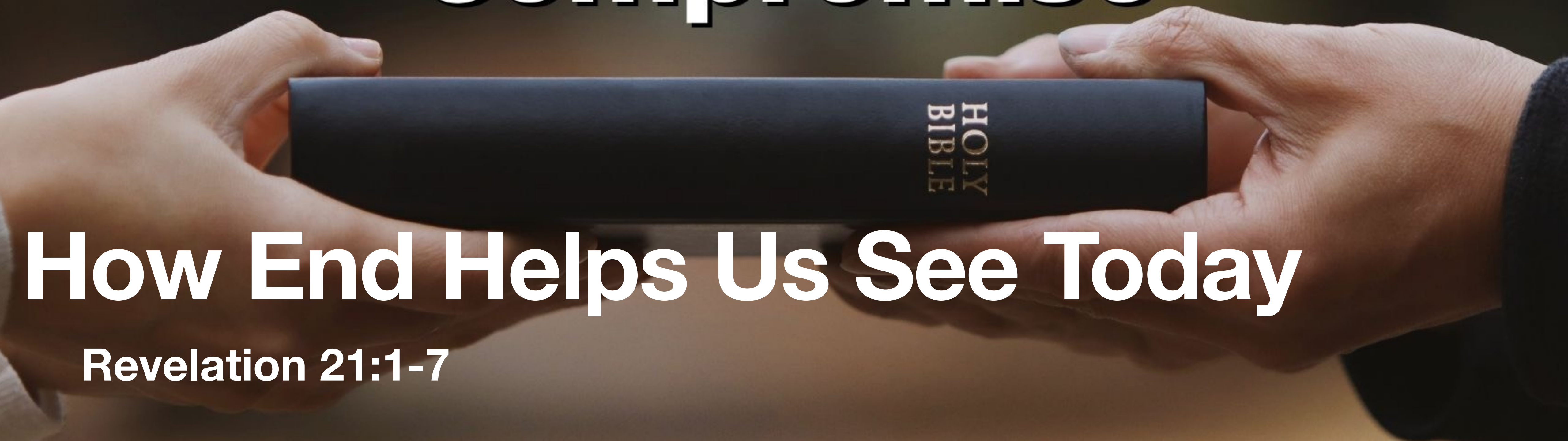


# **Proclamation Without Compromise**



## **How End Helps Us See Today**

**Revelation 21:1-7**

14 “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

- Matthew 5:14-16

# Worldview Questions

What is real or true?

What is a human?

What is the problem with the world?

What is the solution?

How shall we live?

**This week: Where is history moving? What happens when we die?**

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.

4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

5 And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” 6 And 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 from the spring of the water of life without payment. 7 The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

