

“Behold, I Make All Things New”

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. Rev. 21:1-7
- B. Two ways in which God makes us new
 - 1. 2Cor. 5:17 - The partly fulfilled condition in this world
 - 2. 1Cor. 13:12 - The fully unveiled condition in heaven
- C. What of all other things? What will their fully unveiled, completely revealed condition be like?

I. PERFECT CONDITIONS IN HEAVEN

(What things will be in their complete and fulfilled state in Heaven?)

- A. We will have perfect knowledge
 - 1. We will understand everything we now question. We won't struggle to understand and believe. We'll be at peace with the truth.
 - 2. Job 36:26; 2Cor. 2:7-9
- B. We will experience perfect glory
 - 1. The word describes perfect beauty, excellence, and greatness.
 - 2. All of us appreciate beauty and excellence in the physical world because we are created in the image of God, who is the source of glory.
 - 3. Matt. 25:31; 1Peter 4:13 - Perhaps the greatest event on the last day
 - 4. Do you remember the moment when you first felt appreciation for the majesty, beauty or power of something you witnessed? Imagine feeling that forever - Rev. 21:23
- C. We will enjoy perfect rest
 - 1. Why do we love to sleep in on our days off? Is it because we are lazy? Or is it because we become weary of the labor of life?
 - 2. While we love to labor and be productive, we also understand that life's burdens wear us out.
 - 3. God has promised that Heaven will be a place of rest. Not a place without purposeful occupation, but a place where the burdens and struggles of life under the sun no longer exist.
 - 4. We won't have to work to do well or struggle to maintain godly relationships or behaviors - Heb. 4:9-11
- D. We will participate in perfect worship
 - 1. Ever had to make an intense effort to stay focused in worship?
 - 2. In Heaven, the presence of God will provoke a response of worship without effort on our part - Isa. 6:1-4
 - 3. Those special moments when we have been especially moved in worship when compared to worship in heaven is like the difference between walking down Penn Avenue past Deluccas and catching a fleeting scent something wonderful cooking inside and actually going inside and sitting down and eating it
- E. We will delight in perfect activity

1. We often think of work as tedious, tiresome tasks we must do to make a living. Sometimes it is, but that wasn't God's original intentions in the Garden of Eden.
 2. But meaningful activity is pleasant and harmonious with our nature, created in the image of God as we are
 3. The saints in heaven are engaged in meaningful activity
 4. Matt. 19:28; Rev. 22:3
- F. We will share in perfect fellowship
1. Given the opportunity, most would prefer to be with friends more than just about any other activity. Created in the image of God who has been in a relationship with the two other Beings of the Godhead from eternity.
 2. God is innately relational. That's why we are driven toward relationships. Heaven is the place where this aspect of our nature will be fully realized - Heb. 12:22-24
- G. We will receive perfect recognition
1. Heaven is a place where we will be recognized and rewarded by God.
 2. Everyone will be completely satisfied with the acknowledgment and attention they will receive from the King of Heaven.
 3. Luke 19:15-19; Dan. 12:3; 1Cor. 3:11-15

II. THINGS MISSING IN HEAVEN

(What things will no longer be needed in Heaven?)

A. Faith

1. Faith is the means by which we are saved. The fact that God is not visible to us requires us to have faith that He is and that He has spoken.
2. A day is coming when we will see Him directly. In that day, faith will no longer exist. We will know - Heb. 11:1, 6

B. Growth

1. We will already know all there is to know; there will be no need to grow.
2. Our need and desire to mature as children of God will be fully realized in Heaven.

C. Comfort

1. We won't find ourselves needing to lean on each other in Heaven. In fact, we won't find ourselves crying at all.
2. We won't need comfort in difficult times because there won't be any difficult times - Rev. 21:4

D. Teaching

1. We won't be seeking the lost in Heaven. We won't be trying to figure out the best way to reach those who are unsaved.
2. There is only one chance to place our faith in Christ, and that time will have expired by the Judgment - Heb. 9:27-28

Conclusion:

Ever wonder why human beings are constantly seeking certain things they never seem to be able to achieve? How many of us love to learn, but realize that the more we know, the more we discover how much we don't know? How many of us yearn for

beauty and excellence but have discovered how difficult it is to find perfection in our world? How many of are tired and weary of the burdens we carry and desire a break from it all, but know that is just about impossible with life the way it is? How many find ourselves caught up in hobbies or other distractions that we obsess over in an effort to give our lives meaning? How many would love to be completely satisfied by our work, yet are frustrated and burned out? How many desire great relationships, but have come to discover that people will often let us down? And how many of us just want to be noticed for who we really are, but feel like the world doesn't even care that we exist?

Why is it that these 'natural' desires are part of our nature in the first place? If evolution is true, then the process of natural selection has played a rather cruel joke on all of us. It has allowed the human race to evolve with all of these drives that can never be satisfied. All these drives and desires that merely push us to frustration and despair if they can never be realized. But God is the author of our nature, and He tells us that we have been created in His Image; an image of perfect knowledge, glory, rest, worship, work, fellowship and recognition. No wonder we have these innate desires and drives, and thank God that we will someday be fully satisfied in them.

But there is something more that we learn from our study of Heaven. We have a better idea of what we are to do while here on earth. While we are here on earth, the needs God has built into us should be our priority. We need to take our eyes off the things we will be given in Heaven, our desire for, glory, rest, distraction, significance, approval and recognition, and do the things He assigned us here that we won't be able to do later. This is the time for us to trust in our faith, grow in our knowledge of God, comfort those in need, and reach those who are lost. We can't do that later. So let's simply be patient and look forward to what we can't have now and get at the business of what we can't do later. Let's live with a true understanding of Heaven that causes our lives here on earth to be radically different.