

# Hope Restored

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## [A NOTE FOR YOU, THE PREACHER]

- **Night 1: Hope Restored**
- This sermon presents the topic of the Great Controversy between good and evil. It shows that sin is the root of the problems in this world. This sermon is based on Jesus' parable of the wheat and the weeds in Matthew 13. This sermon explains (1) God's original plan, (2) how sin interrupted God's plan, and (3) how God's plan will be restored.
- The appeal is based on the powerful truth that the God who will one day restore all things can restore our lives today (health, family, peace, etc.). You will invite people, both church members and visitors, to come to the front and give their burdens to Jesus in prayer.
- Some churches may ask you for a Scripture reading. A good Scripture for this sermon would be Genesis 3:15.
- In this sermon, there are three places in this sermon where it is ideal to share your personal experience.
- In the introduction, talk about a time that your plans were interrupted. This is meant to set up the concept that God's perfect plan was interrupted by sin.
- After talking about the sin of Adam and Eve, you can share a story about a time that you followed your own ideas instead of God's purposes or the instructions of an authority, and the unfortunate results that occurred.
- In the appeal, share a story about how God restored a part of your life.
- This is an important message. The goal is to make it clear that God is the source of every good thing, and that evil and suffering come from Satan. You will give a message of hope and show that although sin has interrupted God's plan, God will restore all things in the future, and He can restore our lives today.
- Also, be aware that as you prepare to preach this sermon, you may recognize the great controversy at work in your own life. Be prayerful, and preach with conviction, inviting people to lay their problems at the feet of the God who restores all things.

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- Good evening, everyone! I am glad to see you all here tonight. Welcome to the first evening of our series, "A New Beginning."
- My name is \_\_\_\_; I am a university student from the United States, but I have come to share messages of hope.
- I have enjoyed my first entire day in this country. I appreciate the hospitality I have experienced here.
- I look forward to spending this week with you all.
- [Perhaps add a slide with a picture of yourself or your family.]

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- We are beginning the series with a powerful topic: Hope Restored.
- This week, we are discovering the keys to hope from the pages of the Bible.
- Before we begin tonight's topic, I would like to introduce the topic for tomorrow.

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- The topic for tomorrow is “The Invitation to Hope.”
- If you desire freedom from guilt, this topic is for you.
- If you desire to have peace of mind, this topic is for you.
- If you know someone who needs to hear this message, bring them!

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- Tomorrow, I will tell you a story about a young man named Martin.
- Like many young people today, Martin struggled with depression.
- One night, he had a strange dream.

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- In this dream, Martin saw the devil with a list of his sins.
- The devil asked Martin, “Are these your sins?” Martin replied, “Yes.”
- But Martin saw something else. The devil’s hand was covering the top of the scroll.

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- Martin said, “Show me what is under your hand.”
- The devil said, “No.”
- Martin repeated: “Move your hand!”
- Again, the devil said, “No!”
- Martin said a third time: “In the name of Jesus, move your hand!”
- At last, the devil moved his hand, and Martin saw what was at the top of the scroll.

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- If you want to find out what was under the devil’s hand, come tomorrow night.
- Join us tomorrow as we discover “The Invitation to Hope.”

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- But for tonight, our topic is “Hope Restored.” Let’s pray together.

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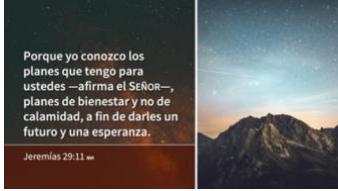
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- Have you ever experienced an interruption to your plans?
- Perhaps you planned to have an activity outside, but then there was rain.
- Perhaps you planned to accomplish a certain task at your job, but then you got sick and could not go to work.
- Perhaps you planned to spend time with a friend or loved one, but then something unexpected came up in your schedule.
- (Share about a time that your plans were interrupted.)
- In the Bible, God tells us about His plans for us. In Jeremiah 29:11, we read:

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- “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” —Jeremiah 29:11, NIV.
- God says that He has wonderful plans for us.
- He wants us to live with hope.

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- But when we look around at our world, we see pain and sorrow, sickness and death.
- It does not look like a world of hope.
- What is the reason for this?
- If God is good and has wonderful plans for our lives, why is our world so bad?
- Why do we face suffering?

