

Sermon outline and notes:

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Revelation 3:12; 20:3; 21:4; 22:3 “What Will Be No More”

Intro. The title of my message today is, “What Will Be No More.” I’m talking about what will be no more when we get to heaven. A few times in the Bible heaven is called Paradise. Surely it will be a wonderful place. One reason is because of what will be no more.

I wonder what you hope will be no more when we get to heaven? Could I suggest a few? Let’s start with something annoying. I believe there will be no more mosquitoes. Did I tell you about the time my family & the Wheelers were vacationing the same time in Emerald Isle? I took Andrew & Alex to play golf. I found a really nice course, and even though we had to drive about 30 miles, they had the best deal around for a green fee. By the time we finished the first hole, we found out why they had such a good deal. The mosquitoes were everywhere! We were constantly swatting mosquitoes while playing, and by the time we finished the round, we were covered with mosquito bites! Andrew counted some 200 bites just on one leg! Surely, there will be no more mosquitoes in heaven.

On a more serious note, there will be no more hunger in heaven. There will be no more cancer in heaven. There will be no more disabilities in heaven. There will be no more earthquakes, or war in heaven. There will be no more abuse of any kind, to anybody. There will be no more bills, or bill collectors. Heaven will be a wonderful place.

Yet for now, life is full of troubles. Job 5:7 says, “Yet man is born to trouble, as the sparks fly upward.” But I have good news. Though the book of Revelation tells us of even more troubles in the end times, it also gives us hope of a better day, and a better place. It tells us of other things that will be no more. I hope this message will give you hope as you go through the difficulties of life. The apostle Peter admonishes us to “rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 1:13).

So what is it that will be no more, according to the Book of Revelation? First of all, there will be:

## I. NO MORE DISPLACEMENT FROM OUR HOMES

They say, “There is no place like home.” Have you ever lost your home, or been forced to leave your home? Perhaps you had to leave due to fire and smoke damage. Perhaps you had to leave due to a flood, or some other natural disaster. Tens of thousands of people in Japan have lost their homes recently due to the earthquake & tsunami. Others have lost their homes due to war, and many in America are losing their homes due to job losses. Some lose their home because of separation or divorce. Many senior adults have to move to a new home when they need additional care. But I have good news. The day is coming when we will never again lose our home!

Revelation 3:12 says, “He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. And I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God.”

Jesus is writing to the church of Philadelphia, in Asia Minor. It was one of the great churches of the New Testament period. And the Lord made many wonderful promises to this

church. In v.12 a promise is given to “he who overcomes.” Who is He talking about? 1 John 5:4 says, “For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.” If you have placed your faith in Christ as Savior, you are an overcomer. You have already won the victory over the godless world that opposes Christ. And Christ gives 3 promises in this verse that relate to the hope that we will no more be displaced from our homes.

First, Christ says, “I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God....” Of course, He is not speaking literally, but metaphorically. A pillar is a symbol of strength, permanence, and stability. Have you ever seen some of the ruins of the ancient temples in Greece or elsewhere? Often, what little is still standing would be the pillars of the temple. When this world is judged and destroyed, the Christian will still stand!

Second, Christ says, “and he shall go out no more.” Once you go to heaven, you will be secure in heaven. How well this spoke to these Christians in Philadelphia. This city was built along a fault line. Only 80 years earlier this city had been leveled by an earthquake. The city was also located near a volcano. The people of this city were almost used to having to flee from the city each time the earth quaked, or the volcano erupted. They lived in constant insecurity and fear. Many others have had a similar experience. Even our first parents were driven out from Eden, to water the ground with their tears and their sweat and to be buried beneath its sod. But how blessed it would be to go to a home where they would never have to flee!

Third, the Lord says, “And I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God.” I will focus on the last part of that promise. God will write on us the name of our eternal home, the New Jerusalem. In eternity, no matter where you go throughout the universe, you will always belong to the city of God. And you will never again lose your home.

Illustration:

How shall we respond to these wonderful promises of God? Let us respond with thanksgiving and praise. And if you ever face what it is to be homeless, remember that the time is coming when you will never be homeless again. Jesus said in John 14:2-3, “In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.” But these promises are only for those who have trusted in Christ as Savior. If you haven’t done so, place your faith in Christ today!

Now let’s consider something else that will be no more. Once Jesus comes again, there will be:

## II. NO MORE DEVIL

Ever since the Garden of Eden, the old devil has been causing trouble for mankind. He tempted Eve, and he has been tempting people into sin ever since. He is working to deceive people with false religion, because he wants to drag as many people as possible to hell with him. He not only is a tempter & deceiver, but he is also a destroyer (Revelation 9:11). He loves to incite war. He loves to destroy communities, homes, and lives.

