

New Things

One theme that occurs repeatedly in the Bible is that God does “a new thing”, something out of the ordinary, something that has never been done before. But it can also be applied to how he takes something old and “recreates” it as something new.

1. New covenant

Jer. 31:31-34 – “Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that **I will make a new covenant** with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah. Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt ... But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts, and will be their God, and they shall be my people. ... for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

Lk. 22:20 – “... This cup is **the new testament in my blood**, which is shed for you.”

Heb. 8:6-8 – “But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of **a better covenant**, which was established on better promises. ... For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, when **I will make a new covenant** with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah ...”

2. Believing on Christ makes us new creations

Jn. 3:3-6 – “... Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. ... Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”

Jn. 1:12-13 – “But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”

To believe on Christ is not merely believing the facts about him, but to say “Yes, I believe that he is who he said he is, that he died for me and was raised from death for my justification, and I am putting my trust and faith in him to wash me of my sins and make me a son of God.” This is to be born of God, and the result is an impartation of spiritual life. We were spiritually dead, but are now spiritually alive. He does not merely wash us externally and leave us the same, but changes our very nature.

2 Cor. 5:17 – “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are made new.”

You may not look different to friends and family (height, weight, eye and hair color, etc.), but you actually will look different in the face. Gone will be the weariness and hopelessness of sin and a guilty conscience. Now they will see the joy of the Lord, and a peaceful countenance. Your vocabulary will change, as will your attitudes. We do not live in an ecstatic “cloud-nine” experience from then on, but we do recognize that we are somehow changed on the inside, that we are reborn and are fundamentally new.

Titus 3:5 – “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.”

“Regeneration” is the Greek word *παλιγγενεσία* (pronounced palingenesia). Palin means “again” or “anew”. Genesia is like the word genesis, so together palingenesia means to be recreated or created anew. This obviously agrees with the concept of being “born again”, and also that we are new creatures (new creations) in Christ.

It says “by the washing” of regeneration, and that it is a renewing action of the Holy Spirit. We are washed from our sins as we are born again, and the Holy Spirit renews us, regenerates us, invigorates us to live for God from then on.

3. New cloth, new wineskins

Mt. 9:16-17 – “No man putteth a piece of new cloth unto an old garment, for that which is put in to fill it up taketh from the garment, and the rent is made worse. Neither do men put new wine into old bottles: else the bottles break, and the wine runneth out, and the bottles perish: but they put new wine into new bottles, and both are preserved.”

This is a very good analogy – just as we cannot mend an old garment with new cloth (because it will shrink and pull away from the old), and cannot put new wine into old (“pre-stretched”) skins, God cannot put this new life and new teachings into an unregenerated man. He must be made spiritually alive to be able to comprehend and fathom the deep things of God. 1 Cor. 2:14 – “But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

This is also the reason that the Baptism in the Holy Spirit comes after salvation. God must put the Holy Spirit anointing into a “new wineskin”, i.e., a regenerated man who has the spiritual life to comprehend and then to move in the things the Spirit shows, and the way he moves.

4. The householder that brings forth from his treasures things old and things new

Mt. 13:52 – “Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old.”

So the newness that God gives is not just in the regeneration of salvation, nor in the definite experience of the infilling Baptism in the Holy Spirit. From then on he gives us teachings and insights, and wisdom from the Word and from our personal experience with him. Because of this, we must not ever be satisfied to live on yesterday’s experience or revelation. We must press on in faith that God will mature us and show us new things. In doing this we do not ignore or throw away the old. We have our old treasures (a testimony of salvation and the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, and the understanding of sin, guilt, grace, and faith that first brought us to Christ), but we also are being taught daily as we pray and read the Word, and as we listen to anointed teaching. We should never be satisfied to sit back and relax in the early experience of Christ. We must press on to learn more, and to become more pure and holy, to understand new things from the Bible that we did not before. We ask each other “What has God been showing you lately?”, expecting to hear some new experience, testimony, or Biblical insight. This is what it means to bring forth treasures both old and new.

5. New resurrected bodies

1 Cor. 15:49-52 – “And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”

These old bodies of flesh are still subject to deterioration and decay. They were not made to live forever. To participate in real spiritual life in an eternal sense, we need new, resurrected bodies. And where will we live in these resurrected bodies? In the new heavens and new earth of Rev. 21-22.

6. New heavens and new earth

Rev. 21:1-5 – “And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.”