
NOW & THEN

Lesson 6



The Day Everything Is Made New

Primary Scripture: Revelation 21:1–5 (NLT)

Purpose of This Guide

This guide is designed to anchor your hope in what God has promised, and to shape how you live now—not by escaping the world, but by faithfully engaging it in light of what is coming.

1. The Problem We Experience

Many people think about the future in ways that disconnect them from the present. Some avoid thinking about it entirely, focusing only on what is happening now. Others focus so heavily on what is coming that they disengage from the world around them. This often leads to a passive mindset: endure, survive, and wait for things to end. But Scripture does not present the future as an escape from the world—it presents it as the renewal of it. If we misunderstand what is coming, we will misunderstand how we are meant to live now. The issue is not whether we believe God will act in the future. The issue is whether that belief is shaping our present lives in a meaningful way.

We believe:

- God will make all things new
- The future is secure
- Restoration is coming

And yet:

- We either disengage or become overwhelmed
- We treat the present as temporary and unimportant
- We struggle to connect future hope with present action

The question is not whether the future is certain.

The question is how it is shaping how we live now.

2. What God Has Promised (Revelation 21:1–5)

Revelation 21 gives a clear picture of what God is bringing about. It does not describe the destruction of creation, but its renewal. God makes “all things new”—not completely different, but restored and brought to their intended purpose. He dwells with His people. Death, mourning, crying, and pain are removed. This is not symbolic wishful thinking—it is a promise grounded in God’s authority. The future is not uncertain. It is declared. This means that the end of the story is not loss, but restoration. Understanding this is essential, because hope is not based on possibility—it is based on what God has already committed to do.



Read: Revelation 21:1–5

Key Truths:

- God’s plan is renewal, not abandonment
 - The brokenness we experience will not remain
 - God’s presence will be fully realized
 - The future is secure because God has declared it
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Early Anchoring (Do Not Skip)

Identify one area of your life or the world that feels broken, unresolved, or beyond repair.

This may be:

- A personal situation
- A relationship
- A condition in the world
- A place where you feel tension or discouragement

This will be your focus for this session.

3. The Future Defines the Present

The promise of renewal is not given to remove us from responsibility—it is given to define it. If God is restoring all things, then what we do now matters. The future is not separate from the present; it is the direction the present is moving toward. This means that our lives are not temporary placeholders—they are part of what God is already shaping. Many people treat the present as something to endure until God acts. Scripture teaches that we live now in light of what God is bringing. The future does not excuse disengagement—it demands alignment. We are not waiting for meaning. We are living within it.

Read: Revelation 21:5 again

Key Truths:

- The future gives direction to the present
- What we do now is not wasted



- God’s work is already moving toward completion

Reflection

Where are you treating the present as something to endure instead of something to engage?

Before moving forward:

Ask yourself:

- If God is truly making all things new,
what would it look like to engage this situation—not just endure it?
- Where is this calling you to:
 - step in
 - speak up
 - remain present
 - or act differently

Do not leave this theoretical.

This is where future hope becomes present action.

4. Not Escaping the World—Engaging It Differently

The call of Scripture is not to withdraw from the world, but to live differently within it. Being “in the world but not of it” does not mean separation—it means distinction. We live in the same world, but we are shaped by different values, priorities, and expectations. Because we know what is coming, we are not controlled by what is temporary. Because we trust what God will do, we are not defined by what is broken. This changes how we respond to difficulty, success, injustice, and opportunity. We do not disengage—we engage with clarity and purpose.

Supporting Scriptures:

- John 17:14–18
- Matthew 5:13–16



Key Truths:

- We are present in the world, but not shaped by it
 - Our values are formed by what is coming, not what is temporary
 - Engagement is required, not optional
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Reflection

Where are you blending into the world instead of living with Kingdom distinction?

5. Living Between Promise and Fulfillment

The tension of the Christian life remains: what God has promised is certain, but not yet fully experienced. This means we live between promise and fulfillment. The danger is moving too far in either direction. If we focus only on the present, we lose hope. If we focus only on the future, we lose engagement. Scripture calls us to hold both. We act now because the future is secure. We remain faithful now because the outcome is certain. The promise of renewal does not remove tension—it gives it meaning.

NOW (Already True)

- God has declared the future
- Renewal has been promised
- The direction of history is set
- Hope is secure

THEN (Not Yet Complete)

- The world is still broken
 - Suffering still exists
 - Full restoration has not yet come
 - We still live in tension
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Reflection

Which direction do you tend to drift—losing hope in the present, or disengaging because of the future?



6. “Occupy Until I Come”

Jesus’ instruction to remain faithful until His return is not passive. It is active, intentional, and sustained. To “occupy” means to live with responsibility, to invest what has been given, and to act in alignment with the King’s authority. This means that every area of life becomes a place of participation. We do not wait for God to act—we live in a way that reflects what He has already declared. Faithfulness is not measured by outcomes, but by alignment with what God has made clear. The future does not reduce responsibility—it clarifies it.

Supporting Scripture:

- Luke 19:11–27

Key Truths:

- Waiting is active, not passive
- Faithfulness is expressed through action
- Responsibility remains until fulfillment comes

Reflection

Where are you waiting passively instead of living actively in what God has already made clear?

7. Formation Practice (This Week)

Practice: Live Now in Light of What Is Coming

Return to the situation you identified at the beginning.

Each day this week, follow this pattern:

Step 1 — Name What Is Broken

Do not ignore it. Be honest.



Step 2 — Name What God Has Promised

Write what will ultimately be true when God makes all things new.

Step 3 — Align One Action Today

Ask:

- What would it look like to live in this situation as if God's promise is true?

Take one concrete step that reflects that future reality.

Step 4 — Repeat Daily

Return to the same situation each day.

Do not move on until you have acted.

Daily Prayer

Lord,

Anchor my life in what You have promised.

Keep me from disengaging or losing hope.

Teach me to live now in light of what is coming.

Help me act with faithfulness,

not because everything is finished,

but because You have declared that it will be.

Amen.

8. Living It Out

Write the situation you identified:

Write what God has promised about this:

Write one action you will take today that reflects that promise:



Return to this daily.

Faith is not waiting for the future.

It is living now as if what God has promised is true.

Final Note

The future is not uncertain.

God has already declared the end of the story.

Everything that is broken will be made new.

You are not waiting to escape the world.

You are called to live faithfully within it—
until the day everything is made new.