But praise God! The day is coming when the devil will be no more. Turn over to Revelation 20:3. There it says, “and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished.” When Jesus comes again, one thing he will do is remove Satan from this world. He

will cast him “into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him.” The bottomless pit is also called “the abyss” (Gk. *abussos*). It literally refers to a deep hole that seems to have no bottom. Have you ever run across one of those? You can drop a rock into the deep hole, and it is so deep, you don’t hear the rock hit bottom. This is not the lake of fire, which is spoken of in v.10. That will be the devil’s final place of torment. But during the 1,000 year reign of Christ on earth, the devil will be bound in the most secure prison in the entire universe. As a result, there will be a total curbing of Satan’s power and activities.

The devil & his demons know that are destined for the bottomless pit. When the Lord came to a demon possessed person, they would often cry out to Him saying, “Lord, don’t send us into the abyss before the time” (see Luke 8:31). Whatever freedom they now have will come to an end as they are bound in that horrible prison.

Until that day comes, we must face the devil & his demons. But I have good news, even for the present life. James 4:7 promises, “Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” Resist him when he tries to tempt you, or deceive you, or destroy your life, or your home. The devil wants you to believe that you are sure to be defeated by him. But the victory is ours both now, and when Jesus comes again. Romans 16:20 says, “And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly.” Praise the Lord!

Now I have more good news. When Jesus comes again, there will be:

### III. NO MORE SORROW

As soon as sin entered the world, both sorrow and death followed closely behind. To this very day this world is full of sorrow. Think of all the tears & sorrow in Japan the last 10 days or so. And all over the world there is so much sickness, suffering, & death.

But I have good news. Turn over to Revelation 21:4. There it says, “And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” Let’s look at the various causes of sorrow that are mentioned in this text, and the promises that such causes of sorrow will be no more. First, God promises that when Jesus comes again, there will be:

A. No More Pain – Ladies, if you have given birth, you have had pain. If anyone has had kidney stones, or gall stones, you have had pain. If you have had surgery, you have had pain. If you have been injured, you had pain. And when you get a certain age, you probably have aches and pains even when you just get out of bed! But praise God, the day is coming when there will be no more pain. This also means that there will no longer be any treatments for pain needed. There will be no more pain pills, hospitals, or doctor visits.

Dr. George W. Truett visited a church member once who was on his deathbed. He prayed with the man and shook his hand and said, “Friend, you will be better in the morning.” The man looked up at him and said, “Pastor, I won’t be *better* in the morning, I will be *well* in the morning.” And so he was, for the next morning he went to heaven where there is no sickness or pain.

B. No More Death - The greatest enemy of mankind, totally unconquered by science, is death. Have you every heard anyone ask you to donate to anti-death research? We can’t even imagine it. Think of what a great enemy death is. The grim reaper robs us of the presence of our loved ones.

But here the Bible promises that one day, there will be no more death. There will be no more tearful goodbyes to loved ones. There are no graves and no cemeteries. There are no obituary columns in the newspaper. There will be no funeral processions over those golden streets. The Bible says that some day “Death is swallowed up in victory.” I look forward to that day; don’t you?

C. No More Sorrow, Crying & Tears - The word translated “sorrow” (*penthos*) usually refers to mourning a death. The word translated “crying” (*krauge*) usually refers to a loud cry. Have you experienced such mourning & crying? Then there is also a reference to the fact that there will be no more tears. Tears may flow from a loud or silent cry. As long as we are in this life, tears will be in our eyes.

But in our eternal home, God will wipe all tears from our eyes, as He has already promised in 7:17. Literally, it is “every tear,” as if God wipes away every single tear. Imagine that for a moment! God will personally wipe all tears from our eyes, as a loving mother would do for her child.

I remember when I was badly hurt as a child after a bicycle wreck. I also remember how my mother comforted me, and wiped the tears from my eyes, as only a mother can do.

Dear child of God, no matter how badly you are hurt in this life, the day is coming when God will comfort you, and wipe every tear from your eyes, and never again will you weep! What a day that will be!

Argumentation: There’s a reason why there will be no more pain, death, & crying. It is because of what we read in the last of v.4, “for the former things have passed away.” And in the very next verse, Jesus says, “Behold, I make all things new.” Some day the Lord is going to clean house, so to speak. Everything in this old world that has any connection to sin, sorrow, and death will be gone forever. We will then live in a brand new world!

Listen friend. If you do not repent of sin, and place your faith in Jesus Christ, I cannot offer you the end of pain, sorrow, & death. Instead, the Bible warns that you will experience unending pain, sorrow, & death. So place your faith in Jesus, and claim this wonderful promise that for you, too, there will be no more sorrow, no more pain, and no more death.

Finally, when Jesus comes again, there will be:

#### IV. NO MORE CURSE

Our first parents lived in a Paradise. But then sin entered into the world. And sin brought a curse upon us, including sorrow and death. God cursed the woman, saying she would have pain in conception & birth. God cursed the ground, and warned that man would have to work by the sweat of his brow. Then Adam & Eve were barred from Eden, and the tree of Life. Oh, but what a contrast we see in Revelation 22:3, “And there shall be no more curse....”

