

# **“The Final Kingdom”**

## **(part 4)**

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**Chapel Pointe**  
**October 10, 2010**

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### **I. Introduction**

#### **A. The next two or three Sundays**

1. The final chapters of Revelation
2. Today, “The Final Kingdom”
3. Next Sunday, “The Hereafter”
4. Clint Eastwood’s new movie, “*Hereafter*”
  - a. Starring Matt Damon
  - b. What he believes happens to us when we die
5. I’ll be sharing what God says happens to us
  - a. Where are they now?

#### **B. Trying to understand the Book of Revelation**

1. I’ve preached through it three times
2. It makes sense if addressed properly
  - a. Should be taken literally...unless otherwise indicated
3. It should be taken sequentially....generally
  - a. From the start of the church to the eternal heaven

#### **C. A 10 minute summary of the book**

**Chapters 1-3**      **The Seven Churches**

- a. What are they?
  - 1. Seven churches at the time Revelation was written
  - 2. Seven types of churches
  - 3. Seven eras of church history
- b. All of the above
  - 1. And we appear to be in the last era
- c. After chapter 3, the church next appears only in heaven
  - 1. The rapture will have taken the believers of the church to heaven
- d. Then God focuses on the promised restoration of the Jews

#### **Chapters 4-5            Preparing for the Second Coming**

- a. Meanwhile up in heaven
- b. The Father says it's time
- c. The Son is acclaimed and given the deed to this earth

#### **Chapters 6-18        The Tribulation**

- a. A seven year period
- b. A time of great destruction
  - 1. The seven seals
  - 2. The seven trumpets
  - 3. The seven bowls of wrath
- c. The 144,000
- d. Satan cast to earth from heaven
  - 1. Satan strikes back with fury
  - 2. The mark of the beast...666

3. The Antichrist and the false prophet
4. The Abomination of Desolation
- e. The gathering of the world's armies in the Valley of Megiddo
- f. The world's systems crumble
  1. The fall of religious Babylon
    - a. Centered in Rome
  2. The fall of commercial Babylon
    - a. Centered in Babylon....modern day Iraq
- g. Jesus prepares to return

## **Chapter 19            The Second Coming**

- a. The Wedding
  1. The Bride of Christ
- b. The Wedding Supper
- c. The Second Coming
- d. The Battle of Armageddon
  1. Evil is defeated

## **Chapter 20            The Final Kingdom**

- a. Also called the "Fifth Kingdom"
  1. Daniel and the prophecies regarding **four** Kingdoms
    - a. Daniel 2 & 7
    - b. Incredible accuracy
    - c. History has fulfilled God's Word
  2. But Daniel also mentions a "Fifth Kingdom"

a. **Daniel 2:44**

*(44) In the time of those kings, the God of the heavens will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.*

- 3. It begins with the thousand year reign of Christ on this earth
- 4. And as his bride, we'll reign with him
- d. Meanwhile, during the thousand years
  - 1. Satan bound for a thousand years
  - 2. Sinners will be judged at The Great White Throne of Judgment
    - a. The judgment of those who rejected Christ
- e. Then the really good stuff....The "Hereafter"

**Chapters 21-22      The New Heaven and New Earth**

- a. God makes everything new
- b. The New Jerusalem comes down to earth
- c. Described for us
- d. Your eternal home....Heaven
- e. God has been preparing it for us

## **II. Text**

### **A. So...what's next for us?**

- 1. Will be called to heaven by death or the "Rapture"
- 2. We'll wait for the Wedding of the Lamb
- 3. The question of your "soul" vs. your "body"
  - a. To the thief on the cross
    - 1. "Today you will be with me in Paradise"

- b. “To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord”
- c. Jesus is in heaven
- 4. Will receive a total body makeover
  - a. Why scripture says they have “fallen asleep”
  - b. Your body...or your soul?

## **B. What’s Jesus up to right now?**

- 1. Like a groom for his bride, he’s preparing a place for us
  - a. John 14:1-4

*(1) Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. (2) In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. (4) You know the way to the place where I am going.*

- 2. Heaven is a “place”
  - a. Not a mist or a state of mind
  - b. We’ll see it described in Revelation 21
- 3. Jesus described it as “*My Father’s House*”
  - a. My kids wanting to “come home” for the holidays.
    - 1. Jennie’s comments
    - b. To their father’s house
- 4. Jesus will return to take us there
- 5. We will accompany him when he returns to earth

## **C. His return is described in Revelation 19 & 20**

### **1. The Grand Procession (Revelation 19:11-16)**

*(11) I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. (12) His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he*

*himself. (13) He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. (14) The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. (15) Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. (16) On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.*

## **2. The Battle of Armageddon (Revelation 19:17-21)**

- a. At the end of the tribulation
- b. The armies mass to resist Christ
- c. In the vast Valley of Megiddo in Israel

*(19) Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army. (20) But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. (21) The rest of them were killed with the sword that came out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.*

## **3. The Binding of Satan (Revelation 20:1-3)**

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

## **4. The Kingdom Reign (Revelation 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. (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.*

