

In our last podcast, we discussed the fact that in our ETERNITHG NOW and our ETERNITY THEN there will no longer be a sea. Instead of the crazy churning of the waves in the depths of our soul, we can know peace, the one who is our Prince of Peace. In fact, knowing Him by His name **Yahweh Shalom** and entering into His rest is the determining factor for one to be part of the **Called and Chosen and Faithful**. Yes, the wife of Christ learns to quite her soul, such that there is no more crashing waves of the sea, the waves of fear, anxiety, dread, and confusion. Now, let's pick back up with God's plan for renewal and healing.

EP177 Revelation 21:4-5

Renewal & Healing

Revelation 21:4

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

Former Things Passed Away

Starting from the last little phrase, "*for the former things have passed away,*" and then looking at the list of what has passed: tears, death, mourning, crying, and pain, we can begin to put together a small picture of **ETERNITY THEN**.

What is odd, however, is that though there is a whole list of things that will be done in the future, the **Code** renders the phrase, "*for the former things have passed away,*" in the *past* tense.¹ The former things have passed away and being rendered in the *indicative* mood, it is to be understood as a statement of fact! Because the former things have passed away, the future events will transpire; there will be no more tears, death, mourning, crying, and pain.

So, that begs the question, what has passed away?

"*The former things have passed away*" is a reference to the old covenant of the law and the exchange of the old for the new covenant of the Spirit, the covenant of **unrestrained freedom**, where our adequacy is from God, and we are servants of the new covenant, not of the letter of the law but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.²

And "*when He **now** says, 'a new,' He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is **now** caused to be becoming obsolete and **now** growing old is ready to disappear.*"³ He has made the first covenant of the law obsolete, and it has disappeared freeing us to experience new life in Christ—a life lived in **unrestrained freedom** from the law and all the sin and death which the law provokes in our being. It is also fascinating to note that "*disappear*" is not a *verb*, rather it is a *noun*. This means that the old covenant exists in an

¹ "... passed away" is rendered in the *aorist active indicative*

² **Galatians 5:1, 13; 2 Corinthians 3:4-6**

³ **Hebrews 8:13**

eternal state of disappearance or vanquishment, never to be revived.

Our life under the new covenant is to be a life experienced through our **New Creation** where we are given the opportunity, and we are empowered, to know His peace and rest and to abide in His joy, confident that our **ETERNITY THEN** will be beyond our wildest imagination, for it will be without tears, death, mourning, crying, and pain. That is our assurance; that is our **HOPE**. That is our commitment from the one whose word is true.

Heavenly Tenderness: Wipe Away Every Tear

“He will in the **future** wipe away every tear from their eyes.” This is a very interesting statement and comes from a promise found in **Isaiah 25:8** which says that **Adonai Yahweh** will wipe away tears from all their faces. It is also a promise previously made about the 144,000, those who even now choose to be coming out of the great tribulation, those who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Revelation 7:15-17

For this reason, they are **now** before the throne of God; and they **now** serve Him day and night in His Sanctuary; and He who chooses to **now** be sitting on the throne will in the **future** tabernacle among them. They will in the **future** hunger no longer, nor in the **future** thirst anymore; nor may the light of the sun beat down on them, nor any heat; for the Lamb in the center of the throne will in the **future** be their shepherd and will in the **future** guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will in the **future** wipe every tear from their eyes.

The idea, however, is not that He will just pat our faces dry as the tears roll down our cheeks and say, “there, there my little one.” Rather, it is the idea that He will remove all cause or reason for tears.

Being rendered in the **future** tense, this is a promise that will be fulfilled when **Yahweh** tabernacles with His people. But what is fascinating is that the Greek word (“*exaleipho*”) that is translated as “wipe away” or “blot,” while picturesque and tender, does not come close to capturing the full and phenomenal picture being communicated.

