

1Peter 1:3-5, 13 part 2 A Living Hope, Imperishable, Ready to be Revealed in the Last Time.

1 Peter 1:3-5³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,⁴ to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,⁵ who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 Peter 1:7⁷ so that the proof of your faith, *being* more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

The last time we were together we were discussing the importance of understanding our hope in Christ and how that translates into having the incentive to live lives in anticipation of the revelation of Christ and the inheritance that our Lord will fully deliver to us.

We discussed how God causes His people to be born again and how that should humble us as we consider so great a salvation that is from God, first to last. We also discussed the idea of heaven which is a foretaste of our eternal inheritance in Christ and how the present heaven appears to be more familiar than we might imagine as we moved from a purely spiritual concept of the present heaven to a heaven revealed in the word of God that contains many physical elements that cannot be dismissed, unless our bias excludes physical as being less than good.

But when Peter speaks of an inheritance that is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away reserved in heaven for us and that this inheritance will be find its final expression at the revelation of Jesus Christ, what does he mean by all of this and how should that affect our ability to live lives that consider that this present world is nothing to be compared to what God has in store for us?

Romans 8:18¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

What is this glory that captured the imagination of Paul and allowed him to live in anticipation of this glory?

We talked about two heavens last time; the present heaven and the eternal heaven. Let me define what I'm talking about. The present

heaven is where believers go at death where their bodies return to the earth while their spirits go to be with the Lord. Paul speaks of this in different places.

2 Corinthians 5:6-9 ⁶ Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord-- ⁷ for we walk by faith, not by sight-- ⁸ we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord. ⁹ Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.

Philippians 1:21-24 ²¹ For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. ²² But if *I am* to live *on* in the flesh, this *will mean* fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose. ²³ But I am hard-pressed from both *directions*, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for *that* is very much better; ²⁴ yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake.

Since Christ is now seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven and since we who are in Christ go to be with Him at death, (that is our spirits departed from our bodies), then we obviously go to heaven where Christ is.

This place, as we saw last week, occupies space, includes time and contains some elements of physicality, including the physical resurrected body of Jesus Christ, the possibility of the physical bodies of Elijah and Enoch, animals like horses and Saraphim, and a paradise from which physical chariots come to earth on different occasions as seen in the case of Elijah at his translation and Elisha with his servant.

There is no doubt that this paradise, which is the present heaven, is glorious and something we should long for. But is this the imperishable inheritance that we await as we anticipate the revelation of Jesus Christ?

The answer is no. All throughout Scripture we are given indications that man is created to live with His God, not in some ethereal, incorporeal existence, but in a physical world that God deemed very good.

God's original creation, though now cursed through man's sin, was never meant to be replaced or destroyed to such a degree that it would cease to exist and give way for some other habitation for resurrected believers. Shortly after man's fall and his subsequent death sentence from God man was given the hope of being

reunited back to God through a Messiah or Savior sent from the Lord through the seed of the woman.

Speaking to the serpent in the Garden of Eden the Lord promises a seed that would war with the seed of Satan.

Genesis 3:15 ¹⁵ And I will put enmity between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."

The idea that the seed of the woman would be instrumental in the destruction of consequences of Satan's original attack on mankind necessitates that a flesh and blood Savior must accomplish this task of reversing the curse. But what has been touched by the curse? Maybe the better question is what has not been touched by the curse in our present universe?

By default when we discuss the present universe we are talking about the physical creation of God from one end of the universe to the other. This physical creation was made to declare God's glory and it does just that even in a cursed state. So, to suggest that man will find himself living out eternity in anything other than a physical universe is to miss the point of why God created it in the first place; for man's good and God's glory.

It's interesting that the father of Noah recognized the importance of having this seed continue to move toward the Promised One and how this seed would ultimately take away the curse of the world and restore rest for the world as the ground itself would be free from such a curse. Noah's father was Lamech and the name of his son, Noah, means rest.

