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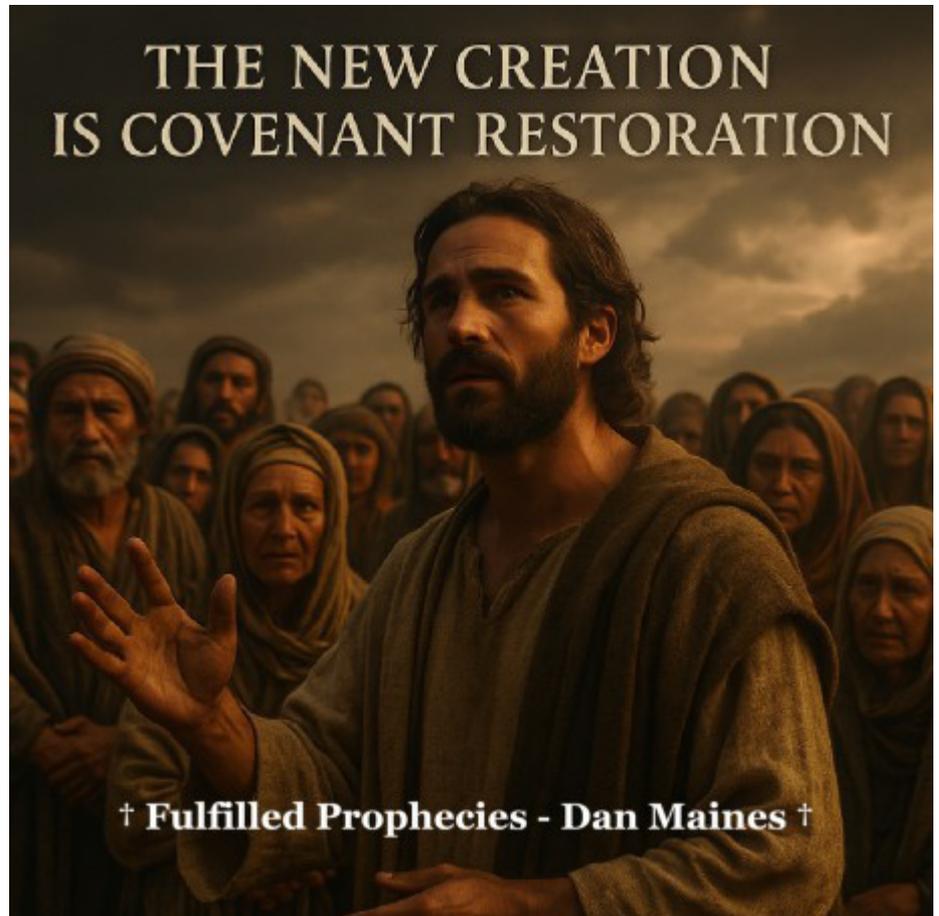
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**Creation - The New  
Creation Is  
Covenant  
Restoration**



By Dan Maines

**The New Creation Is Covenant Restoration**

**2 Corinthians 5:17**

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old things passed away, behold, new things have come.

† Paul isn't describing a renovated planet. He's describing a restored covenant relationship that replaced the condemned world of the Old Covenant. The contrast isn't between an old universe and a new universe, it's between the Old Covenant world that was passing away in their generation and the New

Covenant world that was arriving through Christ's finished work.

† In 2 Corinthians 5:17 Paul ties new creation directly to being in Christ. He doesn't mention geography, planets, or cosmic renewal. He's talking about covenant identity. The old things that passed away were the things tied to the Mosaic system, the Law, the condemnation, and the ministry of death, 2 Corinthians 3:7. New things had come because Christ had reconciled them and made them ministers of a New Covenant, 2 Corinthians 3:6.

### **The Old Covenant Was the Old Creation**

† The New Testament repeatedly ties the language of creation to covenant. Isaiah said God would create new heavens and a new earth when Jerusalem was judged and a new people was formed, Isaiah 65:13-17. That creation wasn't a new planet, it was a new people with a new name, Isaiah 65:15.

