

August 14, 2022

## Living with the End in Mind

Pastor David Uth

### Passage: Revelation 22:1-5; Genesis 2:8-9, 15-17; 3:22-24

#### Revelation 22:1-5

1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb 2 through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. 3 No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. 4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5 And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

#### Genesis 2:8-9, 15-17

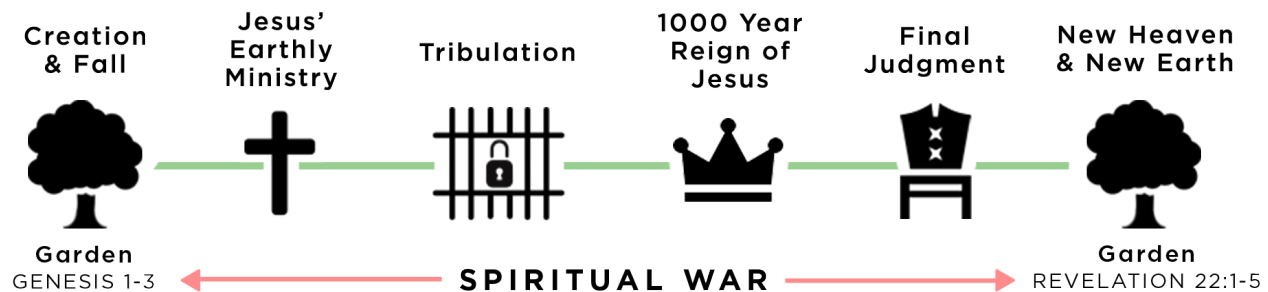
8 And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. 9 And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil... 15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

#### Genesis 3:22-24

22 Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—" 23 therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. 24 He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

## Background

Today we open a new series called "Living with the End in Mind," which will be an exploration into how we should think, believe, and live knowing Jesus is returning one day. Rather than unreliable predictions and illustrative charts hoping to calculate the Second Coming of Christ, our series will be dedicated to helping each us become more watchful, faithful, and hopeful as we live NOW with great confidence that Jesus is coming back one day... and that one day could be ANY day.



\*NOT TO SCALE

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## Instructions

Since we believe we are BETTER TOGETHER, this discussion guide serves as a conversation guide with your small group. The “Belong” section offers an ‘ice-breaker’ or reflection question to start your time together. In the “Believe” section, feel free to use all or only some of the questions. Our hope is to have meaningful conversations around God’s Word, not simply answer all the questions. Finally, the “Become” section is to help identify a specific next step. Use these questions as a guide to find practical ways to apply the passage to our everyday life and to pray for one another.

## Belong

- When you think of the “end times” what is the first image that comes to mind? What is one goal you hope to accomplish before the end of 2022 and why?

## Believe

In today’s message, Pastor David walked us through God’s salvation story – how from one Garden (Gen 1-3) to another Garden (Rev 21) – He has been working to make new what has been broken by sin in the world. God’s plan was to send Jesus, who lived the perfect life that we could never live, who died the death we deserved, and was raised on the third day to defeat sin and death so that He could REDEEM His people and RESTORE their home! And between the first coming of Jesus to redeem us and His second coming to make all things new, there is a spiritual war raging.

- What stood out to you the most in the message? What are some biblical examples Pastor David gave of God “working” His plan to redeem His people and restore their home? What does this teach us about God’s character? How does this give us hope about our future?
- **Read Revelation 21:1-5 and Genesis 3:22-24.** Have you ever considered the connection between the two gardens at the beginning and “end” of Scripture? Why or why not? In what ways should knowing the “end” of the story (Jesus wins! And so do we!) change the way we live right now? What needs to change in your own life now?
- **Read Colossians 2:13-15 and Ephesians 6:10-13–** What has God done through Jesus for us? What did the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus accomplish against the “rulers and authorities” in this spiritual war? According to Ephesians, in what ways are we still in a “battle” even though Jesus has already won the “war”? How does this passage instruct us to fight this spiritual battle? How is this helpful when thinking about the return of Jesus or when we encounter difficulties in the world?

## Become

- In what ways have you seen God redeem and restore broken parts of your own life? How do you think God can use your story to encourage someone else this week?
- **PRAYER POINTS:** Pray that our daily routines reflect the priority of Jesus coming back. Pray that the people we encounter will see, know, feel, and hear the love of Jesus through us. Pray that as a group we will commit to speaking the truth in love to one another as often as we can. Pray for an open heart to share the Gospel with someone this week.