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- Jesus provided the answers to these questions in a story that He told to His disciples.
- He talked about a farmer who planted wheat in his field.

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- One day, the servants of the farmer saw that there were bad weeds in the field.
- There were so many weeds that they knew someone had planted them.
- They asked the farmer where the weeds came from, and what to do about the problem.

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- Jesus told this story to illustrate the problem of sin in our world. There are three points that we will explore from this story:
- God's original plan.
- How God's plan was interrupted.
- How God's plan will be restored.

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- Let's begin by looking at God's original plan.
- Jesus Himself explained the story in Matthew 13:37.

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- “The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom.” — Matthew 13:37, NIV.

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- The farmer is a symbol of Jesus Himself.
- On earth, He called Himself “the Son of Man.”
- He is the Creator of this world and everything in it.

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- The first chapters of the Bible describe how God created the world.
- In six days, He made the sky, the sea, the land, and all the animals and creatures that live on this planet.
- He made the first two human beings, Adam and Eve.
- Genesis 1:31 describes the completion of God's work of creation.

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- “Then God saw everything that He made, and indeed it was very good.” —Genesis 1:31, NKJV.
- When God created this world, it was perfect.
- There was no sickness or disease. There was no pain or sadness.
- Everything existed in perfect happiness.
- The Bible says in James 1:17:

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- “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights.” —James 1:17, NKJV.
- Every good gift comes from God. He wants the very best for us.
- We all have a natural desire for peace, for security, for love.
- These good desires come from God.
- We were created in His image.

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- The Bible says that “God is love” (1 John 4:8).
- His kingdom is a kingdom of love.
- There is no selfishness or sin in His kingdom.
- He created everything to be perfect.

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- Have you ever planted a garden or watched a plant grow?
- Plants need different things in order to grow.
- They need water, they need sunlight, they need the right type of soil.
- It is the job of the farmer to make sure that the plants have everything they need to grow.

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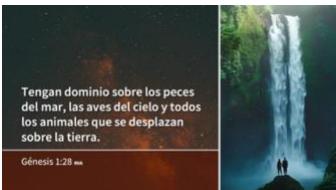
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- In the same way, God provided everything that Adam and Eve needed to be happy and grow in love.
- God gave them a perfect environment.
- God gave them a perfect relationship.
- He also gave them a special privilege: the privilege of taking care of His creation.

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- “Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.” – Genesis 1:28b, NIV.

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- But God's perfect plan was interrupted.
- In the story that Jesus told, the servants of the farmers noticed the weeds in the field. And they asked the farmer what happened.
- Let us read what the farmer said:

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- “An enemy has done this.” —Matthew 13:28, NKJV.

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- Today, when we look at our world, we see wars, we see diseases, we see conflict in families, we see people suffering with depression, we see loved ones getting sick and dying.
- This is not what God intended for our world.

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- When we ask, “Why is our world so bad?” the answer from the Bible is that “An enemy has done this.”
- Who is the enemy who interrupted God’s perfect plan? Let us read the answer from Jesus:

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- “The weeds are the people of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil.” —Matthew 13:38-39, NIV.

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- The one who causes all the sadness and pain in this world is the devil. He is the enemy!
- The sickness you face is the work of the enemy.
- The depression your son or daughter struggles with is the work of the enemy.
- The conflict and pain in your family is the work of the enemy.
- The Bible tells us in Ephesians 6:12:

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- “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.” —Ephesians 6:12, NIV.

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- In our world, there are many political conflicts and wars between nations.
- We experience conflict in our relationships and in our families.
- But we must remember that in reality, other people are not the enemy.
- The devil is the real enemy.

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- Now that we know who the enemy is, let us ask, “How did the enemy interrupt God’s plan?”

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- The story begins not on earth, but in heaven.
- Heaven is full of angels—beings who continually worship God and enjoy doing His will, beings who are perfect in character and live according to God’s law of love.
- There is order and structure among the angels in heaven.

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- One of the chief angels was named Lucifer.
- Lucifer was glorious and intelligent.
- Let us read what the prophet Ezekiel said about Lucifer:

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- “You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering.” —Ezekiel 28:12-14, NKJV.
- Lucifer was created with much splendor and authority. But notice what the next verse says:

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- “You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you.” —Ezekiel 28:15.
- At some sad point in time, Lucifer sinned.

