



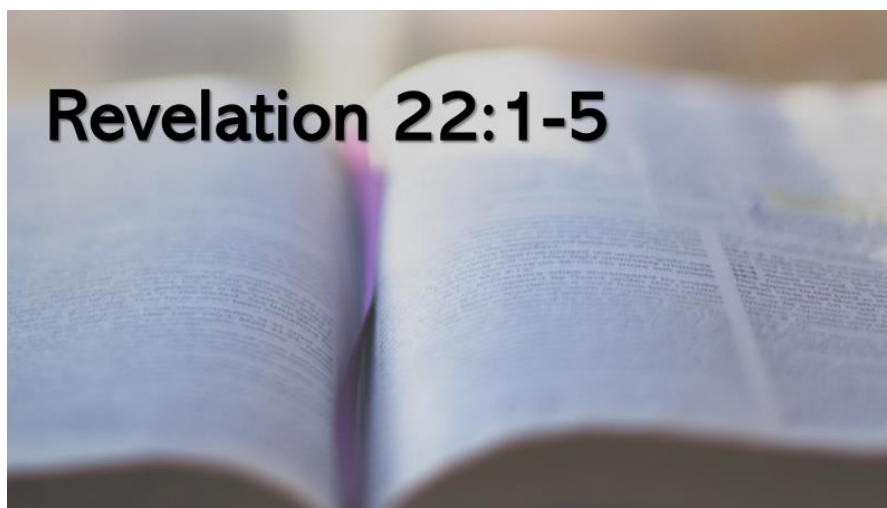
**03:00**

Coffee/Question

God's love is not wearied by our sins  
and is relentless in its determination  
that we be cured at whatever cost  
to us or to him.

C.S. Lewis

What do you think about this statement?  
Agree? Disagree? Questions?



This morning we want to focus on the first phrase of verse 3.



What an incredible, hope-filled statement.

This is where the salvation of Jesus is taking us and the creation – to a time and a place where there no longer is any curse.

That the implications of this statement might enliven our hearts, I need to remind you of what the world and humanity once was... in the beginning.

The book of Genesis tells us that when God finished creating all that is...it was very good.



From out of God's own inexhaustible life, the earth teemed with life.

God's purity was manifested in the wholesomeness of all things.

The peace of God rested upon the earth and its creatures.

The love of God blessed the earth with abundance - everything needed for the flourishing of life was provided and freely given by God.

The wisdom of God was brilliantly evidenced in the interconnectedness and interdependence of the earth's systems and its creatures.

The power of God was seen in the sun and in the moon and in the sheer vastness of the stars and the far-flung galaxies.

The joy and delight of God permeated all things.

In what he had made God revealed his glory ... and his goodness.



When God created there were no flaws, no dysfunction, no disorder, no discord, no dissension, no factions, no hatred, no rage, no debauchery, no disharmony, no friction, no envy, no death, no chaos, no disease, no fear, no lack, no shortage, no insufficiency.

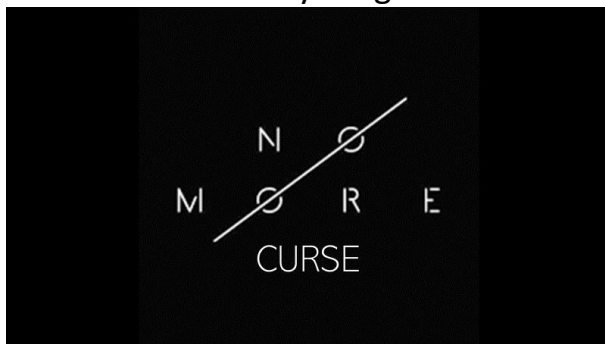
There was no pain, no frustration, no conflict, no war, no sorrow, no tears, no loss, no heartache, no bullying, no abuse, no ingratitude, no self-centeredness. There was no brutality, no treachery, no conceit, no disregard, no jealousy, no immorality, no impurity.

Everything God made was very good.

This was how the earth, and its creatures once were.

And as we have been studying in Revelation 21-22, this is how the earth and the redeemed will again be.

God will make everything new.