Genesis 5:28-29 ²⁸Lamech lived one hundred and eighty-two years, and became the father of a son. ²⁹ Now he called his name Noah, saying, "This one will give us rest from our work and from the toil of our hands *arising* from the ground which the LORD has cursed."

Lamech understood how the curse worked and the need for it to be lifted and how the seed of the woman of promise would finally one day lift the curse.

The apostle Paul also notes how the entire universe longs for the curse to be lifted and how it waits in anticipation of this very thing.

Romans 8:19-23 ¹⁹ For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. ²³ And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for *our* adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.

Notice how Paul weaves the setting free of the universe's slavery to corruption into the fabric of the resurrection of God's people. They go hand in hand. As goes our resurrection so goes the curse being lifted from all things physical.

If we don't understand God's plan for the physical universe He spoke into existence then we'll overlook the importance of man being physically raised from the dead to re-inhabit this same physical universe, absent the curse, as the Lord refashions all things visible and invisible.

Colossians 1:16-17 ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

The universe, even in its cursed condition, is still God's and He holds all things together. And the reason He holds it together is because He will put it back to a condition where the curse no longer has any place in His most awesome work of creation with man being the jewel in His crown as He rules and reigns with man.

But then the question must be asked, where will God rule and reign with man forever and ever? And this gets to the issue of what the future, or eternal heaven is. If God's eternal plan was to rule with man then it must deal with the final solution to the sin problem which Paul describes as the swallowing up of death.

1 Corinthians 15:51-57 ⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ But when this perishable will have put

on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory. ⁵⁵ "O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?" ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; ⁵⁷ but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The final victory will be realized in our being raised from the dead imperishable into the presence of Jesus Christ Himself and thus from that point we will always be with the Lord, which is to say, we will never be separated from His presence. This is what we take comfort in.

1 Thessalonians 4:14-18 ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. ¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.

But remember that Paul made it clear in Romans 8:19-23, that as goes our resurrection in Christ, so goes the resurrection of the entire universe as it longs to be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

Peter himself, in his second letter, points out how our present earth and the present heavens, which speaks of the entire universe, will be transformed from the curse into something brand new.

2 Peter 3:10-13 ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. ¹¹ Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ¹² looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! ¹³ But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

When you talk with Christians today you almost get the impression that our final place of residence in our new resurrected glorified bodies will be on a non-earth instead of a new earth. But Peter makes it clear that God will transform all of creation into something new.

But where did Peter get this understanding of a new heaven and new earth? Was this a mystery revealed to Peter for the first time through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit? Absolutely not.

Peter included this section under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit but Peter knew about the new heavens and new earth through His Sabbath school lessons.

In speaking to Israel God gives the hope to His people, (and here we must not limit this section to only national Israel, but to the Israel of God found in the N.T. made up of both Jew and Gentile who truly embrace the Messiah by faith), this hope that all things will be made new by the Creator Himself.

Isaiah 65:16-18 "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! ¹⁷ "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former things will not be remembered or come to mind. ¹⁸ "But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; For behold, I create Jerusalem *for* rejoicing And her people *for* gladness.

Isaiah 66:22-23 ²² "For just as the new heavens and the new earth Which I make will endure before Me," declares the LORD, "So your offspring and your name will endure. ²³ "And it shall be from new moon to new moon And from sabbath to sabbath, All mankind will come to bow down before Me," says the LORD.

The new heavens and the new earth were certainly inferred when Lamech, the father of Noah, gave his new son the name which meant rest as he longed to find rest from the curse that terrorized the physical land and made life unbearable for many.

He knew the curse had to be lifted from the present heavens and earth and therefore it only follows that new heavens and a new earth must take its place, and as one is destroyed the other rises from its very ashes as Peter tells us in 2Peter 3:10-13.

Just as our physical bodies will be resurrected to an imperishable physical state, so too, the physical universe will be restored to a brand new physical state without any effects of the curse, just as Lamech longed for.