The Greek word “*ex*” means from the point of origin, and the word “*aleipho*” means to oil or literally to anoint. In fact, it is translated as anoint throughout the New Testament, for example when Mary anointed Jesus’ head and feet.⁴ He will in the **future**, from the very point of origin anoint, every tear from their eyes.

Jesus will reach into the very depth of our wounds, the origin of our tears, and anoint those places in our soul that have been the source of our pain and torment and tears. He will in effect, bring healing to all our wounds, which as we have learned, He Himself caused. As He says, “*See now that there is no god*

⁴ **Matthew 6:17; Mark 6:13, 16:1; Luke 7:38, 46; John 11:12, 12:3; James 5:14**

*besides Me; it is I who put to death and give life. I have wounded and it is I who heal.”*⁵ And in so doing, He will remove any reason or cause for tears in our **ETERNITY THEN**. How cool is that? Our **ETERNITY THEN** will be tear-free because all the reasons for tears will have been anointed with the precious oil of the Spirit and healed. On that day, we will know personally and intimately, the name **Yahweh Rapha, Yahweh** who heals.⁶

Many of us have wrestled so much with the traumas we have incurred in our life, and it has often felt like our wounds, the origin of our pain and our tears, will never be completely healed. But in the future, He will anoint even the smallest of wounds with oil and heal every cause for our tears. This is an intensely personal and intimate promise that packs far more punch than just simply *“He will wipe away every tear from their eye.”* Our **ETERNITY THEN** is going to be fantastic.

Isaiah 25:8-9

He will swallow up death for all time, and **Adonai Yahweh will wipe tears** away from all faces, and He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth; for **Yahweh** has spoken. And it will be said in that day, *“Behold, this is our Gods for whom we have waited that He will save us. This is **Yahweh** for whom we have waited; let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation.”*

No Death, Mourning, Crying, or Pain

*“... and death will in the **future** choose to be no more, neither will there in the **future** choose to be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore...”* Once again rendered in the *future* tense, we know this is addressing our **ETERNITY THEN**. In our now, “death” has given rise to tears, mourning, crying, and the most intense pain, but then, no longer will it have any power over our lives.

Think of all that we have known and experienced in our shared humanity. The struggle brought upon by the curse which plagued all creation, our fight against sin and death, our fight against others as their *flesh* conflicted with our *flesh*, the weakness, frailty, and sickness in our bodies, as well as the tragedy, the disappointment, and the overall failings of life. The sadness, the remorse, the depression, the loneliness, the desperation, the lack of fulfillment, the oppression, and so on.

Then there has been the treachery and behind-the-back experiences, the broken promises, missed commitments, unfulfilled expectations, the betrayals, the condemnation, judgment, abandonment, division, the lies, and the omissions. The hunger, and thirst, the desire, and the temptations. The calamity, sudden tragedies, the poverty, misery, suffering, want, the addictions, and the general misfortune that no one escapes. And of course, there has been the sick love for religion resulting in all the ways that we have strived, struggled, and tried so hard to be good for God, to be good Christians.

The flesh expresses itself in all these terrible ways, and that is why the mind set on the flesh is death, a life experience that gives rise to the tears, mourning, crying, and the most intense pain, which is all just

⁵ *Deuteronomy 32:39. See also Job 6:17-18, 36:15; Isaiah 5:25, 60:10; Jeremiah 30:12-15; Lamentations 3; Hosea 6:1*

⁶ *Exodus 15:26; Deuteronomy 32:39; Psalm 147:3*

a taste, a foreshadowing, of eternal death.⁷ But for those who walk in the Spirit, those who are now found to be believing, even this this foe is vanquished from their eternity. The **Codex** confirms that in Jesus' epic conquest to redeem humanity, "*the last enemy that will **now** be caused to be abolished will be death.*"⁸ Again, this pulls from **Isaiah 25**.

Isaiah 25:8

He will swallow up death for all time, and **Yahweh Adonai** will wipe tears away from all faces, and He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth; for **Yahweh** has spoken.

