

End Times

The Final State

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Sermon Description

Christ wins! At the conclusion of the End Times, all things are brought back into complete order and under the authority of God. All things will be judged, including the living and the dead. God's perfect plan for creation, the earth, and humanity will be in full view and functioning as it was meant to be from the foundation of the world.

Main Text

Romans 11:33-36

³³ Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! ³⁴ "For who has known the mind of the Lord? or who has become His counselor?" ³⁵ "or who has first given to Him and it shall be repaid to him?" ³⁶ For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

The Final State of Satan

- The Bible indicates that after 1000 years Satan will be loosed; however, we are not given the reason or the purpose as to why he will be set free for a certain time (Revelation 20:3, 7-10)
- Satan will gather together the nations to battle against God and Israel at the battle of Gog and Magog; the number of whom is as the sand of the seas, these armies will proceed to encamp around the Saints and the beloved city, which is Jerusalem, but they will be destroyed by fire (Ezekiel 38, 39)
- Satan and his demonic hordes will come to an end, they will appear before the Great White Throne for judgement and they will be cast into the Lake of Fire.

The Final Judgement

- The Great White Throne of the resurrected unbelievers (Revelation 20:11-15; 21:8)
- This judgement will take place in the skies because we are told that heaven and earth slide away (Revelation 20:11)
- Christ sits upon this Great White Throne.

Judgment Before the Great White Throne



Revelation 20:11-15

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵ And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

- For the most part, this judgement deals only with the unsaved and perhaps some believers who died during the millennium are judged at this time as well—this is what is called, “The Second Resurrection” and it takes place after the 1000 years
- The Sea and Hades will also give up it’s dead and all the names that were not found written in the Lamb’s Book of Life will be cast into the lake of fire
 - Satan, Death and Hades themselves will be cast into this place of eternal punishment
- The second death is not to be considered annihilation but rather eternal punishment
- Note: This judgement is to be distinguished from that of the nations (Matthew 25:31-46).

The Final Kingdom

- Heaven and earth are finally reunited
- It is at this time that Christ will deliver up the Kingdom to God the Father (1Corinthians 15:24)
 - This will be accomplished when He has abolished all rule and authority and power
- Death is the last enemy to be destroyed (1Corinthians 15:26)
- There is no break between the millennium and the eternal state except for the Great White Throne Judgement (1Corinthians 15:24-28)
- At the end of all things, the Son (Jesus Christ) will return all of creation back to the Father and take His eternal place; therefore, the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit who are one God will then be all in all.



1Corinthians 15:24-28

²⁴ Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. ²⁵ For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.

²⁶ The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. ²⁷ For “HE HAS PUT ALL THINGS UNDER HIS FEET.” But when He says, “all things are put under Him,” it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. ²⁸ Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.

The New Creation

- There are several passages of scripture that bring attention to the “new” heaven and new earth (Isaiah 65:17; 66:22; 2Peter 3:10-13; Revelation 21:1)
- The idea of “new” does not necessarily mean annihilation because we read that the earth abides forever (Psalms 104:5; 119:90, Ecclesiastes 1:4)
- Consider the passages of scripture that speak of heaven and earth passing away (Matthew 5:18, Mark 13:31, Hebrews 1:10-13, Revelation 21:1)
 - Note: The main idea behind these passages is not annihilation but rather a renewal and a transition into the order and design from God
 - This regeneration will take place during the millennium—both heaven and earth will be regenerated (Matthew 19:28)
- Creation will be sanctified (2Peter 3:10-13)
- The righteous will reign and live on the earth during the millennium (2Peter 3:13)

2Peter 3:13

Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

The New Jerusalem

- The kings of the earth bring their wealth to the new Jerusalem (Revelation 21:2-22:5)
- The new Jerusalem will appear after the new heaven and a new earth have appeared.



The New Heaven and the New Earth

Revelation 21:1-8

¹ Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also, there was no more sea. ² Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." ⁵ Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." ⁶ And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. ⁷ He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. ⁸ But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

Consider the characteristics of this new city:

- It is a literal/physical city
- It has foundations, gates, walls, and streets and it is also measured (Revelation 21:16)
- Its foundations are garnished with every kind of precious stone (Revelation 21:19)
- It has 12 gates that bear the names of the 12 Tribes of Israel and the 12 foundations bear the names of the 12 Apostles (Revelation 21:12, Revelation 21:14)
- The wall is made of jasper and the city is made of pure gold (Revelation 21:18)
- Every gate is a pearl and the gates are never closed (Revelation 21:25)
- 12 angels stand guard before them (Revelation 21:12)
- Its streets are made of pure gold, there is a river of life as well as the tree of life (Revelation 21:21)
- The city has no need of the sun or the moon to shine upon it; its lamp is the Lamb (Revelation 21:23)
- The city is secure, it is perfect and beautiful.

The People That Live There

- The new Jerusalem is said to be the bride, the Lamb's wife (Revelation 21:9, John 14:2)
- People live in it (Revelation 21:27; 22:3-5)
- It is the city where the redeemed live.

Revelation 21:9-10

⁹ Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife." ¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God.

- Perhaps this is the city that Abraham looked for (Hebrews 11:10)
- Believers seek for it today (Hebrews 13:14)
- The city has no need of a temple for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its Temple (Revelation 21:22)
 - Both the Father and the Son will dwell in it and God will do well with His people.



God Almighty and the Lamb are its Temple

Revelation 21:23-27

²³ The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. ²⁴ And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. ²⁵ Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). ²⁶ And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. ²⁷ But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

It is a blessed city

- The saved nations are said to walk by its light (Revelation 21:24)
- There is no night there for the glory of the Lord illuminates it (Revelation 21:23, 25)
- The kings of the earth will bring their glory to it, this also includes their praise and worship (Revelation 21: 24,26)
- There will be no more curse, but rather the Throne of God and of the Lamb will be there (Revelation 22:3, 1Corinthians 15:24)
- The Lord's servants serve Him, and His name is on their foreheads—they will see His face and they will reign with Him forever (Revelation 22:3-5).

Revelation 22:3-5

³ And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. ⁴ They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads.

⁵ There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.

Close

From Genesis right through to Revelation, God's heart has always been to live among His people. The goodness and kindness of His nature are seen and experienced through the life and ministry of His Son Jesus. Christ is the full and complete expression of everything that is amazing and awesome about God.

Ephesians 2:5-7

⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Group Questions

- 1) Why is Jerusalem a city like no other?
- 2) Why does Christ return all things to the Father? What does this include?
- 3) Describe what happens to Satan and his demons. What is their final outcome?
- 4) What is the last enemy to be destroyed?
- 5) Describe the nature of the new Jerusalem.
- 6) Will heaven and earth literally be annihilated? Why or why not?
- 7) Describe the final Kingdom. What does it look like?
- 8) Discuss the things that occur at the final judgment.
- 9) What takes place at the Great White Throne Judgement. Where does it occur and who is involved?
- 10) What is the battle of Gog and Magog? Who does it involve? When does it take place? What is the final outcome?