- Revelation 21:1-7



# A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

God's Grand Story for His Glory

## REDEMPTION

A RESCUED PEOPLE

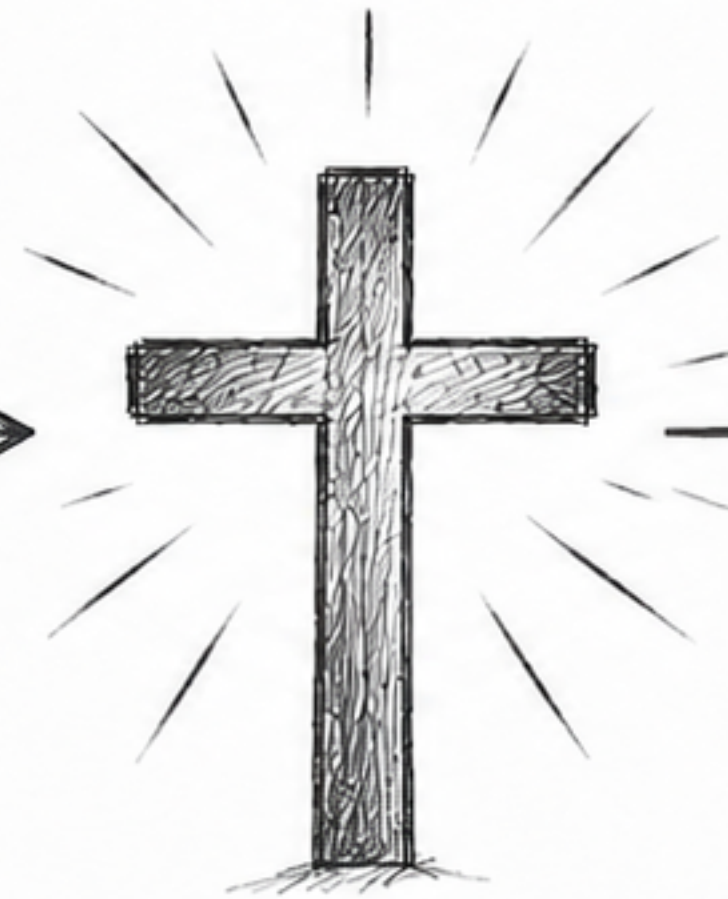
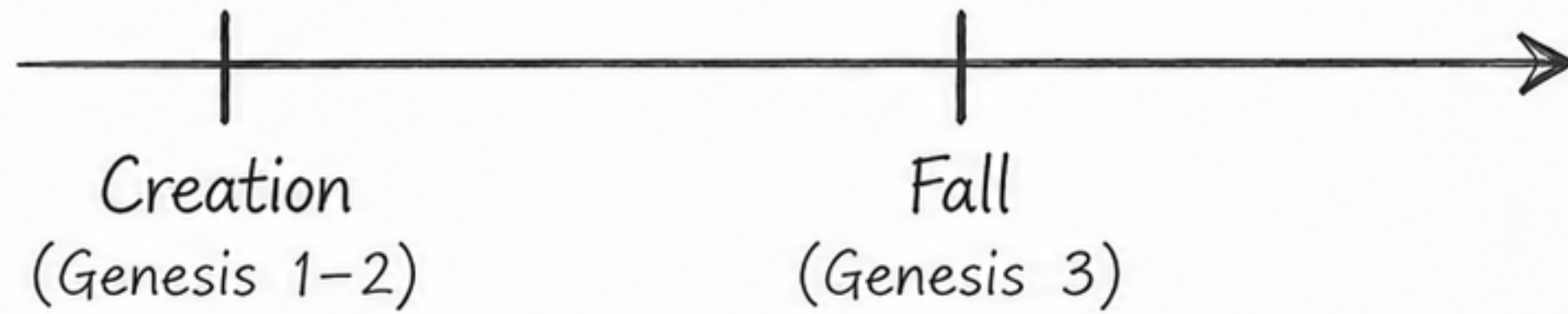
The fulfillment of  
God's promises  
(1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

## CREATION

A GOOD WORLD

## FALL

A BROKEN WORLD

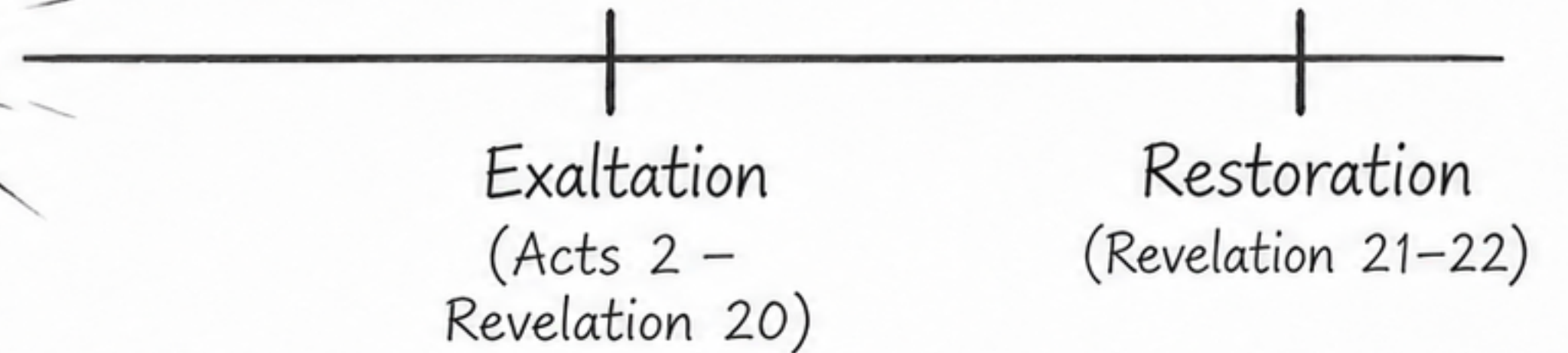


## EXHALTATION

THE AGE OF THE CHURCH

## RESTORATION

A RENEWED WORLD



Points to the Cross  
(Luke 24:27)

Flows out from the Cross  
(John 20:21)

## **Revelation 21:1-7**

- **Main Idea:** God's future shapes how we live in the present.
  - **vss 1-2:** A renewed world awaits
  - **vs 3:** God is the Goal
  - **vss 4-7:** Suffering/Evil have an expiration date

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.  
2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

- Revelation 21:1-2

# **Revelation 21:1-2**

## **Key Observations**

1. Renewed Creation NOT discarded.

“Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree.”

