

Theme: The Gospel is not only rationally true - it addresses our deepest human longings and points us to true joy and rest.

I. Intro - A Year With CS Lewis

- A. I am spending a year with CS Lewis this year
- B. Biographies, documentaries, fiction, essays, books
- C. One of the greatest Christian apologists of 20th century
- D. The two halves of Lewis - rational and imaginative
“The two hemispheres of my mind were in the sharpest contrast. On the one side a many-islanded sea of poetry and myth; on the other a glib and shallow “rationalism.” Nearly all that I loved I believed to be imaginary; nearly all that I believed to be real I thought grim and meaningless.” - CS Lewis
 - 1. Lewis had been taught to be a thorough rationalist
 - 2. But what moved him, what he longed for was the world of imagination - the world of the myths
- E. A fateful conversation on Addison’s Walk at Oxford
Now what Dyson and Tolkien showed me was this: that if I met the idea of sacrifice in a Pagan story I didn’t mind it at all: again, that if I met the idea of a god sacrificing himself to himself . . . I liked it very much and was mysteriously moved by it: again, that the idea of the dying and reviving god (Balder, Adonis, Bacchus) similarly moved me provided I met it anywhere except in the Gospels. The reason was that in Pagan stories I was prepared to feel the myth as profound and suggestive of meanings beyond my grasp even tho’ I could not say in cold prose ‘what it meant’. Now the story of Christ is simply a true myth: a myth working on us in the same way as the others, but with this tremendous difference that it really happened.

F. This led shortly to Lewis’ conversion to Christianity

G. Today: an epilogue to “Questioning Jesus”

- 1. We have given ‘rational’ answers to ‘rational’ questions in this series - about the resurrection, Scripture, evil and suffering, sexuality, hypocrisy, and the claims of Jesus
- 2. This is important - we can’t become Christians if we do not believe these things are literally true
- 3. But today we want to look at the other side - how the Gospel addresses our deepest imaginative longings

II. A Grand Vision of Another World

A. John gives a grand vision of the new heaven and earth

- 1. It is a new heaven and a new earth - brand new!
Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. Revelation 21:1
- 2. It is beautiful - like a bride at her wedding
I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. Rev 21:2
- 3. God will dwell with us, fulfilling the covenant plan
And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.
Revelation 21:3

4. Every bad thing will be removed forever
He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” Rev 21:4
5. Jesus makes everything new!
He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Revelation 21:5
6. John’s vision gives a stunning, desirable picture of the future home of God’s people. The point is not describing every detail, but eliciting anticipation in the heart of believers.

B. The grand vision of the future for God’s people

1. We will radiant, dazzling, stunning bride for Jesus!
“Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.” ¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. ¹¹ It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. Revelation 21:9–11
 - a. This is not a literal city but the Church, the Bride of Christ that is being described
 - b. We will radiate with God’s glory like a huge, brilliant gemstone shines with light - glorious and beautiful
 - c. Every imperfection and impurity will be removed, and the church will be radiant with the very glory of God! This is our destiny!

2. We will be a vast multitude from every people group
The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. ²⁵ On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. ²⁶ The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. Revelation 21:24–26
 - a. Nations, kings of the earth, nations - all peoples!
 - b. Splendor, glory and honor - all that is best of humanity’s accomplishments and works
 - c. A visual representation of Revelation 7:9-10
After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ And they cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.” Revelation 7:9–10
 1. The Gospel will accomplish its work!
 2. A cleansed, united, worshipping multitude from every people group - what a glorious picture of the church’s future!
3. A glorious consummation!
 - a. The curse removed, life restored!
Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³ No longer will there be any curse. Revelation 22:1–3
 1. Water of life, tree of life given to us freely!
 2. The curse removed - like being back in the Garden!

III. Applying the Word - Made For Another World

b. Consummation - better than the Garden!

The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. ⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever. Revelation 22:3–5

1. Better than the Garden - this is a garden within a huge, beautiful, protected city!
2. God is in the house!
3. The consummation is better than the Garden for we will see the very face of God, and we will be fully, unalterably His forever!

C. The response of faith - Come Lord Jesus!

The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life... ²⁰ He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Revelation 22:17, 20

1. The response of the heart stirred by this vision - “Come!”
2. God’s Spirit within us cries out for this consummation
3. Right at the close of Scripture - Come Lord Jesus!
4. I hope this vision stirs you and me to say “Come Lord Jesus!”

A. Do we see we were made for another world?

1. This had been the struggle of CS Lewis - he longed for another world, but thought it was false - but it was not!
2. Lewis’ breakthrough
“If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world.” - CS Lewis
 - a. He finally saw that all he longed for was meant to be a pointer to that for which he was created
 - b. The longings of his imagination were not an illusion opposed to truth, but a signpost to the ultimate reality for which he had been made
3. We were made for another world - not this sin-stained, sorrow-soaked world of pain, rebellion, falsehood and dashed hopes
 - a. Friends we were made for another world - a perfect one without sin, imperfection or death
 - b. We were made for life, and to behold the face of God - and nothing else will satisfy!
You have made us for Yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find rest in you. - Augustine

B. Do we see the lure of the enemy to make us settle for this world instead of the one for which we were made?

1. *The Silver Chair* - The Queen of Underland tries to make the children and Puddleglum forget the real world above

2. This is what Satan wants to do to us - make us live only for the here and now. Tragically, this actually causes us to miss out on both the here and now and the glorious future!
3. The long, sad story of the human quest for joy outside God
 “All that we call human history—money, poverty, ambition, war, prostitution, classes, empires, slavery —[is] the long terrible story of man trying to find something other than God which will make him happy.” - CS Lewis
4. Hear and respond to the longing for joy that is deep within - don't drown it out!

C. The Feast of Another World

1. This meal is often used to point back, to remember Christ's atoning work for us
2. But it also is meant to point forward, to the consummation of God's work (“until He comes”)
3. This meal is a foretaste of the great marriage supper of the Lamb - the feast beyond all compare, for which we were made
4. Let everyone who hungers for the Tree of Life come and eat! Let everyone who thirsts for the River of Life come and drink!

May our great God keep you from falling and present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy — so that your deepest desires and longings are fulfilled as you gaze at Him and feast in His eternal Kingdom! Amen. Jude 1:24 paraphrase

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” ⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Revelation 21:1–5

Made For Another World

Revelation 21:1-5

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Communion

Jude 24 paraphrase

Teaching keywords: Apologetics; eschatology; heaven, hell, and eternity