

“The Final Kingdom”

(Rev. 20:1-6)

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I. Introduction

A. The Day the Persecution Ended

1. The year was 312 AD
2. A new Roman Emperor
 - a. Constantine
3. Had seen a vision prior to decisive battle
 - a. Embraced Christianity after victory
4. Ended 300 years of suffering by Christians
 - a. Had suffered incredible tribulation
 - b. Yet their numbers continued to swell
5. The day Constantine was inaugurated
 - a. All changed
 - b. Christianity became the official religion of Rome
7. Christians had been taught to pray for the Kingdom to come,
 - a. *“Your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.”*
 - b. The tribulation was over!
8. They thought the Kingdom had come
 - a. It would have made sense to me too
 - b. Even though Christ had not returned

- c. Maybe it was only going to be a spiritual kingdom
- d. ...and Christ would return at the end

9. Seemed to make sense....but they were wrong

B. Augustine

1. Shortly thereafter Augustine wrote “The City of God”
2. Thought the Kingdom had come
3. A spiritual kingdom
4. Key to Roman Catholic doctrine
4. But he too was wrong!

C. The Reformation

1. 1500's
2. Calvin – Luther – Melanchthon
3. Thought the Kingdom had come
4. A spiritual kingdom
5. But they too were wrong

D. The Turn of the 20th Century

1. Revivals of Dwight L. Moody and Charles Finney
2. Re-awakening
3. World-wide expansion
4. Thought the Kingdom had come
5. But they too were wrong

E. After the resurrection of Jesus

1. Just before He was taken up into Heaven

2. His Disciples wondered if it was “Kingdom Time”
3. (Acts 1:6)— *“Therefore when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, **“Lord, will You at this time restore the Kingdom to Israel?”**”*
2. Thought the Kingdom had come
3. But they too were wrong

F. The Importance of “the Kingdom”

1. Also called the **Millennium**
 - a. **“mille” = a thousand**
 - b. **“annum” = years**
2. Woven throughout the O.T. and N.T.
 - a. Key to Daniel’s prophecies
 - b. A fifth and final Kingdom must come
3. Getting closer.....urgency
 - a. The “fig tree” of Matt. 24
 - *Israel in 1948
 - b. The generation that sees it “bud”
 - *will not pass away until...
4. Pieces moving into place
5. The Copper Scrolls
 - a. The Temple
6. Are you getting ready???

I. Text

A. The Return of the Savior (Rev. 19)

1. Last week

2. The Tribulation is over
3. The Battle of Armageddon is over (Rev. 19)
 - a. The Lord returns
 - b. Anti-Christ and False Prophet sent to the Lake of Fire (Hell)
 - c. The rest of the sinners slain by the word of the Lord
4. About to begin the most glorious period on earth

but First

B. The Removal of Satan (Rev. 20:1-3)

1. No true kingdom with Satan free
 - a. Behind opposition to Christ throughout history
 1. In the Garden
 2. In the time of Noah
 3. When 1/3 of the angels joined him in rebellion
 4. When the Pharaohs of Egypt tried to destroy the Jews
 5. When Herod tried to kill the newborn Christ child
 6. When Satan tempted Jesus for 40 days in the wilderness
 7. When Nero tried to eliminate early Christians
 8. When Bibles have been burned
 9. During the Inquisitions
 10. The Holocaust
 - a. Hitler's "Final Solution"
 - b. Kill all of the Jews
 11. Behind every Godless philosophy

- a. French Skeptics
- b. German Rationalism
- c. European Liberalism
- d. American Humanism
- e. Atheistic Communism

12. Behind current apathy

- b. The assault rages today
 - c. Will reach a crescendo during the Tribulation
2. But not during “the Kingdom”
3. John sees an angel descending from heaven

(1) And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain.

- a. Has his eyes on the last enemy
 - b. Satan’s armies lie in a pool of blood
 - 1. Vultures gnawing at their flesh
- 4 The angel will be carrying two items....a key & a chain

a. The key to the Abyss

- 1. Also called the “bottomless pit” (“Abyssos”)
- 2. The place where demons are bound
 - a. II Peter 2:4
 - a. Called “Tartaros”
- 3. Two types of demons
 - a. Loose

1. Increase in demonic activity

b. Bound

1. Cohabited with women

2. In the days of Noah

Jude 6—“And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own habitation, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day.”

5. God has the key to the Abyss

a. Hands it to an Angel

b. To get Satan

7. Demons dreaded the pit

a. “Please Jesus, anyplace but there!”

b. Luke 8:31

8. But, now their time is up!

a. All of the demons locked up

b. Along with Satan

b. The chain

6. Satan grabbed by the Angel

(2) He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.

