the new earth, there will be no sin. No one who is not redeemed will enter the new earth. All things will be made new and perfect on it. Because there will be no more sin and we will have received our glorified bodies, our worship will be perfect. Our worship will be holy because we will be holy. We will not struggle to focus on Jesus. We will not be plagued by the worries and struggles of life because there will be none. Instead, we will worship Christ perfectly because all things will be made perfect again and they will be this way forever.

### [ THEREFORE ]

#### Read Acts 4:32-37. How can you join with others in your church to make God known?

In Acts 4:32-37, the early church believers had a common goal and purpose. They were of one mind and had one goal—to make Jesus known. Part of fulfilling this goal was caring for one another. They willingly gave up their own things in order to meet the needs of other believers. The apostles were telling people about the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the church was joined together to make God known. By submitting to one another and living for God's glory, they were making God's name known in all the world.

3. 1 Peter 2:9-10: *The church's purpose is to make God known in the world and to show others His glory.*