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# From the beginning of creation

*"Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female (...), and the two shall become one flesh'? (...). Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate".*

*"For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven".*

Matthew 19:4-6; 22:30

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We hear all sorts of contradictory voices in the media. For example, there is a statement by the Dutch bishops that the so-called gender theory is incompatible with the Christian view of human life. There is no need to speculate at all about various forms of gender, because God made human beings as male and female from the beginning. It is as simple as that: the biological sex is decisive. Similarly, there are members of the Chamber of Deputies who advocate including the value of the family in the constitution.

These are indeed encouraging voices in the post-Christian era in which we live. However, there are also people who advocate including the right to abortion in the constitution. And there are combinations in the making of man and machine, which will probably be forerunners of the two "beasts" that will rise from the sea and from the earth respectively in Revelation 13. We should have no illusions: the great apostasy is coming, and our only certainty is the reliable Word of God. The man of sin, the lawless one, will even sit in the temple of God, showing himself God (2 Thess. 2:3-4). A satanic trinity of evil shall be formed once the Spirit and the church are taken away from the earth.

## The new creation

While we want to hold on to Christian values in an apostate society, we also have a wonderful perspective, because we belong to the *new* creation that is the result of Christ's death and resurrection (2 Cor. 5:17; Rev. 21:1-5). The glorified church, the bride of the Lamb, will soon descend from heaven as the holy city, the new governmental center of God and of the Lamb (Rev. 19-21). The first things will then have passed away, and the former laws governing the earth will no longer apply.

In the resurrection, we do not marry and shall participate in new and eternal forms of existence: *we are like the angels of God in heaven and cannot die*. Therefore, our mortal bodies must put on incorruption and will bear the image of the heavenly Man (1 Cor. 15). To this end, we expect Christ as our Savior from heaven, Who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself (Phil. 3:20-21). This happens at Christ's coming in glory, when He will introduce us into His Father's house. As God's ambassadors, we will then serve Him forever and go where He will send us. He makes all things new. We can hardly imagine the completely new world, which we will then enter and where we will reign with Christ forever and ever (Rev. 22:5). The limitations of space and time will then no longer apply.

Blessed are those who wash their long garments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city (Rev. 22:14). I believe this promise applies to all heavenly saints, including those from the old dispensation. For Jerusalem here on earth, there are also many promises of blessing during the millennial Kingdom, when restored Israel will be richly blessed and be a light to the nations.