

NEW DAY... NEW WAY

What Happens in the End?

TEXT: Revelation

INTRODUCTION: Yesterday, we completed our reading through the Bible chronologically together over the course of a year. Congratulations to all who completed it, and congratulations to all who participated. Please see my word to you in the worship folder about where we are going together as a church in our Bible reading in the days to come.

So today we come to the last book of the Bible to be inspired by the Holy Spirit and sent to John the Apostle as he remained in exile for his testimony for the Lord Jesus on the Isle of Patmos.

Almost every time I read a book or watch a movie, early on I wonder what will happen at the end? The Bible is no exception at that point, and almost everybody who begins to read its precious pages asks, "What will happen at the end?"

Well, being the last book, God answers the question. And the answer is not just what happens at the end of the book or at the end of the age in which the Apostle John lived, but What Happens in the End, the ultimate end, the end of the world, or the end of history. What Happens in the End?

What Happens in the End?

I. THE TYPICAL CHURCH IS LUKEWARM.

The risen Christ says to the church in the final age of the church,

Rev. 3:15-16 ¹⁵ "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. ¹⁶ So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

A church is not its buildings, its programs, or even its ministries.

A church is its people. If the heart of the people is lukewarm toward God, the church will be lukewarm. That is descriptive of most churches today. Even people who profess Christ are far more concerned with money, entertainments, excursions, and the enticements of the world than with the Lord. Life for them is about being happy and having fun.

But, my friend, while we believers cannot choose which age of the church we were born into, we can choose not to be lukewarm.

Rev. 3:21 To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

And we can choose to band together with likeminded believers who want to live intentionally and purposefully for the purposes God has created us to not only enjoy the benefits and the blessings of our salvation but also to live as servants of God and faithful followers of the Lord Jesus Christ.

C.T. Studd was in the University in England and already an accomplished Crickett player (you know, that is British Baseball). But God saved him. C. T. said, "Before the world, aye, before the sleepy, lukewarm, faithless, namby-pamby Christian world, we will dare to trust our God. We will venture our all for Him. We will live, and we will die for Him. And we will do it with His joy unspeakable, singing aloud in our hearts."

And those were not mere words. While still a young man, he set sail for China to join Hudson Taylor in the China Inland Mission where he gave himself for the sharing of the gospel and being a faithful witness of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Later in life he said, "Some want to live within the sound of church or chapel bell; I want to run a rescue shop within a yard of hell."

Lord, may it be so in my life; and may it be so of St. Andrew Baptist Church!

II. ALL BELIEVERS ARE BROUGHT TO HEAVEN.

In chapters 4, 5, and 7 we are carried with John as we read the Revelation to the very throne room of heaven. And what do we find there?

Rev. 7:9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands,

Folks, the people you led to the Lord are going to be there in heaven to greet you:

The homeless man you helped with food at the Center of Hope who you lead to faith in the Lord Jesus,

That single mom at the Sheltering Tree that you introduced to Christ,

The lady at the Medical Center who could not afford her medicine that you shared the gospel with,

That man you work with and brought him to your Lifechange group

That whole family who eventually came to the Lord after you helped them get to VBS,

And on and on I could go. They are all going to be there because you refused to be lukewarm. They will be there because when others spent every dime they had on another trip or another vacation, you set aside money to go on mission.

And therefore that young mother with children hanging all over her in the midst of a crowd of people in a village in Ghana is going to be there with a smile on her face that runs from ear to ear.

That old man sitting on the stump of a tree in Mexico is going to be there because you taught one of his fellow Huichol Indians how to share the gospel.

Folks it's going to be a family reunion like we have never imagined as all the brothers and sisters in Christ from every place in the world gather in the Father's house and

Rev. 7:16-17 ¹⁶ They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; ¹⁷ for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

III. LIFE ON THE PLANET IS FILLED WITH TRIBULATION.

A. Because of the rule of Antichrist.

1. He will at first deceive the lost, including Israel, into thinking he is good, even is the Christ himself.
2. But by the middle of the seven years of tribulation, he will show his true character, and he will force everyone on the earth to worship him or die. Only people who turn in faith to Christ, many of whom will then be martyred for their faith, will not bow to worship the Antichrist and his lord, Satan himself.

B. Because of the righteous judgments of God.

Do not think that you could or should wait until the tribulation to turn to Christ.

During the tribulation period, more than one half of the population of the earth will die.

IV. CHRIST RETURNS TO CONQUER SATAN AND EVIL.

Rev. 19:11-16 ¹¹ Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. ¹³ He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. ¹⁵ Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶ And He has on *His* robe and on His thigh a name written:
KING OF KINGS AND
LORD OF LORDS.

Rev. 19:19-21 ¹⁹ And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. ²⁰ Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. ²¹ And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.

But not only is the Antichrist and his religious servant the False Prophet and all the armies assembled to fight against the Lord Jesus,...

Not only are they going to be cast into the lake of fire, but finally, Satan will get his due.

Rev. 20:1-3a ¹ Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. ² He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is *the* Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; ³ and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up,

A. Jesus reigns over the earth for a thousand years.

B. Those who never trusted Jesus as their Lord and Savior are cast into the Lake of Fire.

Rev. 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.

C. God creates a New Heaven and New Earth.

D. God will forever dwell with His people.

CONCLUSION: Folks God has a glorious plan for His children in the end. Are you a part of it? Have you trusted Jesus Christ as your own Lord and Savior and received the gift of eternal life?

And while all of us who have been saved will live with Him eternally, remember that Jesus taught that our future assignment in the Millennial Kingdom will be based on our faithful service to Him here and now.

Mt. 25:21 His lord said to him, 'Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'