So, now we have a resurrected people of God and we now have new heavens and a new earth. The question remains, are they both reunited to each other with Christ as the head and King of this new creation as He takes up residence with His people?

And if He does in fact take up residence with His people forever on this new earth with His resurrected people can this be called heaven on earth? And the answer is an emphatic, yes!

In fact, this is precisely what John reveals in the book of Revelation which describes the end of the long story of redemption of God's people.

Revelation 21:1-5 ^{NAU} 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, made ready 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 men, 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." ⁵ And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true."

Notice verse 3 of the text above. "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people..."

Where have we heard this language before? It's the same promise that was made to national Israel which foreshadowed the promise to the Israel of God redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ.

Leviticus 26:11-13 ¹¹ 'Moreover, I will make My dwelling among you, and My soul will not reject you. ¹² 'I will also walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people. ¹³ 'I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt so that

you would not be their slaves, and I broke the bars of your yoke and made you walk erect.

When Ezekiel prophesied of a future reign of David on his throne forever he was speaking of the everlasting covenant in which God would literally dwell among them as He would be their God and they would be His people forever in His presence.

Ezekiel 37:25-28 ²⁵ "They will live on the land that I gave to Jacob My servant, in which your fathers lived; and they will live on it, they, and their sons and their sons' sons, forever; and David My servant will be their prince forever. ²⁶ "I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant with them. And I will place them and multiply them, and will set My sanctuary in their midst forever. ²⁷ "My dwelling place also will be with them; and I will be their God, and they will be My people. ²⁸ "And the nations will know that I am the LORD who sanctifies Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forever.""

There is only one Prince who will eternally dwell among His people as He sits on David's throne in the New Jerusalem and that is Christ the Lord, risen, glorified and King of kings as He rules with His people on the New earth fulfilling the promise made to Adam that He would crush the head of Satan once and for all and restore Paradise as He always intended.

This is the eternal heaven in which righteousness dwells and in which we believers long to see. This is precisely what Peter addresses in our text.

1 Peter 1:3 ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

This is the living hope that could only be attained through the resurrection of Jesus Christ as He makes all things new.

But if a resurrection of our bodies into the glorious presence of Jesus Christ, together with a new creation from the old, as is seen in the new heavens and new earth, is a fulfillment of the eternal inheritance, our living hope, what will this new creation look like and what will be our existence on this new creation, which is the eternal heaven?

Again, we hear many Christians say that we simply don't know because Scripture doesn't give any indication what will be in store for us. In fact, they use particular passages of the word of God to confirm this notion.

1 Corinthians 2:9⁹ but just as it is written, "THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND *which* HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM."

There it is. Eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and it has not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him. Obviously God did not intend for us to know such things, so why should we speculate?

Unfortunately, the next verse is seldom quoted when trying to make the case that we should not know such things.

1 Corinthians 2:10¹⁰ For to us God revealed *them* through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.

God has revealed a great deal of this future kingdom in which we will dwell with Christ, and you might remember that it was always our Lord's intention to reveal certain aspects of this kingdom to His disciples during His earthly ministry.

^{NAU} **Matthew 13:11** Jesus answered them, "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted.

Yes, there are mysteries that have not been revealed to us, but what God has revealed in His word we need to study and dig into that we might understand those things so that we might appreciate what He has given us and in that light live to His honor and glory as we anticipate this hope and inheritance. Even Paul acknowledges that these mysteries have been made known to us for a reason.

Ephesians 1:9-12⁹ He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him¹⁰ with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, *that is*, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him¹¹ also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,¹² to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory.

Notice that the mysteries of His will are revealed to us with a view to the fullness of times, that is the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and the earth. This is eschatological language pointing to the return of Christ when He sets up His eternal kingdom as the new heavens and new earth are established which leads to the inheritance He has promised us, to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory.

And Paul continues to write to the Ephesians and actually prays that they might see these things in such a way that they know what this hope is all about and that they would glory in it today as they look forward to the fulfillment of it when Christ is revealed.