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- As he thought about his own glory and authority, he began to desire the position of God.
- Lucifer wanted to rule the universe. He became selfish and proud; this was the origin of sin.
- God’s kingdom is a kingdom of love; but Lucifer began to be selfish instead of loving.
- Listen to the words of Lucifer, as told to us by the prophet Isaiah:

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- “For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; ...I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’” —Isaiah 14:13-14.
- Lucifer desired the authority of God.
- Lucifer was a created being, but he chose to rebel against His Creator.

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- As part of the rebellion, Lucifer began to spread lies about God.
- Many angels listened to him and believed his lies. In fact, one third of the angels chose to join Lucifer in his rebellion.
- There came a time when all the angels in heaven had to make a choice: they could choose to remain faithful to God, or they could choose to follow Lucifer, the rebellious angel.
- The Bible tells us what happened next:

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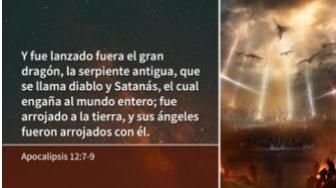
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- “And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.

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- So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” —Revelation 12:7-9, NKJV.

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- Lucifer, the perfect angel, became Satan, the rebellious demon.
- He and his followers were cast out of heaven.
- As a created being, he tried to rebel against the Creator.

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- But in every battle between Jesus and Satan, Jesus wins and Satan loses.
- Jesus won the first battle in heaven, and He will win at the very end.

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- But how did Satan, the enemy, interrupt God's plan here on earth?
- We read the sad story in Genesis chapter 3.

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- In the garden of Eden, God gave Adam and Eve a test.
- He gave them everything they needed to be happy.
- But he also gave them the freedom to choose.
- They could choose to be faithful to him, or they could choose to listen to the voice of Satan.
- Love requires a choice.

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- [ILLUSTRATION:]
- When a man and a woman love each other and promise to care for each other and be faithful to each other in marriage, that is a choice.
- Love requires a choice.
- God wanted Adam and Eve to worship Him and obey Him as a result of their own choice.
- Then they would truly love Him. So God gave Adam and Eve the freedom to choose.
- He gave them one primary instruction:

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- “You must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.” —Genesis 2:17, NIV.
- Satan was at that tree. He was ready to tempt Adam and Eve.
- He was ready to deceive them into rebellion against God.

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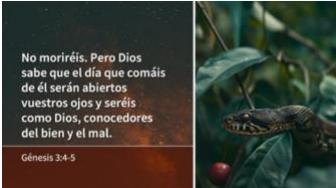
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- One day, Eve was standing near the tree. She heard the voice of a serpent calling to her.
- The serpent was one of the most beautiful and intelligent creatures.
- He asked questions to lead her to doubt God’s goodness.
- He deceived her into doubting the Word of God. He told her:

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- “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” —Genesis 3:5.

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- The serpent lied about the word of God and the character of God.
- And Eve believed his lies.
- The fruit appeared delicious.
- It appeared to give the serpent the ability to speak.
- She wondered if the fruit would give her new abilities, abilities that God did not want her to have.
- And so she took the fruit and ate it.

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- She also shared the fruit with Adam.
- Adam knew the command of God; but he placed his desire for Eve above his obedience to God.

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- Like Lucifer in the very beginning, and like Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, we sin when we place our own desires and ideas above our obedience to God.
- God knows what is best for us. His desire for us is peace and hope.
- But His plans for us are interrupted when we choose our own ways instead of His ways.
- (Maybe share a story about the unfortunate results of putting your own ideas above God's ways or the instruction of an authority.)

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- Just like the rebellious angels had to leave heaven, Adam and Eve had to leave their beautiful garden home.

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- Sin and selfishness brought sad results in this world. Joy and happiness were replaced with sorrow, pain, tears, disappointment, and death.
- Satan promised happiness, but he is a liar.

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- John 8:44 says, “He is a liar and the father of lies.”
- He lied to Adam and Eve, and he is still lying to men and women today.

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- Have you ever taken time to think in the quiet moments of life?
- In your pain and sadness, have you ever looked up into the sky and asked, “Why God, why?” Why is there pain? Why is there sorrow in this world?

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- The reason is that “An enemy has done this.”