**No longer will there be any curse.**

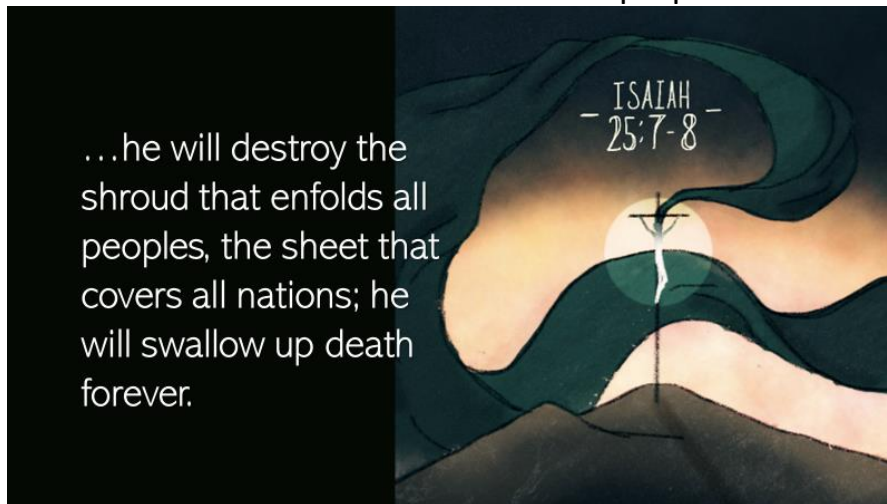
In the beginning, God had warned Adam, if he ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, "you will certainly die." Genesis 2:17

When he and Eve did so, they and the earth were cursed by God.

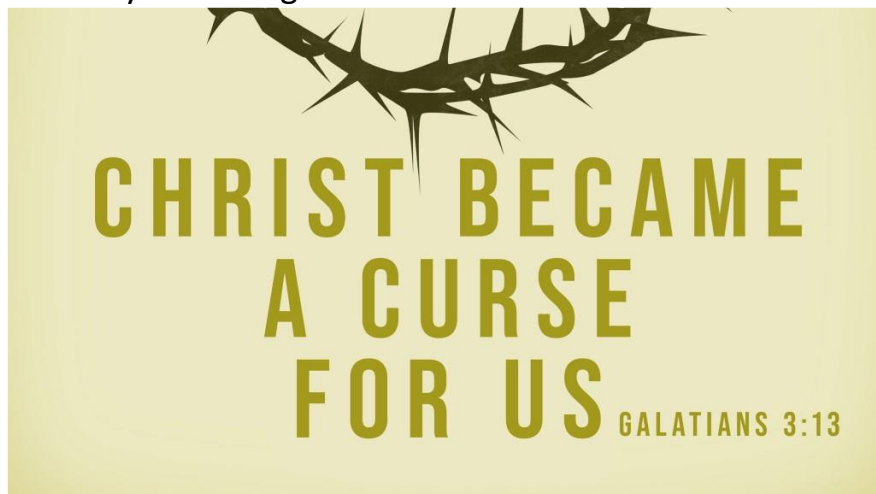
That curse has subjected the creation and humanity to frustration. The curse has brought upon the earth and its creatures a bondage to decay - all things die. The curse is the source of all groaning, for there is nothing that now functions as it once did.

But the One who sits upon the throne promises... there is coming a future moment when... there will no longer be any curse.

The future which God had shown to the prophet Isaiah...



... was brought forward into the present by Jesus, the Son of God, who destroyed death by becoming...



This is what happened to Jesus when he hung on a cross outside of Jerusalem. He, the Innocent One became sin as he took upon himself the consequences of our sin.

Jesus died the death that we deserve.

When he breathed his last breath, he descended to Hades and there, by virtue of who he was, he took back the authority over death and Hades, and swallowed up the power of the second death.

The proof that he had overcome; the evidence that he is the Victor, was his resurrection from the dead.

Because of Jesus, because of who he is and because of what he did... no longer will there be any curse.

Do you remember the Christmas carol – Joy to the World?

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Do you remember the words of verse 3?

No more let sins and sorrows grow  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.

Before they created... the Father, Son and Spirit... purposed that they would redeem.

How extensive was their plan of redemption?

How far would they go in their rescue?

The hymn tells us... .. “far as the curse is found.”

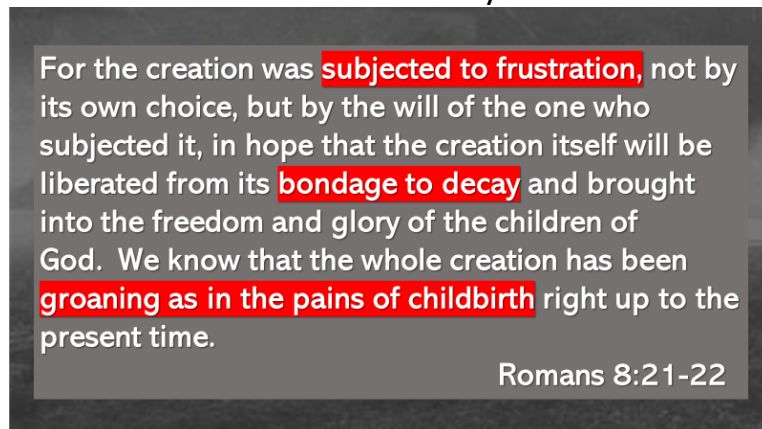
This is the hope of Jesus' followers.