The removal of death, for all time, is the guarantee and assurance that the wife of Jesus will not just live forever, but she will live forever in sweet victory. The bondservants of Jesus Christ have spent years and years suffering though mourning, crying, pain, and death. But In **ETERNITY THEN**, they will bask in the fact that Jesus has swallowed up death for all time. And as an added extra blessing, He will go to the source of their tears and anoint it with the sweet oil of the Spirit, anointing the tears from all faces. This is the promise of the new covenant, *for the former things have passed away*.

The Power of Choice: Death

"... and death will in the **future** choose to be no more..." It seems odd that "death" has a choice in terms of its very existence, but this is rendered in the *middle* voice indicating that the subject, "death," acts in relation to itself. Is this just colorful prose, or is it communicating a message?

Beyond the cessation of physical life, as we understand "death" in our western mindset, we learned in **Revelation 6:7-8** that "death" is a spirit being, some sort of angelic creature. At the opening of the Fourth Seal, we were introduced to the spirit being who is named "death." He is the angelic creature that is followed by the spirit being who is named "Hades." Beyond the natural cessation of life that both men and animals experience, authority was caused to be given to death and hades over a fourth of the earth to kill with sword and with hunger and with death and with the beasts of the earth. This is a reminder that all things in our physical realm are enacted upon by that which exists in the spiritual realm.

The Spirit of God has told us that the last adversary now caused to be destroyed is death, for death will be swallowed up in victory, for all time.⁹ And because of the overwhelming victory of the bondservants of Jesus Christ, those who have put on the imperishable, the immortal, death will make the choice to be no more. It will put down its sword, for its spiritual assignment will have been finished.

The Power of Choice: Mourning, Crying, Pain

"... neither will there in the **future** choose to be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore..." Surprisingly, this is a string of nouns, not verbs. It is not to be understood as a series of actions, but a commentary on existence.

- Mourning is a state of sadness, sorrow or grief.

⁷ See **Romans 8:6-7**

⁸ **1 Corinthians 15:26**

⁹ **1 Corinthians 15:53-55**

- Crying is a physical expression of mourning.
- Pain is the impetus behind both mourning and crying.

Like all of humanity, in our **ETERNITY NOW**, even the people of God exist with **pain** or anguish; it is a thing, it is a constant, it is a plague which inflicts us physically, mentally, and emotionally. Our pain creates or stirs up this state of **mourning** where the human soul exists in a state of sorrow. The joys of life are short lived as are its pleasures. The law of diminishing returns is a sad reality when it comes to joy and pleasure. But an ever constant of the human experience is sorrow. And this sorrow or mourning creates or stirs up this state of clamor or outcry. The Greek word translated as “crying” comes from the cry or the croak of a raven. It refers to a loud clamor.

Once again, we must address this issue of **choice**. Different than “*death*” who chooses to act upon itself, there will in the future choose to be no more mourning, clamor, or pain. It’s as if the Spirit is saying that those who are destined for **ETERNITY THEN** will no longer be defined by mourning, crying, or pain because when He anoints the very source of our tears, our deepest wounds, He will relieve us of our pain as He brings healing into the depth of our being. As a result, mourning and crying will be exchanged for gladness and joy. And where there is gladness and joy in **Yahweh**, sorrow and sighing will flee away, or literally vanish.

Isaiah 35:10 (and 51:11)

And the ransomed of **Yahweh** will return and come with joyful shouting to Zion, with everlasting joy upon their heads. They will find gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing will flee away {vanish}.

Isaiah 65:13-19

Therefore, thus says **Yahweh Adonai**, “Behold, My servants will eat, but you will be hungry. Behold, My servants will drink, but you will be thirsty. Behold, My servants will rejoice, but you will be put to shame. Behold, My servants will shout joyfully with a glad heart, but you will cry out with a heavy heart, and you will wail with a broken spirit. You will leave your name for a curse to My chosen ones, and **Yahweh Adonai** will slay you.

