

# Revelation 21:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

**And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes** (καὶ ἐξαλείψει ὁ θεὸς πᾶν δάκρυον)—The verb exaleipsei means to "wipe out, erase completely," the same word used for blotting out sin (Acts 3:19, Col 2:14). God Himself performs this most tender act, echoing Isaiah 25:8. This is not mere comfort but complete obliteration of sorrow's cause.

**There shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither...any more pain**—A fourfold negation dismantling the curse of Genesis 3. Thanatos (death), penthos (mourning/grief), krauge (crying out in distress), and ponos (pain/toil) are permanently abolished. The repeated ouketi ("no more, no longer") emphasizes finality. What Adam's sin introduced, the Second Adam's victory eradicates forever.

**For the former things are passed away** (ὅτι τὰ πρῶτα ἀπῆλθαν)—Perfect tense: they "have gone away and remain gone." This is the eternal state, not the millennial kingdom. Paul's "old things passed away, all things become new" (2 Cor 5:17) finds ultimate fulfillment here. The new creation eclipses the first creation as fully as resurrection bodies surpass mortal flesh.

## Historical Context

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John wrote from exile on Patmos (circa AD 95) to seven churches enduring persecution under Domitian. His first readers faced imprisonment, economic ruin, and martyrdom for refusing emperor worship. This vision of the new Jerusalem descending (21:2) directly counters Roman imperial propaganda—Caesar's "eternal city" versus God's eternal city, Caesar's false peace versus true shalom.

The imagery echoes Isaiah's new creation prophecies (Isa 65:17-19, 25:8) and Ezekiel's temple vision (Ezek 40-48), but radically transforms them. No temple exists (21:22), for God and the Lamb are the temple. The prophets spoke of restoration; John sees complete re-creation. To readers suffering "death, sorrow, crying, pain," this vision was not escapist fantasy but bedrock hope: present suffering is temporary, God's victory certain.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does the image of God personally wiping away tears reveal His character differently than simply "ending suffering"?
2. Which of the four abolished realities (death, sorrow, crying, pain) do you most long to see vanquished, and how does this hope sustain present endurance?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ	ἐξαλείψει	ὁ	Θεὸς	πάν	δάκρυον	ἀπὸ	τῶν
And	shall wipe away	G3588	God	all	tears	from	G3588
G2532	G1813		G2316	G3956	G1144	G575	
ὀφθαλμῶν	αὐτῶν	καὶ	ὁ	θάνατος	οὐκ	ἔσται	ἔτι
eyes	their	And	G3588	death	no	shall there be	any more
G3788	G846	G2532		G2288	G3756	G2071	G2089
οὔτε	πένθος	οὔτε	κραυγὴ	οὔτε	πόνος	οὐκ	ἔσται
neither	sorrow	neither	crying	neither	pain	no	shall there be
G3777	G3997	G3777	G2906	G3777	G4192	G3756	G2071
ἔτι	ὅτι	τὰ	πρῶτα	ἀπῆλθον			
any more	for	G3588	the former things	are passed away			
G2089	G3754		G4413	G565			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 25:8** (References God): He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it.

**Revelation 7:17** (References God): For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

**1 Corinthians 15:26** (Parallel theme): The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

**Isaiah 60:20** (Parallel theme): Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall thy moon withdraw itself: for the LORD shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended.

**Isaiah 35:10** (Parallel theme): And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

**Isaiah 51:11** (Parallel theme): Therefore the redeemed of the LORD shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away.

**1 John 2:17** (References God): And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

**Jeremiah 31:13** (Parallel theme): Then shall the virgin rejoice in the dance, both young men and old together: for I will turn their mourning into joy, and will comfort them, and make them rejoice from their sorrow.

**Matthew 24:35** (Parallel theme): Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

**Isaiah 30:19** (Parallel theme): For the people shall dwell in Zion at Jerusalem: thou shalt weep no more: he will be very gracious unto thee at the voice of thy cry; when he shall hear it, he will answer thee.