



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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The Covenant Fulfilled!

Lesson Text: Revelation 21:1-9, 23-27

Focus Verses: Revelation 21:5-7 - ⁵And 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. ⁶And 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. ⁷He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

Truth About Covenant: Jesus makes all things new and restores creation through His eternal plan.

Covenant Context: As we come to the end of the Bible, we see God restore all creation to a better than it was in the Garden of Eden. Heaven and earth will be filled with redeemed humanity who chose to live in covenant relationship with God, and His covenant people will reign and rule with Him, never to be separated from Him again. The end will be better than the beginning.

God created everything perfect in the Garden of Eden, but the enemy tempted humanity and we gave away our innocence. Yet God was already fighting for us to redeem us from our sin. In the end, God will make all things new, bring justice to all injustice, and restore creation to a better than Edenic state. God's covenant people will reign and rule with Him, fulfilling His covenant plan He has been working since before Creation. Heaven is perfect because God is Heaven's architect and Heaven's builder.

One of the most extraordinary things about our God is He wants to share eternity with us. Revelation 21:3 declares: *"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."* God has a plan to restore all creation in the end of time. But before He restores, He will demolish much of the earth through plagues and pestilence. When Jesus returns to earth, He will bring healing for our planet. The millennial reign upon earth will be a time and place more beautiful than the Garden of Eden, a return to God's original design of paradise and peace. Revelations 21 also says the things missing from God's new creation, all the negative aspects of our human existence will be eliminated.

In Revelation 2 and 3, Jesus addressed the seven churches of Asia Minor. His remarks to each church included praise for their strengths, rebuke for areas where they had slipped, and ultimately a unique promise of eternal reward to the overcomers of each church. Once we have entered into covenant with God through the gospel, if we find ourselves wavering in our faith or in keeping part of the covenant, we need to repent so we can be right with God again. We will find His mercy there for us just as it was for the seven churches in Asia Minor.

We were created in the light of God's presence, and only when sin began to separate us from God did darkness become present in the world. Revelation 21 and 22 reveal there is no need in the New Jerusalem for either natural light (like the sun) or artificial light (like a candle), for the Lamb is the light of that city. The new Jerusalem is a city for the redeemed of all nations (Revelation 5:9). It is not just for Jews; it is for the redeemed of every ethnicity.

Satan has lulled our culture into embracing the shadows, and in the shadows, he is far more effective at creating confusion. He can try to redefine reality, influencing our generation to call evil "**good**" and good "**evil**" (Isaiah 5:20). The only way to truly clear the confusion from our age is to fully embrace the light of God's presence and Word. Jesus' light makes things rather simple and uncomplicated. We can clearly see what is beneficial and what is destructive when we are in the light. We can make much clearer choices. Let's walk in the light of covenant relationship with our God, and we can look to eternity with clear-eyed anticipation as we look to that holy city where the Lamb forever is the light.

The Book of Revelation clearly delineates our eternal choice. **We have only two choices.** One leads to eternal torment, sorrow, and separation from God. The other leads to eternal life and eternal reward in the presence of our Lord. God gave us the Book of Revelation to allow us to look past the shades of gray in our present to the black and white outcomes of the future. Choose to live in the light of God's covenant invitation and follow Him from here to Heaven and an eternity bathed in the brilliant light of His glory and grace.