

Happy New Year- Steven Curtis Chapman

The decorations have been moved back to the attic
Our resolutions and our diets all in place
As another chapter ends and another one begins
Slowly now we turn the page

Out into the midnight sky, I stare in wonder
At the grand design of how our planet dances with the sun
And I'm thinking' this could be
God's way of whispering
A story's being told, and the best is yet to come

So happy New Year, happy New Year
Another chance to catch a glimpse of what is coming true
So happy New Year, happy New Year
The God who made everything
Is remaking everything
The God who made everything
He says I'm making all things new
So happy New Year

Reflection:

1. *Is your Christianity still in the box?*
2. *Have you viewed the Gospel as another form of self-improvement among many?*
3. *How does your view of the future affect your life in the present? Would you view your life to be courageous for Jesus?*

Follow UP in the Word through the Week...

Monday: 2 Corinthians 5:17. As you think about the new creation that Christ has made in you, what has He changed and what does He want to change in you in 2024? Are you reading your Bible through this year?

Tuesday: 2 Peter 3:11-13. What is the challenge Peter gives in light of the future events he describes? How does this impact your life today?

Wednesday: Revelation 4. Describe the scene that John shares in this passage? What is the quality described of the One on the Throne?

Thursday: Isaiah 43:18-19. How does this coincide with what John reports in Revelation 21:5? If all things are being made new, what difference does that make in your perspective of life?

Friday: Revelation 21:4. Describe the promise made in this verse? What is it that makes you cry?

Saturday: Revelation 21:6-8. How is it courageous to live a life without the characteristics of verse 8? Describe what God supplies in these verses?

Revelation 21:1-8

"All Things New"

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." -2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV

1.A New Place 1, 2

A. "I saw"

B. New Heaven and New Earth

"And to Adam he said, 'Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face, you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.'" -Genesis 3:17-19 ESV

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."
-Mark 13:31 ESV

"Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells." -2 Peter 3:11-13 ESV

"Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them."
-Revelation 20:11 ESV

C. New Jerusalem

"After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.'" -Revelation 7:9-12 ESV

"The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord." -Isaiah 2:1-5 ESV

"But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother."
-Galatians 4:26 ESV

"For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God." -Hebrews 11:10 ESV

"But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel." -Hebrews 12:22-24 ESV

"For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch. The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate, but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married. For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your sons marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you." -Isaiah 62:1-5 ESV

D. The Picture of Purity

2. The Great Promise 3, 4

- A. A Voice Proclaims the Reality
- B. God Will Dwell with Man

"I will make my dwelling among you, and my soul shall not abhor you. And I will walk among you and will be your God, and you shall be my people."

-Leviticus 26:11-12 ESV

John 1:14

- C. They Will Be His Peoples
- D. A Promise to Wipe away every tear

3. God's Care and a Call to Courage from the Throne 5-8

- A. He Makes ALL Things New

"At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne. And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald." -Revelation 4:2-3 ESV

"Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

-Isaiah 43:18-19 ESV

"For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind." -Isaiah 65:17 ESV

- B. Write it Down!
- C. It is Done

"When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit." -John 19:30 ESV

- D. The Beginning and Ending
- E. He Has Made a Way Plus 6b-7
- F. Conquerors in Christ or the Cowardly: Which will you choose?