

God Will Bring Peace and Justice

International Bible Lesson

Revelation 21:1-8

Sunday, November 6, 2016

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“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’” (Revelation 21:5).

People desperately long for heaven on Earth. Wars and rumors of war characterize life on Earth just as Jesus said they would until He returned (Matthew 24:6). Sickness spreads from nation to nation. Diseases once considered curable are now antibiotic resistant. Earthquakes rattle almost every nation, and the list of troubles goes on. But God has promised in the Bible to make everything new. Millions have testified that Jesus has transformed them and made them substantially new people through His gift of eternal life. Throughout history God has made many people and places substantially new when whole communities have repented of their sins, trusted in Jesus Christ, and returned to obeying God’s law. We call these special times of moral and spiritual transformation “revivals.” Revival times are a foretaste of what Jesus will do after He returns as He promised. Someday God will make everything new through Jesus. Sickness and death, both physical and spiritual, will be eradicated, wars will cease, and peace will prevail forever. God so committed Himself to making everything new someday that He commanded John to write down what He promised. Because God does not lie, God was not afraid to have His words recorded (Numbers 23:19). We wait for God to do all that He has promised and what Jesus will do when He returns. The Bible explains why God has not yet made everything new: “The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9).

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Thinking Further

1. What is the most important truth that you have learned from these verses?
2. What are some of the things Churches need to do and teach today so believers can conquer as Revelation describes? What do you need to do to conquer?
3. What are some of the things on (or in) this old earth that you would like to see on (or in) the new earth that God will create? Do you think God will retain or even make more beautiful these things? Give some reasons for your answers.
4. Why do you think someone might weep in heaven? How does God respond to this weeping? What, if any, difference is there between weeping and crying (and between weeping and mourning)? What may God be teaching us here?
5. Why do you think God inspired John to include Revelation 21:8 in the Book of Revelation? How might you teach someone the truths this verse conveys?