But My servants will be called by another name. Because he who is blessed in the earth will be blessed by the God of truth; and he who swears in the earth will swear by the God of truth; **because the former troubles are forgotten, and because they are hidden from My sight!**

For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and **the former things will not be remembered or come to mind**. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem for rejoicing and her people for gladness. I will also rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in My people; **and there will no longer be heard in her the voice of weeping and the sound of crying.”**

Forever may be something very hard to wrap our heads around, especially given that our now is filled with so much death, mourning, crying, pain, and suffering. But the promise is certain. **Yahweh’s** bondservants will be a city of gladness, happiness, joy, and rejoicing for all eternity. That is their destiny.

After all, *"In His presence is fullness of joy and at His right hand are pleasures forevermore."*¹⁰

What a crazy unfathomable thought: to always and always and always be glad and joyful and rapturously indulgent in His pleasures. Wow! No more of this dreadful, difficult, hard existence. All that to us even now seems so big and monumental, we will forget. It will all just fade away into oblivion. It will vanish. God will see to it, for *the former things will have passed away.*

He Makes All Things New

Revelation 21:5

And He who chooses to **now** be sitting on the throne said, "Behold, I **now** make all things new."

Jesus intervenes in this scene and provides His own brief commentary. However, the Spirit makes sure that we know that Jesus even *now* chooses to be sitting on the throne occupying this position of greatest authority.¹¹ His point is that since Jesus is on this throne of ultimate prominence, *"far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is now caused to being named, not only in this age but also in the one that is now coming,"* where all things are in subjection to Him, we can trust what He says.¹² When He speaks it is authoritative and firm. We can "take-it-to-the-bank," so-to-speak. Thus, this statement about making all things new is faithful and true.

The phrase translated as "Behold" is a command for us to dig down deep in our soul and to pay attention, look, see, understand.¹³ In other words, He does not want us to miss or gloss over this statement about Him now making all things new. The troubles, mourning, crying, and pain we now endure might cause us to miss, **forget**, or even downplay the importance of this powerful statement.

He **said**, rendered in the past tense, *"Behold, I now make all things new."* This is one of the rare and odd times in the book of **Revelation** that when God speaks, it is not rendered in the *present* tense (now says) or not as a *present participle* (now saying). And it is even a different word than what we will find in the very next verse where we are told *"And He now says, "You are commanded to write, for these words now are faithful and true."*

In this instance, the Greek word translated "said" is *"epo"* and in the next instance it is *"lego."* The word *"epo"* is only ever used in the definite past tense, "said," whereas *"lego"* is more of an expression of words and as we will see it is rendered here in the *present* tense.

Well, that begs the question, when did Jesus say something to the effect that He now makes all things new, something in the past? We must turn to the book of **Isaiah** to find this truth.

¹⁰ **Psalm 16:11**

¹¹ "sits" is rendered in the *present middle participle*

¹² Ephesians 1:21

¹³ "Behold" is rendered as a singular *imperative* in the *middle voice*

Isaiah 42:8-9

I am **Yahweh**, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, nor My praise to graven images. Behold, the former things have come to pass, **now** I declare new things; before they spring forth, I proclaim them to you."

Isaiah 43:18-19

Do not call to mind the former things or ponder things of the past. Behold, *I will do something new, now it will spring forth*; will you not be aware of it?

Isaiah 48:6-8

I proclaim to you new things from this time, even hidden things which you have not known. They are created **now** and not long ago; and before today you have not heard them, so that you will not say, 'Behold, I knew them.' You have not heard, you have not known.

So, what are these new things? The **Codex** gives us a pretty good list of that which is made new.

New Wine | New Spirit:**Ezekiel 11:19-21**

And I will give them one heart and put a **new spirit** within them. And I will take the heart of stone out of their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in My statutes and keep My ordinances and do them. Then they will be My people, and I shall be their God.

Ezekiel 36:26-28

Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a **new spirit** within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. **I will put My Spirit within you** and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.

