

Living with the End in Mind

Pastor David Uth

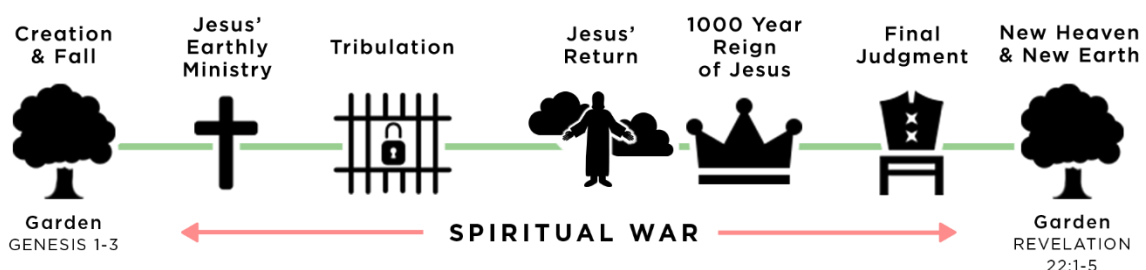
Passage: Revelation 21:1-8

1Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. 4He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." 5And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." 6And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. 7The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. 8But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."

Background

As we return for our final two weeks in the series "Living with the End in Mind," Pastor David will help us see the beauty of both the known and unknown aspects of eternity and heaven. More specifically, what exactly does John mean when he is given the vision of a "new heaven and a new earth?" While much mystery remains, what we can be confident in is this: One day every follower of Jesus will see Jesus face-to-face in a perfect place where all that has been broken has been made new. So may we live *today* in the same way we would on *THAT* day!

Sermon Notes



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

- What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think about heaven? Why?

Believe

- **Read Revelation 21:1-8.** What stands out to you in the vision Jesus gives John of a “new heaven and a new earth?” What did the loud voice say (vs. 3)? Why is this so significant? What do you think it means that Jesus is making “all things new?” How does the one “seated on the throne” describe himself (vs. 5-6). Who is Jesus talking about in verse 6-7? What will he give to these people? What do you believe this means? How does Jesus describe another group of people in verse 8? What will happen to them? What should we learn from this passage? What
- **Read Revelation 21:9-27 and 22:1-3.** What are some of the ways John describes the “holy city” that he sees in his vision? How should we best understand all these descriptions of the “holy city?” Should we take this literally or figuratively? Does it matter? What part of this passage captures your attention the most? Why would there be no need for a temple in the new holy city (vs. 22-27)? Why would there be no need for light (Rev 22:1-3)? What should this teach us about Jesus? How should this encourage us? How does thinking about our future with Jesus help us practically live for him today?
- **Reflect again on Revelation 21:3-4. Read it slowly.** Why would followers of Jesus call heaven their ‘home’? What comfort do these two verses bring to you? In what ways does knowing you will ‘dwell’ WITH God himself bring you peace? In what ways can verse four bring us great hope right now? How can these simple, but profound, verses strengthen our daily walk with Jesus? Who in your life needs this encouragement?

Become

- If Jesus is the focal point of worship for eternity, how should that shape the way we live each day right now? Do your present priorities reflect a life that is “living with the end in mind?” Why or why not? What needs to change?
- **PRAYER POINTS:** How can we pray specifically for one another this week? Pray for those who have recently lost loved ones. Pray for anyone you know who struggles around the holiday season. Pray for the upcoming community outreach Christmas Festival at FBCO. Pray for ways your group can serve with one of our community partners.



FIRST ORLANDO

groups discussion guide

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