- Martin Luther



# **Revelation 21:1-2**

## **Key Observations**

1. Renewed Creation NOT discarded.
2. Not escaping TO heaven, but heaven coming to earth.

Only one life, a few brief years, Each  
with its burdens, hopes, and fears; Each  
with its days I must fulfill, living for self  
or in His will; Only one life, 'twill soon  
be past, Only what's done for Christ  
will last.

When this bright world would tempt me  
sore, When Satan would a victory  
score; When self would seek to have  
its way, Then help me Lord with joy to  
say; Only one life, 'twill soon be past,  
Only what's done for Christ will last.

- C.T. Studd, "One Life to Live"



# **Revelation 21:1-2**

## **Practical Implications**

1. This world will be renewed, therefore our work matters

# **Revelation 21:1-2**

## **Practical Implications**

1. This world will be renewed, therefore our work matters.
2. This world will not be discarded; therefore, this present world is not the final destination.

# Revelation 21:1-2

## Worldview Lens

A renewed creation means that my work has eternal significance, BUT NOT ultimate significance.



3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. . . . 7 The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

- Revelation 21:3, 7

**Revelation 21:3 teaches us one thing:**

*The goal of our salvation is simply this: to get God.*

"Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent"

-John 17:3

# Revelation 21:3

## Worldview Lens

The hope of a fully restored relationship with God outweighs all other desires and experiences in this present life.



**Romans 8:18:** "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us".

**2 Corinthians 4:17–18:** "For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen".

**Hebrews 11:10, 16:** Abraham and other early figures looked forward to "the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God," desiring "a better country, that is, a heavenly one"



Hope is one of the Theological virtues. This means that a continual looking forward to the eternal world is not (as some modern people think) a form of escapism or wishful thinking, but one of the things a Christian is meant to do. It does not mean that we are to leave the present world as it is. If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next.

The Apostles themselves, who set on foot the conversion of the Roman Empire, the great men who built up the Middle Ages, the English Evangelicals who abolished the Slave Trade, all left their mark on Earth, precisely because their minds were occupied with Heaven. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this. Aim at Heaven and you will get earth “thrown in”: aim at earth and you will get neither.

Sadly, many of us are so tethered to this world and the things it offers that we scarcely take thought of the world to come. Yet it is precisely by reflecting often on the joys, beauties, and satisfactions of eternal life in the world to come that we find a hope that empowers us to live fully for Christ today.

- C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

# Revelation 21:1-3

## Worldview Lens

A renewed creation means that my work has eternal significance, BUT NOT ultimate significance.

The hope of a fully restored relationship with God outweighs every other desire and experience in this life.



4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” 5 And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true. 6 And 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 from the spring of the water of life without payment. 7 The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

- Revelation 21:4-7

# What Scripture Teaches About Suffering/Evil

| God's Character             | Key Scripture | Biblical Truth                                         |
|-----------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. God's sovereignty        | Daniel 4:35   | God rules over all things.                             |
| 2. God's holiness           | James 1:13–17 | God is not the author of evil.                         |
| 3. God's suffering          | Isaiah 53:3–6 | God in Christ suffered to redeem us.                   |
| 4. God's redemptive purpose | Romans 8:28   | God works through suffering for our good and His glory |
| 5. God's judgment           | Rev. 20:10–15 | God will judge and defeat evil.                        |
| 6. God's eternal kingdom    | Rev. 21:1–5   | Suffering and death will be no more.                   |

“when cast into the cellars  
of affliction, I remember  
that the great King always  
kept his choicest wine  
there.”

- Samuel Rutherford



# Revelation 21:1-7

## Worldview Lens

### **vss 1-2: A renewed creation**

A renewed creation means that my work has eternal significance, BUT NOT ultimate significance.

### **vs 3: The goal is God**

The hope of a fully restored relationship with God outweighs all other desires and experiences in this present life.

### **vs4-7: Evil and Suffering have an expiration date**

Therefore, we can confidently face trials and suffering, knowing they do not have the final word.



But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

- Philippians 3:13-14

**"Now this is eternal life:  
that they know you, the  
only true God, and Jesus  
Christ, whom you have  
sent"**

**-John 17:3**

