

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

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THE GLORIOUS CONSOLATION OF GOD

Revelation 21:4-8

“And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” ⁵ Then He who sat on the throne said, ***“Behold, I make all things new.”*** And He said to me, ***“Write, for these words are true and faithful.”*** ⁶ And He said to me, ***“It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. ⁷ He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. ⁸ But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”***

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Most of us are very influenced by the place where we were born or grew up; that country gives us a very strong sense of identity and belonging. Today we will continue talking about our heavenly homeland which should also give us a greater sense of identity and hope; because it is the place where our God is and where we will live forever.

Heb. 11:9-16 ‘By faith he [Abraham] dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country... ¹⁰ for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.... ¹³ These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. ¹⁴ For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. ¹⁵ And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.’

II. THE GLORIOUS CONSOLATION OF GOD

v.4 “And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

- A. After having announced and reiterated in such an emphatic way that God will dwell forever with us (**Rev. 21:3**); In this vision of the New Jerusalem John tells us of the consolation that God will bring for His children. He himself, at some point and somehow will dry every tear from our eyes. The victory and restoration that Jesus Christ achieved on the cross of Calvary are to such an extent that **there will be no death or anything related to it such as crying, sadness and pain; all those things that sin caused (Gen. 2:17) will no longer exist**; Redemption is total.
- B. We must bear in mind that this wipe away our tears will take place after the trials, including the Judgment Seat of Christ, when some Christians will suffer the loss of the reward (**1 Cor. 3:15; 1 Jn. 2:28**). But the consolation is so great because **“the former things have passed away”** that is, they were left behind forever.

v.5 "Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."

- A. Now John goes on to briefly describe the New Jerusalem and again the exclamation "**Behold**" introduces a special pronouncement: God will renew the whole earth. The description of making "**all things new**" is something that God will be doing at that moment, so He says: "**I make.**" God told John to write this because His "**words are faithful and true,**" not impossible to believe, nor hard to be carried out (**Rev. 22:6**). God Himself tells John to record the truthfulness and faithfulness of these words..

v.6 "And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts."

- B. **He who sat on the throne spoke again.** The trials of tribulation (**Rev. 16:17**) and of all the old creation were fulfilled (**Rev. 21:5**) now the unshakable will be established (**Heb. 12:27-28**). The phrase "**It is done!**" is one of the most glorious phrases in the book of Revelation because all this restoration is not a mythical idea or a human idealism but an accomplished fact; very similar to what Jesus pronounced when He finished His work of redemption on the cross (**Jn. 19:28-30**).
- C. He who is on the throne again referred to Himself as the eternal and sovereign God "**the Alpha and the Omega**" (**Rev. 1:8; 22:13**) "**the beginning and the end**" He is the One who gave origin to everything that exists and who concludes all the processes of all things.
- D. His promise of abundant satisfaction is so complete that He is able to quench the one "**who is [hungry and] thirsty**" for righteousness (**Mt. 5:6**). God's ability to satisfy the deepest longing of His people when carrying out the restoration of all things is unlimited (**Rev. 7:17; Isa. 55:1; Jn. 4:13-14; 7:37-39**).
- E. "**I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely**" God affirms that He himself will give His people this spring of life; which contrasts radically with "**the cup**" that the harlot drank (**Rev. 17:4; 18:3**). Here is the generosity of God and His desire to satisfy the deepest longings of the human heart. (**Rev. 22:17**). This is the message of the gospel that is fulfilled here in all fullness.

Jn. 7:37-38 "On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. ³⁸ He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

v.7 "He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son."

- F. There is a constant invitation from the Father and the Son to overcome, knowing that the reward / inheritance is total and glorious. The **one who overcomes will inherit these things**, that is, the blessings of the new creation. This promise completes and summarizes the other promises to the victors in **Rev. 2** and **3**. The inheritance emphasizes the privilege of obtaining something for the work that was carried out. **It is worth fighting against sin, warmth, doubt, fear, flesh, the devil and every obstacle that may arise.**
- G. The phrase "**I will be his God and he will be my son**" is defined as a declaration of special honor. When Jesus rose, He said: '**I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.**' (**Jn. 20:17**). The intention of the phrase was

to mean a special and intimate relationship with the Father in fullness. The Greek word used here (*huiós*) speaks of mature children in contrast to simply children.

III. THE DIVINE WARNING

v.8 "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

A. The word "**but**" marks a strong contrast and warning. Faced with the coming glory, it is warned that those who did not overcome will not receive everything that the victors will inherit. **We have a fight against these sins that want to get us out of the way and we must make war against them:**

1. **Cowardice and unbelief:** Cowardice refers to shyness and fear that can prevent us from going after God's best. Unbelief produces cowardice because we agree with what the enemy says. In all Scripture there is a constant exhortation to be brave and overcome fear.

Jos. 1:9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

1 Tim. 1:7 "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

We must resist unbelief, in this world there is a frontal and constant attack against our faith and we are called to see and hear the right person, that is, Jesus to strengthen our faith and never lose it or fall into disbelief.

2 Tim. 4:7-8 "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing."

Heb. 12:2a "looking unto Jesus, the [a]author and [b]finisher of our faith..."

2. **Abomination and murder:** The word **abominable** literally speaks of becoming detestable, (stink) for moving away or deviating from the path.

Heb. 10:38 "Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him."

Murder or deprive another person of life is something that God hates; it can be both the act of killing someone, including abortion; as much as hating someone to the point of wishing him(her) dead.

Salmo 106:32-38 "They angered Him [the Lord]... 35...But they mingled with the Gentiles And learned their works; 36 They served their idols... 37 They even sacrificed their sons And their daughters to demons, 38 And shed innocent blood,... And the land was polluted with blood."

Mt. 5:21-22 "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' 22 But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in

danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire."

3. **Fornication and sorcery:** The Greek word for immorality here is " **pornos**" and refers to a man who prostitutes his body for the lust of another, or also a man who gives himself to an illegal sexual relationship.

2 Tim. 2:22 "Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart."

Sorcery has to do with magic but also with the desire to control others as Jezebel did.

Ap. 2:20-22 "Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow [!]that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols..

22 Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds."

4. **Idolatry and lies:** Idolatry is the worship of a false god; greed and obstinacy are forms of idolatry that we must resist.

Col. 3:5 "Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry."

1 Sam. 15:23a "For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry..."

Lying is a very elusive sin that we must completely discard from our life; the truth must govern all aspects of our life.

3 Jn. 1:4 "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth."

- B. **In the time before the Lord's return we must war fighting against these sins** that although in general they identify the lost ones, they can also be the characteristic of some believers who follow the dictates of their flesh (**1 Cor. 6:9-10; Gal. 5:19-21**). Although by this time this kind of people have already had "**their part**" (their destiny) in the Lake of Fire "**which is the second death**" the waring is for us.
- C. Although "**the lake that burns with fire and brimstone**" will still exist after new heaven is established and the new earth and the New Jerusalem will be separated from this glorious reality..

IV. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What kind of security and hope gives you the glorious consolation that God will bring to His people in the restoration of all things?
2. How do these promises motivate you to overcome the afflictions or struggles you have?
3. From the list of things we have to resist, against which of one them do you need to make war?