7. Four names....four characteristics of Satan

1. The Dragon

a. He is unimaginably cruel

b. Like a savage beast

2. *That Ancient Serpent*

- a. He is deceitfulness
- b. As in Garden

3. *The Devil*

- a. He is a slanderer and malignant liar
- a. “Diabolos”

4. *Satan*

- a. He is the wicked accuser
- b. (Rev. 12:10)—“The accuser of the brethren, who accused them before our God day and night”

8. Sent to the Bottomless Pit...the Abyss

(3) He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.

- a. Sealed it
- b. No more deception for 1000 years
 - 1. Peace in the kingdom

9. Causes of sin

- a. The World
 - 1. Gone
 - 2. Theocracy
 - 3. Christ on Earth
- b. The Devil
 - 1. gone for 1000 years
- c. The Flesh

1. Mankind still depraved
 2. Vast multitudes born during the 1,000 years
 3. Choose to reject Christ despite His very presence
 4. Why not?
 - a. Did it 2000 years ago!
10. Satan will have one final fling
- a. At the end of the thousand years
11. But—meanwhile back to earth!

C. The Reign of the Saints (Rev. 20:4-6)

(4) I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

1. Annie's Desire
 - a. To be a princess
 - b. Can't – not royal birth!
2. The injustice of Monarchy
 - a. Only royalty can rule (sit on the throne)
 - b. Based on birth not merit
3. But—the kingdom is coming
 - a. Thrones
 - b. Crowns
 - c. Reigning
4. Based on righteousness!

(4) I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

5. Literal thrones
 - a. God's plan of government
6. Vast population
 - a. Surviving tribulation saints go into the kingdom
 - b. Never died
 - c. Re-populate the earth
 - d. Great fruitfulness
7. Multitudes will come to Christ during the Millennium
 - a. The offspring of the survivors
8. Those who reign
 - a. In glorified bodies
 - b. Resurrected dead
9. But who are they?
10. "The First Resurrection"

(5) (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. (6) Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

The 1st Resurrection:

1. *Will include the righteous of all eras*

New Testament Believers

a. From the Church Age

*you and me!

b. I Cor. 6:2—“Do you not know that the saints will judge the world?”

--Glorious

--Work hard today

--Not for salvation

--Rather for future kingdom

Old Testament Believers

a. Dan. 7:18—“But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever.

b. Raised sometime before the 1000 years

Tribulation Believers

a. Two groups

1. Alive at the time of Christ's return

a. Glorified bodies?

2. Martyred during the Tribulation

a. Beheaded

b. Refused mark of the Beast

c. Refused to worship the Beast –

*or his image

b. “And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years”

c. They too will be resurrected before the 1000 years begins

2. Will occur prior to the start of the 1000 years

- a. Several phases...but all prior to the 1000 years
- b. The “second resurrection” will occur after the 1000 years
- c. And will be a time of judgment...not reward

3. Will allow the righteous to reign with Christ for 1000 years

- 1. They are all “blessed and holy”
- 2. Time of unbridled joy and celebration

11. But what about the “rejectors” of God???

(5) (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. (6) Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

- a. The rest of the dead
 - 1. The unrighteous
 - 2. Sinners
 - 3. Have rejected God’s pleas
- b. Will remain dead until the 1000 is over
- c. Where?
 - 1. Hades
 - 2. Luke 16 (Rich man and Lazarus)

12. Will be the object of the “Second Resurrection”.... “the 2nd death”

- a. Must still be judged
- b. Will occur at Great White Throne of Judgment (v. 11-15)
- c. Called the “Second Death”

III. Summary

A. Next week

1. Life in the Final Kingdom
2. Your daily activities
3. What you'll look like in the Kingdom

B. Will you be a part of the 1st Resurrection?

1. Described in I Thes. 4:16-18

(16) For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. (17) After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

2. But verse 14 tells who gets to go in the first resurrection

- a. (NIV)

1. "We believe that Jesus died and rose again"
2. Omits two Greek words

- b. (Greek)

1. "***For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again...***"

3. If you believe.....You will be a part of the 1st Resurrection

4. Key results

- a. Will have no fear of the first death

1. Physical death
2. Absent from the body...present with the Lord
3. Irene's funeral

- b. Will have no fear of the second death

1. Judgment of the unrighteous

2. Believe and be declared righteous

c. Will reign with Christ in the Final Kingdom

5. *“for if you believe that Jesus died and rose again....”*