

"No More Tears"

Revelation 21:3-5

“It is appointed unto men once to die, and after this comes the judgment” (Hebrews 9:27). This Bible truth can be very troubling, even frightening. However, as you face the reality that no one, including yourself, will live forever, here is God's promise of hope rooted in His Old Testament prophets and prophecies: Eternal joy and bliss are waiting for you! Through the apostle John, God says to you: “And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them, and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away’” (Revelation 21:3-4).

WORDS YOU CAN TRUST!

Note especially the verse which says: “And He who sits on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things new.’ And He said, ‘Write, for **THESE WORDS ARE FAITHFUL AND TRUE**’” (Revelation 21:5).

Here God is giving you a clear picture of what will soon be yours—a place in the presence of God with no more tears and no more pain. For the apostle John this picture was not a momentary vision, like a passing cloud. The vision of heaven God is now giving you is the precious fruit of a large tree, a *prophecy tree* rooted deeply in the Old Testament prophets.

When St. John writes in Revelation that God will “wipe away every tear from their eyes” (Revelation 21:4), he is echoing the psalmist who wrote: “Those who sow in tears shall reap with joyful shouting, and he goes to and fro weeping . . . shall indeed come again with a shout of joy” (Psalm 126:5-6).

Isaiah the prophet also says: “The ransomed of the Lord will return, and come with joyful shouting to Zion, with everlasting joy upon their heads. They will find gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing will flee away” (Isaiah 35:10). God will give your heart even more encouragement as you read Isaiah 25:8; 61:2-3; and 65:19.

NO MORE TEARS FOR YOU!

As you look with great eagerness to that glorious day when you shall be in Paradise, in the presence of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you are looking toward a place where there will be no more tears. This is, indeed, part of the promise of what awaits you soon.

But from the view of the Old Testament prophets, there is even more Good News! Tears are a sign of repentance, evidence of sincere sorrow over sin (Isaiah 22:12; Joel 2:12; Mark 14:72). Thus, since in heaven the power of Sin will be no more (Isaiah 62:1-2; Ezekiel 36:25-27; Zephaniah 3:13; 1 John 3:2), **guilt will also be no more!** And when you will have no more guilt in Paradise, there will be no more tears!

“CLOSING THE CIRCLE” OF OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY!

When Jesus announced the glories and bliss of heaven and then commanded St. John: “Write, for these words are faithful and true” (Revelation 21:5), Jesus was “closing the circle” of the entire prophecy of the Old Testament, beginning with God's first prophecy and promise in Genesis 3:15. Sin had driven Adam and Eve out of Paradise and into a long travail of tears. Because you participated in Adam and Eve's disobedience (Romans 5:12), you are also now experiencing regular tears: tears from physical pain and private tears of sorrow and regret in your heart. Now, however, you are united to Christ in your Baptism. In Christ, you too have come “full circle.” You shall soon be returned to Paradise, the new Garden of Eden, where God so fervently wants you to be with Him forever!

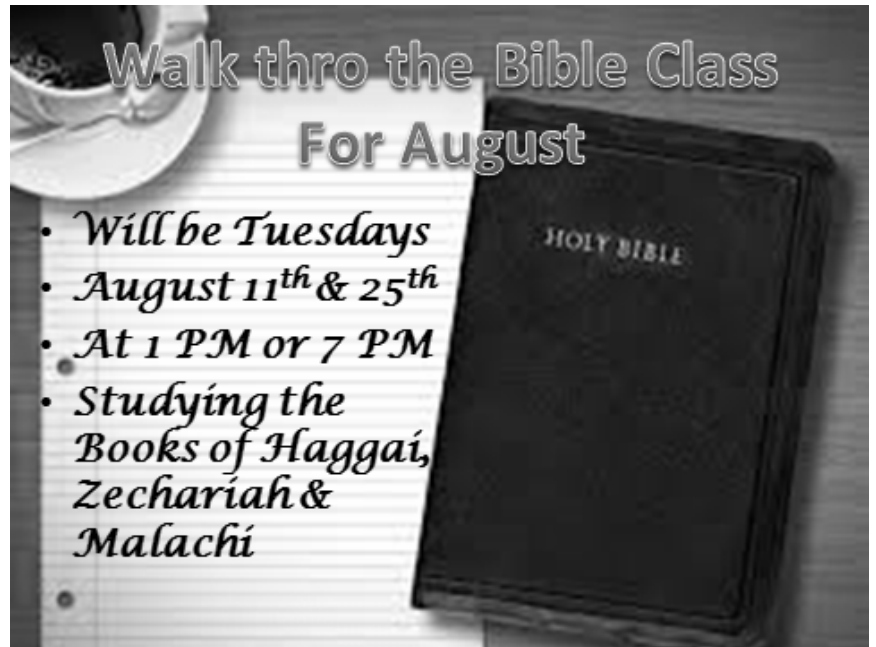
Yes, you will be part of the joyful gathering, as shown in this painting. You will not be in the bottom, in the hell of tears (Matthew 13:42-50), but above, with Jesus, where there will be no more tears (Revelation 21:4).

Dear Lord Jesus Christ, I cannot thank You enough, every hour of every day, that, in Your resurrection, and in Your promise of Paradise, You have “closed the entire Old Testament prophetic circle.” Through Your gifts of repentance and faith, You have brought me and all Your followers into Paradise, the new Garden of Eden. I look forward with great joy and eagerness to be in Your presence, where You will “wipe away every tear from [my] eyes, and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain” (Revelation 21:4). As I continue my days and years in my journey toward You and the return to Paradise, let me believe, together with the Old Testament prophets, that, even though I am now living in darkness, “I have seen a great light”—You! (Isaiah 9:2). Lord Jesus, take me by Your hand and lead me where You said You are “making all things new” (Revelation 21:5). Amen.†

Walk through the Bible Class

Classes continue through the summer months, and in August, we will more than likely finish the Old Testament.

As we prepare to begin studying the New Testament, this would be a good time to reconsider your participation in this class. If you have not been involved so far, I would personally ask you to think about joining our study. I really believe you will be glad you did. If you decide to join us for the first time, simply let Pastor Jim know, so that ample amount of materials can be prepared. Thank you.



Coming Fall 2015 Teaching Events

As our summer winds down, and we prepare for the coming teaching events, the first one to be offered this fall will be the Names of God (the Father). The Old Testament is full of 21 different names for God. I will identify each of them and give you easily understood meanings for each one. These names of God provide us a rich heritage to understanding the magnificence and wonder of our Great God.

This teaching event is scheduled for Sunday, September 20th at 7 pm. You will discover just how wonderful our God truly is. There is no cost to attend and nor do you have to pre-register for this study. Simply come and grow!