Why is that? Paul wrote in Galatians 3:13, “Christ has redeemed us from the curse....” So I want you to understand in what ways the curse has been lifted from those who believe in Christ. First:

A. The Curse Has Already Been Removed from the Souls of Believers! – The law of God said, “Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them.” We have all sinned against God’s law, so we were all under a curse. But as we have seen, v.13 says, “Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law....” How did He do

that? Well, the verse go on to say, “having become a curse for us (for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree’).” Jesus Christ was willing to bear the curse in our place. As a result, we have been set free from sin’s curse. We have been forgiven. John 3:18 says, “He who believes in Him is not condemned....”

Jesus is not only the Savior of the soul, but we also read in the book of Revelation that there will be:

B. No More Curse in our Bodies – Our bodies are under the curse of sin. We are subject to sickness, injury, & death. But the day is coming when the curse will be lifted. I have already stated that there will be no more pain, and no more death (21:4). That is because Revelation 20:5-6 speaks of the first resurrection of believers. We will have new incorruptible bodies some day. The curse will be removed.

Finally, Jesus will not only save our souls and our bodies, but the day is coming when there will be:

C. No More Curse on the Earth – Presently the earth & nature groans under the curse of sin. That is why there are earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, droughts, plant diseases, weeds, and destruction by insects. But the day is coming when God will make a new earth, and the curse will be no more. Revelation 21:1 says, “Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.” What I find really interesting is the statement that “there was no more sea.” Many of us like the ocean. It does serve a good purpose. Life as we know it could not exist on this planet apart from the vast oceans that cover our globe. They supply rain to our lands, they keep air temperature stable, the oceans supply delicious seafood, and serve as a recreation area for many.

But oceans also bring death & destruction. Many lives have been lost at sea. Hurricanes & typhoons are born in warm waters of the ocean, & bring much death & destruction. And twice now in just the past 10 years or so, we have witnessed tsunamis in Indonesia and Japan that have killed thousands, and caused so much destruction. In Luke 21:25 Jesus stated that in the end times, people will witness “the sea and the waves roaring.” Evidently, there will be an increase in the amount of destruction coming from raging seas in the end times. So we should not be surprised when John says, perhaps with a sigh of relief, “Also there was no more sea.” By the way, he had seen enough of it when he was exiled on the isle of Patmos!

So here we see that our redemption from sin and its consequences will be complete. Praise the Lord!

Conclusion: So child of God, as you go through troubles, trials, and suffering, just hold on to your faith, have hope, & persevere. They day is coming when all of your troubles will be no more! No more will you ever be displaced from your home. No more will you have the face the devil. No more will you face sorrow, pain, or death. And no more will we & our world bear the curse of sin.

Don’t you want these wonderful promises to apply to you? Then trust in Jesus as your Savior. He is the One who made these wonderful promises, and made the possible.

The book of Revelation was first written to believers who were going through great suffering. As we have seen, God comforted them by telling them what would be no more. Child of God, when you suffer, look to God, claim the promises of His Word, and hold fast to your hope & faith!

Sources: W. A. Criswell, *Expository Sermons on Revelation*, © 1962-1966 by Zondervan Publishing House (3:12; 20:3; 21:4; 22:3); Vance Havner, *Repent or Else! The Seven Churches of Revelation*, © 1958 by Fleming H. Revell Co. (3:12); George Eldon Ladd, *A Commentary on the Revelation of John*, © 1972 by Eerdmans Publishing Co. (20:3; 21:4; 22:3); Hal Lindsey, *There's a New World Coming*, © 1973 by Vision House publishers (20:3; 21:4; 22:3); Robert H. Mounce, *The New International Commentary, The Book of Revelation*, © 1977 by Eerdmans Publishing Co. (3:12); John MacArthur, Jr., *The Church in Prophetic Perspective* (Rev. 2-3), © 1985 by Author, Word of Grace Communications (3:12); J. Vernon McGee, *Thru The Bible*, Vol. 5 (Pasadena: Thru The Bible Radio, 1983) on 20:3; 22:3; Dr. James Merritt (notes from his sermon on 21:4); Robert H. Mounce, *The New International Commentary, The Book of Revelation*, © 1977 by Eerdmans Publishing Co. (22:3); John Philips, *Exploring Revelation*, © 1974 by Moody Bible Institute (3:12; 20:3; 21:4; 22:3); Larry Pierce, *Online Bible* [CD-ROM] (Ontario: Timnathserah Inc., 1996); Jack Van Impe, *Revelation Revealed* (Windsor, Ontario: Van Impe Ministries, 1982) on 22:3; Jerry Vines (notes from his sermon on 22:3); John F. Walvoord, *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*, © 1966 by Moody Bible Institute (20:3; 21:4; 22:3); Warren W. Wiersbe, *"Be" Series: New Testament Volumes 1 & 2: Book* (Wheaton: Victor Books, 1989) on 21:4. Other sources listed in the footnotes. Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from *The New King James Version* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1982).