Matthew 9:16-17

But no one puts a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; for the patch pulls away from the garment, and a worse tear results. Nor do people put new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the wineskins burst, and the wine pours out and the wineskins are ruined; but they put **new wine** into fresh wineskins, and both are preserved.

This new wine is that new spirit, **Yahweh's** Spirit, which He promised to put within His people. "Now, if anyone does not **now** have the Spirit of Christ, he does not **now** belong to Him."¹⁴ As such, a true believer is identified by this new wine.

New Wineskins: The New Creation | New Self.

Regarding this new wine (or "new spirit"), Jesus says that people do not put new wine into old wineskins lest the old wineskins burst open spilling out the wine. Rather, new wine is put into new wineskins, and both are preserved.¹⁵ This was a metaphor speaking of the fact that God was not going to put the Holy Spirit (imaged through the new wine) into these old containers of humanity, we simply could not handle the presence of perfection in our fallen bodies of flesh. Rather, He would make a new container, a new heart, to hold the Spirit of God, so that both would be preserved.

With this metaphor, Jesus was looking forward to the giving of the Holy Spirit to live within every person who is born again, noting that the Spirit would not house Himself in their bodies, or their hearts of stone, but He would contain Himself in what is referred to in the New Testament as the *New Creation* sometimes translated as *New Self* or *New Man*. This New Man stands in stark contrast to the Old Man of flesh.

This New Creation is created in the likeness of God, righteous and in the holiness of truth.¹⁶ Thus, if any man is found to be "*in Christ*" they are a New Creation.¹⁷ However, this phrase "*in Christ*" means so much more than our modern-day westernized Christianity understands. The westernized version of Christianity states that if a person prays to receive Jesus and are born again, then they are "*in Christ*." Yet, everything we have learned in **Revelation** with the division between the Accursed, the Called, and the Called and Chosen who are in the Temple of God, and the **Called and Chosen and Faithful** who are now overcoming and are found to now be worshipping in the Sanctuary, bearing the oil of the Spirit, would militate against that understanding.

To be "*in Christ*" is best understood when a person has been **willing** to let the Spirit of God conquer his or her flesh, their Old Man, and dismantle every structure, and put down every part of them, that does not want Jesus to be their **Adonai**, their Lord and Master, and his or her **I AM** – the source for all things all the time. As the Spirit said in **Romans 8:13**, "For if after the flesh you **now** live, you **now** shall **now** die; but if through the Spirit the deeds of the body you **now** kill (or put to death), you will in the **future** choose to live." Life is a result of choosing death, not just saying a prayer. It would be nice if once we accepted Christ and were born again that we never again have to struggle with the *flesh* (our Old Man) because we were made into a New Creation. But that is just not the case. When we are born again, we are given the authority or the power to choose to be "*in Christ*," through death, so that we may in the future choose to live.¹⁸

¹⁴ **Romans 8:9**

¹⁵ **Matthew 9:17; Mark 2:22**

¹⁶ **Ephesians 4:24**

¹⁷ **2 Corinthians 5:17**

¹⁸ See also **John 1:12** where those who are **now** believing on His name and who have received Him (Jesus) are given the authority to choose (rendered in the *middle voice*) to *become* a son of God. They are not automatically a son just because they received Jesus and are **now** believing. They still must choose to exercise the authority they are given

As to these “deeds” of the body, the Spirit says, “But now you are commanded to choose to put away (literally, to apostatize or fall away from) *these things: all anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, vile talk out of your mouth. You are commanded to choose to not **now** lie to one another, for you have chosen to be putting off the old man with his deeds and have chosen to be putting on the **new** which is **now** caused to being renewed in knowledge of the image of Him that had been creating him.*”¹⁹

To be “in Christ” speaks of that person who chooses to be a little child, looking to Jesus as their source, willing to let Him do what He needs to do to make them His **Called and Chosen and Faithful** ones. And like a branch clinging to a vine for its very existence, he or she clings to Jesus knowing that without Him he or she can do nothing.²⁰

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, a New Creation. The old things have passed away and new things have come.”²¹ He now makes all things new.

