

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

⁵ 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.”

⁶ He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life.

Have you seen the TV show “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition”? That was a program on HGTV. The premise was this: They’d find a family living in an old, run down house in extreme need of a make-over. Then they’d move the family out and spend weeks fixing it up. At the end of each episode was the big reveal: they’d bring the family back and show them their new home for the first time. Usually, there were a lot of happy tears.

In that lesson I read for you earlier from Revelation 21, Jesus promises us a much more extreme home makeover. God gave John a vision of what Jesus will do when he returns on the Last Day. This heaven and earth – this world we call our home now – Jesus is gonna fix everything that’s wrong with it, **“make everything new.”** The new home he’ll give us in eternity is a sight so wonderful it brings tears of joy to our eyes now. And my prayer is that it leads you – especially today, you, Annie – to live longing for your new home.

John writes: **Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away.** Sometimes on that show, they’d find a home so damaged they’d have to strip it down to frame and foundation and rebuild it from the ground up. John says on Judgment Day that’s what Jesus is gonna do with this world. He’ll cause the heaven and earth we know to pass away, and build something totally new and wonderful in its place.

Because, well, this home is just that broken. I think we know that by experience – this world is broken. God calls it the old order of things, but for us, it’s very much the present – it’s what we live. God lists things like death, mourning, crying, pain. We could add to the list: Sickness, famine, natural disasters, loneliness. God didn’t design this home to have any of that; it was sin that broke it. When sin entered into the world, it brought all of that. That’s why we experience what we do.

But God also entered into our world to fix what was broken. And Jesus Christ died on the cross and took away sin. And he rose from the dead and conquered death. And Jesus is promising you here: When he comes again, “broken” will be the old order of things. It will pass away. He will make everything new.

The Christians John was writing to they longed for that day to come. They were hurting in a special way in a broken world; being persecuted, even dying, for their faith in Jesus. SO they longed for the new home make-over Jesus promised them. Compared to them, our lives are kind of cushy; we have it pretty good. Maybe the danger for us is just not longing for that new home. It happens so easily, doesn't it? That we spend so much time planning for our future here in this broken world, but don't spend much time thinking about our eternal future. We long for the good things we can find in this life, but we don't find ourselves longing for heaven, not just yet. We can easily shift focus in life, and it can become one big attempt to fix up this broken house to make it as comfy as possible, instead of focusing on Jesus and the new home he's promised us.

And that just goes to show: Sin didn't just break this world. Sin broke us. Those messed up priorities are just one symptom: one proof among many that we are not perfect, and we don't belong in this perfect home Jesus shows us. We're the ones in need of an extreme make-over!

But did you notice: That's what John saw in his vision? You, completely made over! **I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.** You weren't fit for Jesus' home. But Jesus loved you and longed for you to be there with him. So he did everything necessary to make you fit for that home. He carried your sins, all your brokenness, to the cross, shed his blood to pay for all of it. He brought you to faith, and when he did, he washed your sins away. Or as John put it: He gave you your wedding garment. A beautiful, white robe of his own making. Now he's made you fit to belong in his heavenly home; and he promises he's coming to give it to you soon.

So, what's it gonna be like? We're waiting for the emotional reveal, the tour, right? John says: **Then I saw a new heaven and new earth, for the first had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.** Today, we dip our toes in the ocean for fun. In John's day, oceans had to be crossed at great risk to people's lives. Oceans were scary things. So what is that scares you – strikes fear and worry in your heart? Whatever it is, Jesus promises it will not be in your new home. Nothing to frighten God's people from that point on forever.

John also says this about your new home: **God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.** You're already God's people through faith in Christ; but you can't see him yet. When Jesus brings you to your new home, that veil will be torn. You will see God face to face in all his glory, enjoy perfect fellowship with him, walk and talk with him.

And this is what God will do for you there: **He will wipe every tear from their eyes.** Each tear, individually. What causes you to cry in this life? What memory hurts so much it still hurts you to think of it this morning? God knows each and every tear you cry. He can't wait to bring you to your new home to dry each one, individually. Painful memories will never hurt you again. Nothing will ever make you sad again: **There will be no more mourning or crying.** No more **death** or **pain**, either! Because in your new home, God will give you a new body that is perfect and can't experience either! Everything sin made wrong, Jesus will have made right: **I am making everything new!**

And just in case there's a skeptic in you saying, "It's too good to be true!" Jesus covered that: **Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true!** You don't see it yet, feel it yet, but it's coming. In fact, it's so certain Jesus says, **"It is done!"**

Look forward to living in your new home. Live life longing for it. And especially today, Annie: In baptism, God gave you faith in Jesus, and made this new home your home. Your permanent home. Our prayer today for you is that you remember that. However bad or good life gets, this world is not your home; it's the perfect home Jesus will make for you. Remember that, and stay in God's Word, so you keep clinging to Jesus your Savior until he brings you safely there. God grant that for all of us. Amen.