



JESUS & THE SOUL

Our Partnership with God

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Revelation 21:1-5

Dave Lomas

Revelation 21:1-5

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. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 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. ‘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.” He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!”

Renewal is what God is doing in the world.

We do not bring renewal. We join the renewal God is already bringing.

Two Part Gospel

1. Born a sinner, bound for hell
2. Jesus saves, get to go to heaven

“Christianity is seen as the way to personal forgiveness, peace, inner strength but not an interpretation of reality that effects every single thing we do.”

- Tim Keller

The Whole Gospel

Creation: God created the world as good, I was made in God’s image

Fall: Sin entered the world through disobedience

Redemption: Life and the availability of God’s presence through Jesus

Restoration: The renewal of all things

Genesis 1:27-31

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.” Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so. God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

“In Genesis, God gives what we might call the first job description: ‘Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it.’ The first phrase, ‘be fruitful and multiply,’ means to develop the social world: build families, churches, schools, cities, governments, laws. The second phrase, ‘subdue the earth,’ means to harness the natural world: plant crops, build bridges, design computers, compose music. This passage is sometimes called the Cultural Mandate because it tells us that our original purpose was to create cultures, build civilizations—nothing less.”

- Nancy Pearcey, *Total Truth*

The end of the story is the beginning of our calling.

How Christians Have Historically Tried to Act in Culture:

Condemn Culture

Critique Culture

Copy Culture

Consume Culture

False Starts to Culture Making:

Evangelism as a Cultural Strategy

Politics as Cultural Strategy

“For the Christian, if there is a possibility for human flourishing in a world such as ours, it begins when God’s word of love becomes flesh in us, is embodied in us, is enacted through us and in doing so, a trust is forged between the word spoken and the reality to which it speaks; to the words we speak and the realities to which we, the church, point. In all, presence and place matter decisively.”

- James Davison Hunter, *To Change the World*

How do we join God in the renewal He’s bringing into the world?

Integration Through Faithful Presence

Colossians 3:23

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.

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Integration Through a Faithful Presence to Each Other

Integration Through a Faithful Presence to Our Tasks

Integration Through a Faithful Presence to Our Spheres of Influence