† Peter expected that promised new heavens and new earth to come at the destruction of the ungodly men of his time, 2 Peter 3:7-13. He said the promise was about righteousness dwelling, not about geology changing.

† John saw the same thing. When the first covenant world passed away, the New Jerusalem appeared, Revelation 21:1-2. That New Jerusalem wasn't a physical city descending through the sky, it was the bride, the church, Revelation 21:9-10.

### **The New Creation Is the New Covenant**

† Paul interprets Isaiah's new creation language for us. In Galatians 6:15 he says circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but a new creation. He ties new creation to covenant status, not cosmic change.

† Ephesians 2:10 says believers were created in Christ Jesus. That creation was the result of reconciliation, not physical transformation.

† Ephesians 4:24 says the new self was created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. Again, it's covenant identity, not planetary renewal.

† Colossians 3:9-10 says believers put on the new self that is being renewed. That's spiritual transformation, not a new universe.

† The New Testament never ties new creation to the destruction or renewal of the physical universe. Instead, it ties it to the transformation of people. In 2 Corinthians 5:16 Paul even says they no longer recognize anyone according to the flesh, showing that new creation is relational and covenantal, not environmental.

## **Why the New Creation Had to Come in the First Century**

† The old things that passed away were the covenant institutions that defined Israel under Moses. Hebrews 8:13 says the Old Covenant was becoming obsolete, growing old, and ready to disappear in their generation.

† Hebrews 10:37 says He who is coming will come and will not delay. That coming removed the last vestiges of the Old Covenant system. When the temple fell, the old creation of the Law vanished, and the full establishment of the New Covenant stood forever.

† This is why Paul said new creation had already come, not would come thousands of years later. It was a present reality because reconciliation had already been accomplished in Christ, 2 Corinthians 5:18-19.

† Jesus Himself tied the passing of the Old Covenant world to that generation, Matthew 24:34. That means the old creation of the Law had to pass away before the new creation could stand fully revealed. Paul's statement that new things had already come proves the transition was underway before AD 70 and completed in that generation.

## **Historical References**

† Justin Martyr affirmed that the true Israel was the church, the people of the New Covenant.

† Irenaeus recognized that the promises of restoration were fulfilled in Christ's new humanity.

† Eusebius applied Isaiah's new heavens and new earth to the end of the Jewish age in the first century.

† Tertullian affirmed the passing of the Old Covenant world and the establishment of the New Covenant community.

† Josephus recorded the destruction of the Old Covenant temple system that cleared the way for the New Covenant world.

## **How It Applies to Us Today**

† We're not waiting for God to make a new planet. We're living inside the New Covenant world right now. The new creation is the restored relationship with God that Christ brought. The righteousness, peace, and reconciliation Paul described belong to believers today because the Old Covenant order has already passed away.

† This truth frees us from futurist fear. The new creation isn't pending, it's our identity. We aren't waiting to become new. We've already been made new in Christ because everything tied to condemnation and the Law has passed away.

† New creation is the lived reality of reconciliation, holiness, and righteousness in Christ. It isn't about waiting for God to fix the

planet, it's about walking in the fullness of the covenant that has already been established. Believers today live in what the prophets longed to see, 1 Peter 1:10-12.

† The apostles never placed new creation after the millennium or after a global destruction. They placed it within the accomplished work of Christ and the completed removal of the Old Covenant system. That's why Paul could say the new creation had already come while the temple still stood, because its full unveiling came when the old order disappeared as Jesus promised.

**† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †**

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### **Source Index**

† 2 Corinthians 5:17; 2 Corinthians 3:6-7; Isaiah 65:13-17; 2 Peter 3:7-13; Revelation 21:1-2, 9-10; Galatians 6:15; Ephesians 2:10, 4:24; Colossians 3:9-10; Hebrews 8:13, 10:37; 2 Corinthians 5:18-19; 2 Corinthians 5:16; Matthew 24:34; 1 Peter 1:10-12

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