

## **Weekly Devotions: GOD IS SOVEREIGN 4**

### **God, the Creator of the New Heaven and New Earth**

It is interesting that the bible starts and ends with creation. There was nothing wrong with the first creation, it was good and flawless (Gen 1: 10, 18, 25b, 31) and God raised man to have dominion over it. Unfortunately, man chose to disobey God, hence, bringing sin, evil and corruption into God's perfect creation. We messed everything up and destroyed God's perfect creation!

In His mercy and grace, instead of punishing us and writing us off, God chose to restore us to the original close relationship with Him. Through His Son, God will raise a 'royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession' (1 Pet 2: 9-10). He will bring this creation, corrupted and ruined by sin, to an end and will create a new heaven and earth. Those who belong to Him will spend eternity with Him in this new heaven and earth.

### **Read Revelation 21: 1-8; 22-27**

For believers facing persecution and life's many problems, Rev 21 and 22 have been a source of great comfort and hope. They can look beyond their present suffering to an eternal future of joy and peace in the presence of God. For all who believe, death is the gateway to something glorious. We praise God, the Giver of eternal hope, for His work of redemption and restoration.

#### *Questions to ponder*

1. What is this new creation like and what is distinctive about it (vv. 3 & 4)?
2. Who will be allowed to enter and who will be kept out of God's new heaven and earth? (Rev 21: 7-8, 27; Rev 22: 14-15)
3. Is there someone you know, a loved one or a friend, who is not in the book of life? How can you help him / her become a 'citizen' of the new heaven and new earth?