

# **CITYWEST CHURCH**

## **25.01.2026 - 10 AM**

### **A THRONE SHAPED LIFE.**

*Transcendence matters.*

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. **2** And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

**3** I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, “Look, God’s home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them.<sup>[a]</sup> **4** He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.”

**5** And the one sitting on the throne said, “Look, I am making everything new!” And then he said to me, “Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true.” **6** And he also said, “It is finished! I am the Alpha and the Omega—the Beginning and the End. To all who are thirsty I will give freely from the springs of the water of life. **7** All who are victorious will inherit all these blessings, and I will be their God, and they will be my children.

**Revelation 21:1-7 (NLT)**

## 1. LIVE AS PEOPLE OF HOPE, NOT ESCAPISM

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. **2** And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

### Revelation 21:1-2 (NLT)

*The Bible does not end with souls escaping earth. It ends with God renewing it.*

*New creation is not about abandoning the world—it's about God restoring it.*

*N. T. Wright :*

*“God intends not to scrap this world and start again, but to redeem and renew it.”*

*We don't disengage from the world in despair. We stay present, hopeful, and constructive.*

*When you feel tempted to withdraw or become cynical, intentionally ask:  
“What would faithful hope look like here?”*

## 2. PRACTICE PRESENCE, BECAUSE GOD DWELLS WITH HIS PEOPLE.

I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, “Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them.

### Revelation 21:3 (NLT)

*The climax of the Bible is not a structure or a system. It's **presence**.*

*God does not shout from a distance. He moves in.*

*Henri Nouwen said,*

*“The greatest gift we can give one another is our presence.”*

*If God chooses nearness, then so should we.*

*Be fully present this week, no multitasking, no rushing, no distractions.*

### **3. RESIST WHAT DESTROYS, GOD IS HEALING ALL THINGS**

He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.”

#### **Revelation 21:4 (NLT)**

*New creation names evil for what it is, something God intends to end, not manage.*

*The future promises healing. So the present invites resistance.*

*Miroslav Volf observes,*

*“Christian hope does not deny the wounds of the world, but refuses to give them the final word.”*

*We don’t make peace with what God promises to remove.*

*Identify one habit, pattern, or influence that diminishes life—and begin the work of repentance and change.*

#### **4. LIVE TRANSPARENTLY, BECAUSE NOTHING IS HIDDEN IN THE CITY**

The nations will walk in its light, and the kings of the world will enter the city in all their glory. 25 Its gates will never be closed at the end of day because there is no night there. 26 And all the nations will bring their glory and honor into the city. 27 Nothing evil will be allowed to enter, nor anyone who practices shameful idolatry and dishonesty—but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

#### **Revelation 21:24-27 (NLT)**

People with integrity walk safely, but those who follow crooked paths will be exposed.

#### **Proverbs 10:9 (NLT)**

*The Holy City is marked by truth, not performance. Light, not image management.*

*New creation invites integrity, a whole life, not a divided one.*

*Dallas Willard wrote,*

*“Integrity is when what you say, what you do, and what you are all line up.”*

*We live honestly before God and others.*

*Bring one hidden struggle into the light this year—with God, and with a trusted believer.*

But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.

#### **1 John 1:7 (NLT)**

## 5. DRAW LIFE FROM GOD DAILY, NOT OCCASIONALLY.

Then the angel showed me a river with the water of life, clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb. 2 It flowed down the center of the main street. On each side of the river grew a tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit,[a] with a fresh crop each month. The leaves were used for medicine to heal the nations.

### Revelation 22:1-2 (NLT)

*Life flows from the throne, not from hustle, success, or self-improvement.*

*New creation is sustained by continual dependence.*

*Athanasius taught that,*

*“God became human so that humans might share in the life of God.”*

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*Spiritual vitality is not occasional intensity—it is daily reception.*

*Establish a small, repeatable daily rhythm (Scripture, prayer, silence) that keeps you connected to the life of God.*

*5 rhythms:*

- *Rhythm of reading (the Bible)*
  - *Rhythm of prayer*
  - *Rhythm of forgiveness*
  - *Rhythm of obedience*
  - *Rhythm of rest.*
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- *With hope, not escape*
  - *With presence, not distance*
  - *With resistance to what destroys*
  - *With integrity before God*
  - *With daily dependence on His life*

*Because the future God promises  
is already shaping the people He is forming.*

**“Yes, I am coming soon!”**

Revelation 22:20 (NLT)