Ephesians 1:18-23 ¹⁸*I pray that* the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. *These are* in accordance with the working of the strength of His might ²⁰ which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²² And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, ²³ which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

So, is it possible to know what this new earth and new heaven will look like and how it will operate as our eternal habitation with Christ as our Head in our presence?

I suppose we can answer it by asking another question. Will we know what our physical resurrected bodies will look like? And the answer is, of course. The same body that was laid in the grave corruptible will be the same body that is raised by Christ incorruptible.

When Jesus Christ rose from the dead did He look the same as before He was crucified? He absolutely did, despite the couple of incidents where Mary, for example, didn't recognize Him in the garden immediately after His resurrection along with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. Both instances can be easily and biblically explained.

In the case of Mary Magdalene she was already carrying on a conversation with two angels dressed in white when in her distress she turned around to see another man, certainly not expecting to see Jesus since her only purpose for being at the tomb was to dress the body of Jesus since this had been done in haste on the approaching Sabbath.

John 20:11-15 ¹¹ But Mary was standing outside the tomb weeping; and so, as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb; ¹² and she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying. ¹³ And they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him." ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing *there*, and did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away."

With tears still clouding her eyes in the very early morning and not expecting to see Jesus she turned and thought she was now addressing the only other person she would expect to see at that place and that was the gardener. With the stress of that last few days it's no surprise that Mary didn't immediately recognize Jesus. But then something happens that changes everything.

Jesus simply calls her name.

John 20:16 ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" (which means, Teacher).

Again, notice that she turned toward Him as she heard Him say her name which suggests that she may not have even been facing Him when she first encountered Him. But with that familiar acknowledgement of her name by her Master she immediately recognizes Him and calls Him teacher.

As for the two disciples who didn't recognize Jesus as they walked with Him on the road to Emmaus the text makes it plain that for reasons only Jesus knew He chose to keep them from recognizing Him.

Luke 24:14-16 ¹⁴ And they were talking with each other about all these things which had taken place. ¹⁵ While they were talking and

discussing, Jesus Himself approached and *began* traveling with them. ¹⁶ But their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him.

But it wasn't long before Jesus was once again in the presence of His disciples who had no trouble recognizing Him though at first they were dumb struck at the notion that He had actually risen from the dead as at first they thought He was a spirit.

Luke 24:35-43 ³⁵ They *began* to relate their experiences on the road and how He was recognized by them in the breaking of the bread. ³⁶ While they were telling these things, He Himself stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be to you." ³⁷ But they were startled and frightened and thought that they were seeing a spirit. ³⁸ And He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?" ³⁹ "See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰ And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. ⁴¹ While they still could not believe *it* because of their joy and amazement, He said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴² They gave Him a piece of a broiled fish; ⁴³ and He took it and ate *it* before them.

There is no reason to believe that the resurrected body of Jesus Christ was any different in appearance than it was before His resurrection. In fact, Jesus points out quite clearly that He was not a spirit but had flesh and bones which assumes blood as well. In other words, Jesus continues to be fully human in every respect in His resurrected state and proves it by eating a piece of broiled fish in their presence.

On another occasion, early in the morning as the day was just breaking, as the disciples were in a boat off shore, Jesus entices them to throw their nets in a different direction to catch more fish after which they finally recognize that it is Him and Peter swims to shore.

John 21:3-15 ³ Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will also come with you." They went out and got into the boat; and that night they caught nothing. ⁴ But when the day was now breaking, Jesus stood on the beach; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵ So Jesus said to them, "Children, you do not have any fish, do you?" They answered Him, "No." ⁶ And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right-hand side of the boat and you will find *a catch*." So they cast, and then they were not able to haul it in because of the great number of fish. ⁷ Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the

Lord." So when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put his outer garment on (for he was stripped *for work*), and threw himself into the sea. ⁸ But the other disciples came in the little boat, for they were not far from the land, but about one hundred yards away, dragging the net *full* of fish. ⁹ So when they got out on the land, they saw a charcoal fire *already* laid and fish placed on it, and bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish which you have now caught." ¹¹ Simon Peter went up and drew the net to land, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, "Come *and* have breakfast." None of the disciples ventured to question Him, "Who are You?" knowing that it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came and took the bread and gave *it* to them, and the fish likewise. ¹⁴ This is now the third time that Jesus was manifested to the disciples, after He was raised from the dead. ¹⁵ So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, *son* of John, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My lambs."

