

A NEW BEGINNING!

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NOTE: - All Bible texts are taken from the King James Version; and the compiler has supplied all emphasis throughout this Study Document.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR NEW HEAVENS AND A NEW EARTH, WHERE RIGHTEOUSNESS DWELLS?

The true people of God will earnestly look for the new heavens and new earth **where righteousness dwells**. God promises that the heavens and earth will be made fresh and new, and will be cleansed from all the filthy works performed upon it, since the time of Adam's fall. What a wonderful promise! And in this new world, righteousness shall dwell. Seeing that we should look for these things, we need to make sure that we can be accounted worthy to enter into such a wonderful world, and dwell in such a land of righteousness.

2 Peter 3:10 - 14: - "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, **the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up**. [Seeing] then [that] all these things shall be dissolved, what manner [of persons] ought ye to be in [all] holy conversation and godliness, looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? **Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.**"

All things will be made new. The new world is clean, and free from all the sin and filth of this present world. All the people who enter this marvellous world will be renewed, and righteous. Their relationship with the Father is established in righteousness.

Revelation 21:1 - 5: - "**And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away**; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, **new Jerusalem**, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, **Behold, the tabernacle of God [is] with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, [and be] their God**. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: **for the former things are passed away**. And he that sat upon the throne said, **Behold, I make all things new**. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful."

NOTE: - The promise contained in VS. 3 where John states that "*they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, [and be] their God*", is the ultimate fulfilment of one of the promises of the New Covenant, made by the Lord in Jeremiah 31:33 - "*and will be their God, and they shall be my people*".

Zechariah 8:7, 8: - "Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Behold, I will save my people from the east country, and from the west country; And I will bring them, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: **and they shall be my people, and I will be their God, in truth and in righteousness.**"

Those who have worked righteousness will dwell in the new land, and in the tabernacle of God.

Psalms 15:1, 2: - "**LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?** He that walketh uprightly, **and worketh righteousness**, and speaketh the truth in his heart."

Psalms 37:29 - 31: - **“The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein for ever. The mouth of the righteous speaketh wisdom, and his tongue talketh of judgment. The law of his God [is] in his heart; none of his steps shall slide.”**

THEREFORE, WHAT IS RIGHTEOUSNESS?

What does the Bible define as God’s righteousness?

Psalms 119:172: - **“My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments [are] righteousness.”**

All of God’s commandments are righteousness! The commandments of God are therefore found in the New Heavens and New Earth. They are the ruling principle present in the lives of **all** who dwell there. Righteousness dwells in the New Earth through the lives of the righteous. He that doeth righteousness is righteous; and those who do God’s righteous Commandments will enter into God’s Holy City, the capital of the New Heaven and the New Earth – the New Jerusalem.

Isaiah 51:6 - 8: - **“Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look upon the earth beneath: for the heavens shall vanish away like smoke, and the earth shall wax old like a garment, and they that dwell therein shall die in like manner: but my salvation shall be for ever, and my righteousness shall not be abolished. Hearken unto me, ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart [is] my law; fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings. For the moth shall eat them up like a garment, and the worm shall eat them like wool: but my righteousness shall be for ever, and my salvation from generation to generation.”**

1 John 3:7: - **“Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.”**

Isaiah 26:1, 2: - **“In that day shall this song be sung in the land of Judah; We have a strong city; salvation will [God] appoint [for] walls and bulwarks. Open ye the gates, that the righteous nation which keepeth the truth may enter in.”**

Revelation 22:14: - **“Blessed [are] they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.”**

God’s righteousness is upon those that **“remember his commandments to do them”**. The righteousness of God is given unto the obedient commandment-keeping children, who have appreciated and accepted Christ’s effort and sacrifice. They show this, by turning from sin, and by obeying God’s Law.

Psalms 103:17 - 20: - **“But the mercy of the LORD [is] from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children’s children; to such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them. The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all. Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.”**

NOTE: - Those that do this are fitted for the company of the commandment-keeping angels in heaven. The children of God have made the commandments of God their rule of life on this present earth, amidst the darkness and vileness of a sin contaminated planet, and so therefore they are accounted worthy to inhabit the new world wherein righteousness dwells.

As we read in the above passage, **the angels of God keep his righteous commandments**. They already dwell in the perfect righteousness of heaven. Their example is one that mankind should take note of, for in the resurrection, the people of God will be as the angels.

Matthew 22:30: - **“For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.”**

Isaiah 33:5: - **“The LORD is exalted; for he dwelleth on high: he hath filled Zion with judgment and righteousness.”**

At the second coming of Christ, all the heavens shall declare God's righteousness. We should earnestly desire to be found at that day without spot, and blameless in regards to God's righteousness.

Psalms 50:3 - 6: - "Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him. He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that he may judge his people. Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice. **And the heavens shall declare his righteousness: for God [is] judge himself. Selah.**"

Psalms 97:5, 6: - "The hills melted like wax at the presence of the LORD, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth. **The heavens declare his righteousness, and all the people see his glory.**"

Paul's tried confidence for that day, was based upon the fact that he had indeed been a Law abiding follower of the Lord. He knew that he could comfortably live in a land filled with righteousness, and accept a crown of righteousness with good conscience, for he had kept the Law of God.