Why is this New Creation so important?

The whole concept of this New Creation, this container that is the dwelling place of the Spirit of God, underscores the foundational truth that **Only God is Good**. Yes, everything always circles around to the source, to this truth: **Only God is Good!**

For God’s people to do good or to express out of their lives anything that is good, it must come from His presence in our lives. When through conquest and our willingness to let God put to death that which resists His rule in our lives, over time this New Creation occupies more and more of our heart, mind, body, and soul. For those who are in Christ Jesus have crucified, or impaled, the flesh with its passions and desires.²² This is a simple statement of fact. Those who have not, are not yet “in Christ.” This quote from **Galatians** dismantles or explodes the lies of modern Christianity. One must have crucified or impaled the flesh with its passions and desires to be “in Christ.”

For those who now live in the Spirit and now walk in the Spirit, the fruit of the Spirit is produced from their lives, the fruit of God’s *agape* love. *Agape* love, expressed in the now, in the moment, is the evidence of our being found to be “in Christ.” This fruit is the product of our living in desperation for all that He is and all that He has for us. Just like a branch that clings to the vine for all its nutrients, so are we to cling to Jesus. And what does this fruit of *agape* love look like and taste like? Joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.²³

It all starts off with Christ entering us when we are born again, as His Spirit takes up residence in the New Creation. Then as we are *willing* to die to live, the Spirit will conquer and subdue our flesh, until we are able to honestly proclaim, “I have been caused to be crucified, I **now** live, but no longer I who **now** live but Christ in me; and the life which I **now** live in the flesh, I **now** live by faith in the son of God who was loving me and was giving Himself for me.” Though death we make the choice to in the future live, and to be found to be “in Christ” ruled and dominated by that which is new.

to be that son, to be found “in Christ.” The pathway is death. You’ve got to die to live.

¹⁹ **Colossians 3:8-10**

²⁰ See **Matthew 18:3; John 15:1-11**

²¹ See **2 Corinthians 5:17**

²² **Galatians 5:24**

²³ **Galatians 5:22, 25**

Renewed mind.

In that regard, Jesus promises that if we let Him, the Spirit will transform our mind, such that we will have a **renewed** mind, that we may now prove out that good, acceptable, and perfect will of God. A renewed mind comes when we are willing to present our bodies as a living sacrifice on the altar of God. Similar in meaning to the cross, the altar is a more Jewish picture of the truth that we've got to die to live.

Once again, this speaks of our *willingness* to let the Spirit of God, in His discretion and timing, conquer and subdue our flesh and dismantle every structure within us that does not want Jesus to be our **Adonai**, our Lord and Master, and our **I AM** – the source for all things all the time. It all comes through our *willingness* to be that sacrifice, then He takes action to renew our mind.

Romans 12:1-2

Therefore, I **now** urge you, brethren, *brethren*, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a **now** living holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. You are commanded to **now** not be caused to be conformed to this world, but you are commanded to **now** be caused to be transformed **by the renovation of your mind**, so that you may **now** prove what the will of God, that good and acceptable and perfect.

Colossians 3:8-10

But now you are commanded to choose to put away (literally, to apostatize or fall away from) these things: all anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, vile talk out of your mouth. You are commanded to choose to not **now** lie to one another, for you have chosen to be putting off the old man with his deeds and have chosen to be putting on the new which is **now** caused to being renewed in knowledge of the image of Him that had been creating him.

This is His goal for our lives, a New Creation with a renovated mind, a mind that has been made new. Renewal and Healing is **Yahweh's** plan for our lives both in our **ETERNITY NOW** and our **ETERNITY THEN**, and it comes down to our *willingness* to let Him destroy everything within us that fights against our renewal and healing.

Let's stop here and next week we will continue with the list of things that He makes new.

I am glad you "tuned in" and have been "ready to listen."