

4th Week of December

I hope for a new heaven and a new earth

- **Text:** Revelation 21:1~4 (December 27 text)
- **Bottom line:** God prepares a new heaven and a new earth for the saved saints.

≡ 1. Praise

내 눈 주의 영광을 보네

≡ 2. Prayer

God, there have been many happy and upsetting things this year, but thank you for being with us in love. Let us glorify You with thanksgiving and praise at this time.

≡ 3. The Word

Read Revelation 21:1~4 together (read the verse 3 times).

* Reading the Word over and over again in different translations will help you to deepen your understanding of the material.

<ESV>

1 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."

<NASB>

1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. 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 tabernacle of God is among the people, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, 4 and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."

Understanding Text

John had a vision of the new heavens and the new earth unfolding and the city of New Jerusalem coming down. In the kingdom of heaven where God dwells, there are no tears, no death, no pain, no sorrow. It's a place of life and joy. Those who endure and keep their faith on this earth will live forever in the new heaven and the new earth that God has prepared for them.

Understanding the text for leaders

John had another vision. A whole new heaven and a new earth that cannot be compared to this world has unfolded. Then, the city of New Jerusalem prepared by God came down. This shows the perfect embodiment of Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14; Mt 1:21~23) when the tabernacle of God descends and accompanies the saints. God is their God, and they are God's people. Where God is with us, there are no tears, no death, no mourning, no pain, no sorrow. It is a new world full of life and a new world where we can fully enjoy the blessings of that life. This is the picture of the nation where the dream of a new heaven and a new earth shown through the prophet Isaiah has been realized (Isaiah 65:17, 19, 25). It also proclaims that the amazing story of salvation in which God made the Israelites His people and became their God goes beyond Israel to all mankind. God, who has made all mankind His people through Jesus Christ, will gather them in the last days and dwell with them forever in the New Jerusalem, the new heaven and the new earth. God, who knows all the death, pain, suffering, and sorrow we experience on this earth, clearly showed us the place where we no longer shed tears and comforted us. Remember that life on this earth is not everything, but that there is an eternal kingdom of God. These words give great hope and comfort to those of us who are struggling in the midst of life's anxiety and pain.

4. Sharing

1) What kind of blessings (grace) do God's children who believe in Jesus enjoy in the new heaven and earth? (verses 3~4)

Upper Grades

What does God promise to do for His people who will be with Him forever? (verses 3~4)

Lower Grades

Who wipes away the tears of God's people when they weep? (verses 3~4)

Question Guide

The greatest blessing that God's children who believe in Jesus will enjoy in the new heavens and earth is that God is with them. Verse 4 introduces the abundance of grace that God gives us when He is with us. Find out what kind of grace you will enjoy in God, and think about how you can taste that grace on this earth.

□ Comments for Leaders

The new heavens, the new earth, and the New Jerusalem are the places where God and His people will live together forever. Life on this earth is imperfect, so there are always things that bring tears to our eyes. However, in New Jerusalem, the tabernacle where God dwells forever, there is no death, pain, pain, or sorrow, so there is no need to shed tears. With God with us, we can have perfect happiness and joy. It is the greatest blessing to have God with us.

2) What's been a sad or upset experience you've had recently? I confide in the Lord who will wipe away all my tears and have a longing for heaven in my heart.

■ Upper Grades

What is it that makes you upset or unhappy that you want to tell God who comforts you? Who do I want to share God's love and comfort with today?

■ Lower Grades

How can I act to help my friend feel God's love?

□ Question Guide

If we remember that God is with us and wipes away our tears, we can tell God all about our upset and sad feelings. Encourage each other to confess your heart honestly and experience the comfort that God gives you. And lead them to remember that life on this earth is not everything, and that there is a heaven where there are no tears, sorrows, or pains.

□ Comments for Leaders

God leads us through God the Holy Spirit to enjoy eternal happiness in the new heavens and the new earth. In the world we live in now, there are many sick, poor, and suffering people. Above all, death reigns, so misfortune comes endlessly. But the kingdom of heaven where God dwells is different. There are no tears, no pain, no sorrow, no death. It's full of life and joy. When we suffer on this earth, we must hope for heaven and be strong. Life on this earth is temporary, but heaven is eternal. And remember that God's reward is for those who endure hardships and perseverance on this earth (Revelation 22:12).

≡ 5. Be grateful

Thank God for being with us, comforting us, and giving us hope for a new heaven and a new earth.

≡ 6. Prayer

Thank you, God, for letting us know that life on this earth is not everything, but that there is life in a new heaven and a new earth. When we are suffering from pain, sorrow, and death, please let us have a greater hope for heaven and become a family member who strengthens our faith.

- End the family worship service with the Lord's Prayer.