Acts 25:7, 8: - "And when he was come, the Jews which came down from Jerusalem stood round about, and laid many and grievous complaints against **Paul**, which they could not prove. **While he answered for himself, Neither against the law of the Jews**, neither against the temple, nor yet against Caesar, **have I offended any thing at all.**"

2 Timothy 4: 7, 8: - "**I have fought a good fight**, I have finished [my] course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me **a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.**"

Paul fought all his life against the carnal sinful flesh. He served God's Law from the mind and heart, by the strength he found in Jesus Christ.

Romans 7:22 - 25: - "**For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:** But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. **So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.**"

NEW PERSON FOR A NEW WORLD!

Isaiah 65:17: - "**For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.**"

What is the one thing God does not want to remember? The sins of humanity. The sins that cost the sacrifice of his own dear son! This is why God wants his people to turn from their sins, and keep his law from the heart. God promises in the New Covenant, to help us do this, by writing his law upon our hearts. **The Law does not change.** It is just written upon a different medium – the fleshy tables of the heart.

Jeremiah 31:33, 34: - "But this [shall be] the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, **I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.** And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, **and I will remember their sin no more.**"

2 Corinthians 3:3: - "[**Forasmuch as ye are**] manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart."

Psalms 119:34, 35: - "Give me understanding, **and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with [my] whole heart. Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight.**"

Only a new man can enter into the new earth filled with righteousness. Like the new earth, all the old things must pass away, and be recreated. The new man in Christ is created in righteousness.

2 Corinthians 5:17: - **“Therefore if any man [be] in Christ, [he is] a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”**

Colossians 3:9, 10: - **“Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new [man], which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.”**

Ephesians 4:24: - **“And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”**

JESUS WANTS US TO PREPARE FOR THE NEW EARTH: -

Does Jesus love God's righteousness? Is he in anyway opposed to God's Commandments? NO!

Hebrews 1:8, 9: - **“But unto the Son [he saith], Thy throne, O God, [is] for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness [is] the sceptre of thy kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, [even] thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.”**

Psalms 11:7: - **“For the righteous LORD loveth righteousness; his countenance doth behold the upright.”**

Psalms 146:8: - **“The LORD openeth [the eyes of] the blind: the LORD raiseth them that are bowed down: the LORD loveth the righteous.”**

Psalms 40:7, 8: - **“Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book [it is] written of me, I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law [is] within my heart.”**

Does Jesus want people to continue in sin? Here is what Jesus said to two people who had been forgiven through His name!

John 5:14: - **“... Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.”**

John 8:11: - **“... Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.”**

Jesus wants us to seek a place in God's kingdom and also to seek for God's righteousness.

Matthew 6:33: - **“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”**

Is the righteousness of God worth striving for, no matter what the consequences are here on earth?

Matthew 5:10: - **“Blessed [are] they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”**

Is this a salvation issue?

Matthew 5:18 - 20: - **“For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach [them], the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed [the righteousness] of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.”**

The righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees consisted in the outward appearance of observing the letter of God's Law, while in their hearts or minds they were at variance with the righteous principles of God's Law.

Matthew 23:27, 28: - **“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead [men's] bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.”**

Jesus in his Sermon on the Mount teaches us that he wants our hearts or minds to be in harmony with the principles of the Law of God, and thus fulfil the New Covenant promise.

Matthew 5:27, 28: - "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, **That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.**"

Matthew 13:41 - 43: - "The Son of man shall send forth his angels, **and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father.** Who hath ears to hear, let him hear."

THE APOSTLES TEACH THE PRIORITY OF SERVING CHRIST IN RIGHTEOUSNESS!

Paul confirmed his Lord's teachings in his writings. He wanted us all to follow righteousness.

Romans 14:17, 18: - "**For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. For he that in these things serveth Christ [is] acceptable to God, and approved of men.**"

Romans 6:1 - 7: - "What shall we say then? **Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid.** How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also [in the likeness] of [his] resurrection: **Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with [him], that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.** For he that is dead is freed from sin."

Romans 6:11 - 18: - "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be **dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it** in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members [as] instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members [as] instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. What then? **shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.**"

John agrees with the teachings of Christ, and Paul.

1 John 2:1 - 4: - "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for [the sins of] the whole world. **And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.**"

1 John 3:4 - 7: - "**Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him. Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.**"

1 John 5:2, 3: - "**By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.**"

Peter also speaks the same.

Acts 10:34, 35: - "Then Peter opened [his] mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: **But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.**"

What therefore is the power behind a message that does away with God's righteousness Commandments?

1 John 3:8, 10: - "**He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning.** For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. ... In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: **whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God**, neither he that loveth not his brother."

The New Heavens and New Earth will be filled with the righteousness of God! God's righteousness dwells in heaven through the lives of commandment keepers, and is found in the Seventh day Sabbath observers, i.e. angels and redeemed saints, who will worship God, every Sabbath day.

Isaiah 66:22, 23: - "For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain. **And it shall come to pass, [that] from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD.**"