

Surprised By Eternity All Things New

Revelation 21:1–8

Many Christians think about eternity primarily in terms of leaving earth behind and going to heaven. But Revelation 21 gives a much bigger picture. God's final plan is not the abandonment of creation, but its renewal. This study explores God's promise to make "all things new."

Opening Icebreaker

- When you were younger, what did you imagine heaven would be like?
- What ideas about eternity have shaped your thinking the most?
- Have you ever thought more about escaping earth than God renewing creation? Why?

Read the Passage

- Read Revelation 21:1–8 aloud together.

Part 1 — God's Plan for the World

- The sermon described several ways people think about the future of the world: perpetuation, desertion, destruction, restoration, and renewal.
- Why is it significant that John sees a new heaven and a new earth?
- What does it mean that the New Jerusalem comes down out of heaven?
- How does this challenge common assumptions about eternity?
- The Greek word *kainos* means qualitatively new or renewed. Why is that important?
- How does bodily resurrection help us understand creation's renewal?

Cross Reference — Romans 8:20–22

- According to Paul, what has happened to creation?
- What hope does creation itself have?
- Why is creation described as groaning?

Part 2 — The Passing Away of the Old Order

- Read Revelation 21:4 together.
- What specific things pass away in verse 4?
- How does this encourage believers who are suffering today?
- Why is the removal of tears, death, mourning, crying, and pain central to God's renewal?

There Was No Longer Any Sea

- In Scripture, the sea often symbolizes chaos and evil.
- How does the removal of the sea symbolize the removal of chaos?
- What kinds of chaos do people experience today?

Part 3 — God Dwelling With His People

- Why is the New Jerusalem described as a bride?
- What is the most important feature of the New Jerusalem according to verse 3?
- How does Revelation connect back to Eden?
- Why is God's presence the greatest blessing of eternity?

Part 4 — It Is Done

- Why are God's words described as trustworthy and true?
- What does it mean that God is the Alpha and Omega?
- How does God's character guarantee the future He promises?

Part 5 — The Call to Overcome

- What does it mean to be victorious or an overcomer?
- Why might the cowardly be listed first among the sins in verse 8?
- How are Christians tempted toward compromise today?
- How does the gospel help believers endure faithfully?

Part 6 — Your Work Matters

- If God plans to renew the physical world, how should that change the way we view everyday work?
- Why do Christians sometimes act like only church work matters?
- How can ordinary jobs reflect God's coming kingdom?
- How can your daily work testify to truth, goodness, beauty, and order?

Key Takeaways

- God's plan is renewal, not abandonment.
- The curse will end forever.
- God will dwell with His people.
- Faithful endurance matters.
- Every act of goodness becomes a witness to the coming kingdom.

Closing Reflection

Read Revelation 21:5 aloud together: "Behold, I am making all things new."

Spend a few moments reflecting on: What part of your life most needs the hope of renewal? Where is God calling you to faithful endurance? How can you testify to the coming kingdom through your everyday life?

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You that You are making all things new. Thank You that sorrow, pain, death, and evil will not

have the final word. Help us live with hope, endurance, and faithfulness as we wait for Your kingdom to come in fullness. Teach us to honor You not only in worship, but also in our daily work, relationships, and witness. Amen.