# **III. Kingdom Questions**

## **A. Why is it necessary?**

1. The Jews wanted him to reign when he first came

a. Knew the words of Isaiah 9:6-7

***(6) For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (7) Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.***

b. But Jesus never intended to reign when he first came

c. He came to pay for our sins

d. And promised to return to establish his kingdom

2. Jesus told us to pray for that time

a. Matthew 6:9-10

***(9) This, then, is how you should pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, (10) your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.***

3. Intended for Adam and Eve

a. When God created Adam and Eve

b. Genesis 1:28

***(28) God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.***

c. But their sin halted the kingdom reign

d. Romans 8:22

***(22) We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.***

4. Jesus, the second Adam

a. Romans 5:15

***(15) For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many!***

5. Jesus must rule over this earth
  - a. And earth must be set free from the curse
6. Try to imagine the glory of this earth without the curse
7. Jesus will finally be worshipped on this earth

*For the first time the entire world population will worship the one true God of heaven and the one true Redeemer of men. No more slander or blasphemy against the holy Son of God – every throat in every continent of the world will shout the praises of the noble King of the earth.*

### ***B. Who'll be in the Kingdom?***

1. We'll arrive in our glorified bodies
2. "The Others"
  - a. People saved after the Rapture
    1. The greatest revival in history
    2. Multitudes from all the earth
    3. Many will survive the tribulation
  - b. Their offspring
    1. Will fill the earth
    2. People will have babies
    3. No infant mortality
    4. People living much longer

### ***C. Will it resemble the Garden of Eden?***

1. Can't wait to see this world without the curse
  - a. Already magnificent with the curse

2. The curse has affected all of creation

a. When Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, they forfeited not only their own physical immortality, but also the life and liberty of the created world around them. Plants and animals, fish and fowl share the agony of sin's curse.

b. Romans 8:19-21

***(19) The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. (20) For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope (21) that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.***

3. Our world without the curse

Isaiah 35:1-2

***(1) The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, (2) it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the Lord, the splendor of our God.***

4. The miracle of Israel today

- a. Reclaiming the wilderness
- b. Trees!
- c. The Jordan river valley
- d. The smell of orange blossoms
- e. Draining the swamps
- f. The Galilee

***D. Will people still age during the Millennium?***

- 1. We won't
- 2. "The others" will
  - a. But similar to earlier people
  - b. Long and slow

3. If Adam and Eve had not sinned, they would have lived on forever in their physical bodies. But once they sinned, the decay of sin set in immediately, and the physical immortality of mankind became lost from the time of Adam until the coming Rapture and resurrection.
4. In the Millennium the human lifespan will once again be long, even longer than that of Adam and his descendants, for most earth people will survive the entire thousand years of the Millennium.

### ***E. Will babies be born?***

1. Yes....the “Others”
  - a. God’s original command to Adam and Eve was to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.
2. No more unwanted or starving children;
3. No more abortions, miscarriages, stillbirths, or deformities.
4. Mentally and physically handicapped children will be a thing of the past
5. Every child born into this world will be a model of health and beauty.

### ***F. Will people sin during the Millennium?***

\*\*\* back to original outline\*\*\*\*

#### **5. The Rebellion (Revelation 20:7-9)**

- a. The children of the “Others”
  1. The *nonresurrected survivors of the Tribulation*
  2. Will not yet have their glorified bodies or sinless natures.
  3. The babies of the millennium
    - a. Will be born with Adamic sin-natures, just as babies are born today, and all the children of the millennium will need to receive Christ as their personal Savior if they ever expect to spend eternity with Him.
  4. Most of the millennial children will make this wise and right decision

a. But some of them will make the wrong choice in spite of their beautiful and near-ideal environment.

5. Just as Lucifer, son of the morning, had no excuse

a. When he rose in rebellion against his loving Creator, so these millennial rebels will someday stand without excuse before the Great White Throne of God in heaven.

b. The silent rebellion will grow

1. They will start to mutter and complain against the holy rule of Christ and His subordinate officers throughout the world:

2. As the centuries of the Millennium roll on, this growing minority of millennial rebels will multiply into a powerful tide of malevolent discontent.

c. God's response to the mutterings of the malcontents will be stern:

1. Revelation 20:7-10

*(7) When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison (8) and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. (9) They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them.*

## **G. What comes next?**

1. Next week... *"The Hereafter"*

## **IV. Summary**

### **A. Back to John 14**

*(1) Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. (2) In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. (4) You know the way to the place where I am going.*

1. Jesus ended by saying "You know the way to the place where I am going."

2. But Thomas had a question

(5) *Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”*

3. Jesus had an answer

(6) *Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*

**\*\*\*prayer\*\*\***

## **B. Isaac Watts wrote “Joy to the World”**

1. He never intended it to be a Christmas song

2. He was looking forward to “*The Final Kingdom*”

*Joy to the world! The Lord is come;  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And heaven and nature sing.*

*Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns;  
Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy*

*No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love*