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- In the story Jesus told about the farmer, the servants asked if the farmer had a plan to deal with the weeds that the enemy planted.
- Let us read the answer that the farmer gave to his servants:

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- “Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.” —Matthew 13:30, NIV.

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- At first, the wheat and the weeds looked very similar. It was hard to see the difference.
- But as they grew, it would become easier to see the difference.
- And when it was clear which plants were wheat, and which plants were weeds, then the harvest could begin.

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- When Lucifer began his rebellion, sin was a mystery to the angels.
- They did not understand sin or how bad it was.
- If God destroyed Lucifer at the beginning of the rebellion, the angels would have doubts about the character of God.
- So God allowed time for Lucifer to continue his rebellion, so that everyone can clearly see the results of sin.

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- When the rebellion continued here on earth, human beings experienced the tragic results of sin.
- We have all been deceived by Satan.
- But God gave a special promise—the promise of a Savior.

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- Before Adam and Eve had to leave the Garden of Eden, God spoke about a Savior who would one day destroy the serpent.
- Listen to what He told the serpent:

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- “And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.” —Genesis 3:15
- For thousands of years, the faithful people of God believed in the promise of a Savior.
- They repented of their sins. They believed in God’s forgiveness.
- And they believed that one day, He would defeat the enemy.
- And just as God promised, the Savior came. Galatians 4:4 says,

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- “When the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son.” —Galatians 4:4, NKJV.
- Jesus came at the right time!

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- God sent His own Son to be our Savior.
- We deserve to die for our sins, but Jesus died in our place.
- By sending Jesus, God demonstrated love much greater than we can ever imagine.
- And because Jesus is our Savior, because Jesus is our Redeemer, we have the hope that one day, God will make everything new.

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- In His life, He faced the temptations of Satan and overcame them.
- He lived a perfect life. He never sinned.
- In Hebrews 4:15, we read:

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- He “was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.” —Hebrews 4:15, NKJV.

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- In His death, He demonstrated a love that sacrifices instead of selfishness that desires power.
- The distinction between God’s love and Satan’s selfishness was clear.

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- And in His resurrection, Jesus demonstrated that righteousness and love are victorious over sin and selfishness.

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- Maybe tonight, you are wondering, Does God care about me? Does God care about my suffering? Does God care about my pain?
- Tonight I can tell you: Yes, He does.
- He cares so much that He gave His own Son.
- He understands your pain, because He experienced pain.
- He understands your suffering, because He Himself suffered.
- And the good news is that He has a plan to restore all things, to make all things new.

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- Today, we are living in the final days of the battle between good and evil.
- Jesus is coming soon to put an end to suffering.
- He will restore all things.

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- In the story of the farmer, this was described by the harvest.
- Jesus said that “the harvest is the end of the age” (Matthew 13:39, NIV).

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- Soon Jesus will come with His angels.
- Sinners will be destroyed. Those who cause evil and pain will not be able to stand in His presence.
- But those who repent of their sins, those who believe in the Savior, those who trust in the love of Jesus, they will be saved.
- God will create a new heaven and a new earth, and those who believe will be part of that glorious future.
- Today we experience pain and suffering.
- But one day soon, if we trust in Jesus, we will be in a world where there is no more suffering.
- Revelation 21:4 says,

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- “God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorry, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” —Revelation 21:4, NKJV.
- What a beautiful day that will be!

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- My friends, God restores.
- The God who will one day make all things new, can bring restoration to your life today.
- You may be facing sickness or disease, but He is able to restore your health and peace.
- You have a broken family, but God is able to restore your relationships.
- You may be facing depression, but God can restore your hope.
- You may be facing economic problems, but God is able to restore your finances.
- You may be struggling with addiction, but God is able to give you victory.
- You may be living a life of sin, but God is able to transform you and restore you to righteousness.
- I know this, because God brought restoration into my life.
- (Share a story about how God restored some part of your life.)

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- Tonight, if you want to give Jesus your problems, if you want Him to restore your life, if you want the peace that He alone can give, I invite you to come to the front.
- We will pray together. Together we will choose to trust Jesus.
- I want Jesus to restore my life. I know there are things in my life that He needs to restore.
- If you want to join me in praying to the God who restores, I invite you to join me here at the front.
- It doesn't matter how big your problems may be. There is no problem too big for God.
- It doesn't matter what your past may have been like. You can bring your problems to God today.
- Let's pray together.