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Bible Study Notes:



**Going to a place**

**the old order of things**

**love, holiness, self-control, uprightness, and good deeds.**

**Revelation 21 1-4**

**A New Heaven and a New Earth**

21 Then I saw “**a new heaven and a new earth**,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the **Holy City, the new Jerusalem**, coming down out of heaven from God, **prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband**. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and **God himself will be with them** and be their God. 4 ‘**He will wipe every tear** from their **eyes**. There will be no more death’ or **mourning** or **crying** or **pain**, for **the old order of things** **has passed away.”**

**I am making everything new**

**Revelation 21 5-8**

5 He who was seated on the throne said, “**I am making everything new**!” Then he said, “**Write this down**, for these words are **trustworthy and true**.”

6 He said to me: “It is done. I am the **Alpha** and the **Omega**, the Beginning and the End. **To the thirsty I will give water** without cost from the **spring of the water of life**. 7 **Those who are victorious will inherit all this**, and I will be their God and they will be my children. 8 But **the cowardly**, the unbelieving, the vile, the **murderers**, the **sexually immoral**, those who **practice magic arts**, the idolaters and **all liars**—they will be **consigned to the fiery lake** of burning sulfur. This is **the second death.”**

**Radical transformation**

In the Bible, the phrase "**old things have passed away**" signifies a **radical transformation**. It refers to the **release from sin's rule**, a **renewal of mindset**, and a **new sense of purpose**. **Through faith in Christ**, God puts the **old nature to death** and **makes us alive in our new identity** in Christ.

**What does it mean that old things have passed away**

**(2 Corinthians 5:17)?**

Second **Corinthians 5:17** is a well-known verse in Christian circles, often learned from childhood: “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, **he is a new creation**; old things have passed away; behold, **all things have become new**” (NKJV). The Message Bible adds an enthusiastic touch: “The **old life is gone**; a new life emerges!”

**What is the significance of the fact that “old things have passed away”?**

This verse goes beyond rote Sunday school work; it is a **reality for the genuine believer**. Those who **place faith in the redemptive work of Christ** undergo a **spiritual transformation courtesy of the Holy Spirit**. The Bible refers to this as being “**born again**” **(John 3:3–7).** Theologians use the term regeneration to describe the same amazing act. We went from **death** to **life**!

**The life of an unbeliever**

**The life of an unbeliever** is characterized by what the apostle Paul calls “old things.” Unbelievers possess a sinful nature and are separated from God, a destructive combination. Consequently, their lifestyle displays the works of the flesh **(Galatians 5:19–21).** While atheists may exhibit basic moral values—depending on upbringing and environment—they primarily live for themselves rather than God.

**religious without Christ**

Further, **religious people who are unregenerate cannot talk about an old life passing away**. They are **under the law and seek justification** through it. This leaves them condemned when they fall short (Romans 3:19; Galatians 3:10). Without the new birth, they **remain slaves to sin** (Romans 7:14–23). Being **religious without Christ leads to either despair** or **self-righteousness**. One who lives under the law should also **anticipate being perfectly judged** by it. God is a **fair judge** (Psalms 9:7–8; 98:9; Romans 2:6–11; Revelation 20:12).

**Paul provides this description**

However, for those who believe in Christ, old things have **indeed passed away**! **Paul provides this description** in Romans 6:3–7:

Or don’t you know that **all of us who were baptized** into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore **buried with him** through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was **raised from the dead through the glory of the Father**, we too may live a new life. For if we have been **united with him** in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. For we know that our **old self was crucified** with him so that **the body ruled by sin might be done away with**, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

**Followers of Christ are united**

**Followers of Christ are united** to Him and form His body (1 Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 1:22–23; Colossians 1:18). Thus, our baptism into Christ makes Him our representative. When He was crucified, our **old selves were crucified as well**. When He resurrected to live for God, **we too were resurrected** to live a new life for God. **Old things have passed away**.

**Many pastors are wary of preaching about grace**

**Many pastors are wary of preaching about grace** due to the **fear that their congregation will find an excuse to sin**. However, this stems from a **core misunderstanding**. Grace not only pardons us from the penalty of sin but also **possesses a transformative power** to break sin’s hold on our lives (Romans 6:14; Titus 2:11–12). The reality of 2 Corinthians 5:17 is only possible **because of grace**.

The transition from the old life to the new one is not merely theoretical. Many people can **testify to the transformation** in their lives when God’s grace took up residence.

Some Christians experience an **instant transformation**, while others **progress gradually**. Either way, the truth remains the same: **old things have passed away** for **those who are in Christ**. We are reconciled to God and called to live for Him. It is a beautiful lifestyle, filled with love, holiness, **self-control**, **uprightness,** and **good deeds**.

**The Bible verse that refers to this concept**

**Hebrews 11:1**

The Bible verse that refers to this concept is **Hebrews 11:1**, which says that those who are God's faithful **people are actually residents of another country**, which is Heaven. **By becoming the children of God**, we **become strangers** and **pilgrims on this earth**, understanding that **even our physical bodies are temporary** dwelling places for our **spirits**. Another verse that reinforces this idea is Hebrews 11:13