There is coming a moment when there will no longer be any curse.  
There is coming a moment, as the prophet Habakkuk had been shown, when...

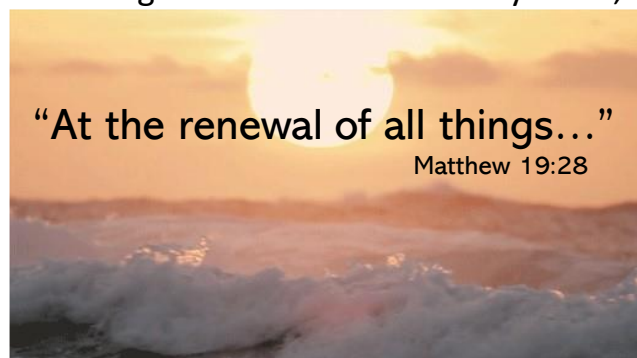


There is coming a moment when all things will be made right.

The greatest problem and threat facing the earth... and there are many contenders we could name... but the greatest is ... sin and the curse. I mentioned this a few moments ago. But look at what God's word says...



This is why we and the earth groan.  
We long to be freed from frustration and decay.  
And the good news announced by Jesus, is that in him, freedom is coming.



Renewal is but one of the many “re” words in the Bible.

re-newal  
re-demption  
re-generation  
re-storation  
re-conciliation  
re-surrection

All these “re” words are the re-sult, the blessing that comes from the sacrifice of Jesus, when he became a curse for us.

Listen again... to what John heard the Father pronounce from the throne.  
The Father did not say... “Behold I make all new things.”  
This is what he said... “Behold I make all things new.”

Does this mean that the new earth will be like this earth?

Yes.

No.

Let me explain... using an example provided by CS Lewis.

In the final book of the Chronicles of Narnia, (The Last Battle), when all things have been made new... the children and the creatures of old Narnia gaze upon the new Narnia, marveling at what they see.

The Unicorn best summed up what all of them were feeling at that moment.



Isn't that an incredible statement that captures the hope of God's people.

"This is my real country."

"This is where I belong."

"This is the land I have been looking for all my life."

A land where there no longer is any curse.

A land where God will make everything new.

Randy Alcorn writes, "It was no accident that Jesus was a carpenter."



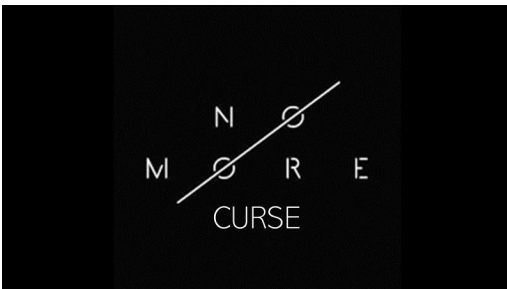
"Carpenters make things and fix things. The carpenter from Nazareth made the universe, and he is going to fix it. He is the ultimate salvage artist. And what he restores will be far better than the original."

You've probably said it yourself... and I'm certain you've heard others say...



While the message of the Bible is... it actually does.

In the new heaven and the new earth, "no longer will there be any curse."



It's been said that faith is like a forward memory.

In Jesus God's future came into the present.



With the coming of the Spirit... God's people live as if God's promises have already happened... for without question they will.

This is why Jesus' followers live with a robust anticipation.



When God makes all things new... there will be no longer any curse.

We come to the Table this morning.

As we do... we look back.

We acknowledge that the cross of Jesus... is the place, where, as we shall sing, mercy reigns and grace like a flood flows down upon us.

The cross of Jesus is where we find peace with God as we surrender our lives to him.

When we believe in Jesus and receive him, the sacrifice of Jesus' life given in love, not only grants us forgiveness of sin, but brings about in our hearts, a washing, a cleansing from sin's guilt.

It's because of the work of the cross, that Jesus' followers are given a most precious gift – the Holy Spirit... who is our constant companion; our teacher; the source of our strength to follow Christ.

But we must not forget... we must remember... the Spirit is God's down payment. This is why at the Table, we also look forward.

The grace we receive in the Spirit is a down payment.

The love we receive through the Spirit is a down payment.

The mercy we receive in the Spirit is a down payment.

But... there is more... so much more coming.

We come in awe to the table.

And here... in this time... we renew our commitment... to follow Jesus until... our faith becomes sight.

We look back.

We look forward.

We remember.

We express our gratitude.

We dedicate ourselves afresh.

All glory be to the Father.

All glory be to the Son.

All glory be to the Spirit... who are the Glorious Three-in-One.