



LIFE IN THE FOG: REVELATION 21:1-8

Series Theme: Life in the Fog: Finding God in times of uncertainty

Main Focus: How the Christian hope for the future helps us live faithfully in the uncertainty of the present.

- People often think about the future with either **hope** or **fear**.
- We wonder about the world, but more often we worry about our own immediate future: money, health, relationships, children, stability.
- Many people cope with uncertainty by:
 - Denial (“everything will be fine”)
 - Distraction (“eat, drink, and be merry”)
 - Escapism through pleasure or substances
- Christian faith offers another path: peace in uncertainty because of confidence in God.
- The Bible’s visions of the future are not meant for unhealthy speculation.
- They are meant to shape priorities, courage, and faithfulness today.
- The Bible is apocalyptic literature: symbolic imagery revealing spiritual realities behind visible events.
- It was relevant to first-century believers and remains relevant now.
- It is a discipleship manual teaching loyalty to Jesus under pressure.

Big Idea 1: God is coming to us

- The whole Bible story shows God pursuing humanity.
- God walked with humans in Eden.
- God came in Jesus (“God with us”).

- God sent the Holy Spirit.
- In Revelation, God’s dwelling comes among people.
- Final hope is not humans climbing to heaven.
- Final hope is heaven coming to earth.
- New creation is God renewing all things.

Present Implications

- Christians participate now in heaven’s arrival through love, forgiveness, healing, justice, and witness.
- Churches should be outposts of heaven on earth.
- Even in suffering, believers can live with peace because Christ has already won.

Big Idea 2: Renewed creation, not escape

- God says: “I am making everything new.”
- Final destiny is not floating spirits in clouds.
- It is renewed bodies in a renewed creation.
- God does not abandon the physical world; he restores it.

Present Implications

- Creation matters now. Steward it well.
- Earthly joys point toward greater future joy.
- Loss is real, but not permanent.
- Christians grieve, but not without hope.

Big Idea 3: Justice will be done

- God will deal fully with evil, violence, corruption, and lies.
- No injustice escapes God’s notice.
- If earthly systems fail, God will not fail.

Present Implications

- We are freed from being the judge of others.
- Our calling is not condemnation but love.
- Love fellow believers.
- Love neighbours.
- Love enemies.
- Forgive and release bitterness to God.

Conclusion

- Future hope transforms present living.
- Because God is coming, we can have peace.
- Because all things are being made new, we can grieve with hope.
- Because justice belongs to God, we are free to love.
- The Bible teaches that new creation begins now in Christ.

Warmup Question:

When you were young, how did you imagine the future? How does the present match up to your expectations from your youth?

Study & Discussion:

1. The sermon says uncertainty often troubles us more than bad news itself. Why do you think uncertainty has such power over people, and how does faith practically challenge that power without pretending life is easy?
2. Revelation 21 presents the future not as escape from earth but as God renewing creation. How does that perspective change the way Christians should view everyday life—work, bodies, nature, art, justice, and relationships?
3. If God is the final judge and justice will ultimately be done, what does that free us to do in the present? How can this truth help with forgiveness while still taking accountability and harm seriously?
4. The Bible says new creation begins now in Christ. What signs of “new creation” have you seen in a person, community, or even in yourself—and what still feels unfinished or resistant to change?

Practice of the Week: Bring Heaven Near

Each morning this week, pray a simple prayer:
“God, make all things new—starting with me today.”

Then ask:

1. **Where can I bring peace?**
(A tense conversation, stressed coworker, anxious family member)
2. **Where can I bring hope?**
(Encourage someone, speak life, notice goodness)
3. **Where can I bring mercy?**
(Forgive, release resentment, show patience)
4. **Where can I bring beauty or care?**
(Steward creation, clean something neglected, create joy)
5. **Where can I trust God with justice instead of carrying it myself?**
(Stop replaying an offense, surrender someone to God)