The point is that just as our physical resurrected bodies will be recognized as our original bodies, only now without the curse and sin and death, so too will the old earth and the old heavens be recognized for what they will be as God refashions this old universe into the new heavens and new earth with all of the characteristics they had before the curse, now with the curse lifted.

And what can we expect to find? A beautiful earth with mountains, waterfalls, deep blue bodies of water, clouds carried along with the freshest of air that will be breathed in deeply by resurrected people who will exhale joy in the presence of their King as they sing His praises.

What most people don't seem to realize is that if you want to know the mystery of what our future state will be you need only realize that it is hidden in plain sight because all that we see will be transformed on the final day as Jesus Christ returns to establish His eternal kingdom found in the new heavens and new earth.

This is the truth of the matter. If you want to know what a resurrected person looks like and what a refashioned universe looks like, look out your window right now at the wonder of God's creation and imagine a world without sin as we now can live for the first time without death on our door step.

It will be a world where we will be able to move and have our being without any sin hanging over our heads and a world where every person we come in contact with will be our brother and sister in its truest spiritual sense where only the love of Christ abounds.

Oh, the conversations we will be able to carry on forever as we sit at the dinner table, as did Jesus with His disciples, and enjoy the company of such people as Adam and Eve, Joshua, Abraham together with the mother and step father of Jesus and of course Jesus Himself as we feast with Him forevermore. It will be a glorious time.

But it won't be a time of disembodied spirits floating here and there as mere wisps existing in some state of mind that resembles in no way, shape or form what God has always had in store for us in His new creation, to enjoy Him forever as we will be His people and He will be our God.

Revelation 21:3-5 "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, 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." ⁵ And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true."

1 Peter 1:4 ⁴ to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

This is the inheritance that Christ purchased for us and it is presently reserved for us in heaven as we are sealed by the Holy Spirit for the day of Redemption, that day in which God will make all things new.

And until that day comes we are told that our Lord, by His almighty power will protect or guard us as He finally achieves what the Father promised Him, that of all that the Father gave Him He will lose none but will raise them up at the last day and Peter confirms this in our text.

1 Peter 1:5 ⁵ who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

And this finally gets down to how and why this glorious hope should prompt our hearts like Paul's.

Romans 8:18 ¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

Paul understood this glory and he understood the eternal heaven which will be on earth as the Lord God transform this universe from the curse, as He makes all things new, and gives us a new home on the new earth in which righteousness dwells because Jesus will dwell among us forevermore.

Paul knew that there is nothing in this world that could compare with the promise to come where we will be with Christ and he knew that although this world and the seed of the enemy will do everything to overcome us in this battle, he also knew that the battle belongs to the Lord and we are more than conquerors in Him.

There are real sufferings in this world, from disease and sickness to persecution and trials of every kind, but we know, as did Paul, that everything here is temporary and when you compare that with the glory to come as we trust that God is faithful to His promises it makes it all worth it when we know what is coming and what form it will take to God's glory.

But we need to say with Peter that we will then be ready and prepared to go forward with the Lord as we serve Him faithfully here and now knowing that we are called to a higher calling that puts others above ourselves and desires to honor God with lives of love and obedience in holiness. I'll let Peter close this section with these words.

1 Peter 1:13-16 ¹³ Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober *in spirit*, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts *which were yours* in your ignorance, ¹⁵ but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all *your* behavior; ¹⁶ because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."