

From Christ to Eternity

by John Musser

The sermon explores the coming of Jesus Christ, the rapture of the church, and the great tribulation period, emphasizing the importance of being prepared and putting on the whole armor of God.

Duration: 44:04

Scripture: Matthew 24:21, 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, James 4:14, Revelation 3:20, Revelation 21:6, Revelation 21:8, Revelation 22:13

Topics: "Eternity"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes the importance of accepting Jesus Christ as one's savior. He warns that if one misses out on God's calling and the conviction of the Holy Spirit, they may never have another opportunity to receive Jesus Christ. The preacher describes the judgment of God, where every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. He also mentions the casting of hell and death into the lake of fire, and the ushering in of a new heaven and earth where believers will rule and reign with Christ.

Transcript

How many say amen about that? Isn't it wonderful how God can direct and how God can move and and change our messages and change our songs and everything like that and I'm really believing God to do a work out of the ordinary and I hope you are and I'm praying that God would set people free even as I preach I mean even as the word goes forth that people would be liberated. We had a man in the service last week that was set free just by hearing the word of God in his seat for the first time in all of his life he had the assurance of salvation right there. God just moved on him.

One of the leaders of the church. Beloved with all my heart I believe that these are the last days. I believe that we're at 1159 and counting.

I'm convinced of it and what we're going to do we're going to ask God to work and move and that God would just open up the windows of heaven and God would even still the mouths of little babies so we can hear the precious word of God. He can do that can't he? Amen? Father we come to you. We thank you for all the wonderful people that are here Lord.

We love them in Christ Jesus. Some of them are saved maybe some of them are unsaved. Use my words today father in demonstration of the spirit of power.

I just pray father that we'd have a mighty revival father just a mighty movement of your spirit. Father bring stillness here and quietness so we can listen to your word and the joy of your spirit. Thank you for the way that you've just changed the song that was just sung.

God it touched all of our hearts it was truly of the Lord. Bless the mothers Lord with the babies here and just give them real wisdom father. Give me wisdom and direction Lord as I've been struggling my heart just what you want me to preach.

Father show me I pray in Jesus name we pray amen. We're going to move right along and I want to preach this morning from Christ to eternity. I want to give you a thumbnail sketch of some future events and then I want to give you first of all some historical events but a panorama of the Word of God from Christ to eternity and really when you talk from Christ you go from everlasting to everlasting because Jesus Christ is from everlasting to everlasting.

We're going to see today some past events and then we're going to look into the future. The Word of God is unique in that it predicts future events. I just mentioned a few moments ago that I believe with all of my heart that we are living at 1159 and counting.

I'm convinced about it by the rise of the occult, the acceleration of demonic activity in this world and by the minute fulfillment of biblical prophecy. It is filling the mouths of skeptics like never before and I believe that today in this day and hour that as we grow to see through the Word of God in these days that many of God's people are disillusioned and they're blinded to the reality of what is really taking place that we are bordering on eternity. That God is preparing his people for homecoming.

That Satan is doing everything he can for one final thrust. He knows that he has but a little season left. Anyone that knows anything about the Word of God and Bible prophecy and if you're studying some of the events today you know that the time is very close.

That we're even at the doors as Jesus said. First of all we want to talk about the first coming of Jesus Christ to earth as a man. According to the book of Revelation Jesus Christ was the Lamb of God slain before the foundation of the world.

What does that mean? That means that the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit planned that one day Jesus the Son of God would come into this world and become a man. God in this foreknowledge knew that man would fall in sin. Somehow God knew that man was going to partake of the forbidden fruit and so the Bible teaches us that even before the foundations of this earth were laid there was a plan in heaven that Jesus Christ would come into this world and become a man.

God was the first prophet in the Garden of Eden and when man fell in the Garden of Eden God came and he spoke to the devil. He spoke to the servant, the one who had beguiled Eve and he said I will put enmity between thy seed and her seed and it shall bruise thy head and thou shalt bruise its heel. God was speaking of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ when he spoke to Satan in the garden immediately after the fall and God said to the devil that one of these days there is going to come a seed and your heel will bruise his head.

Your foot will bruise his head. But really as Genesis 3.15 says that the seed will conquer and overcome Satan. Hence we find all the workings of Satan trying to destroy the coming seed.

Satan tried to destroy the children of Israel so many times so the seed would not come through. The seed of David. We see so many onslaughts and past history of how Satan did everything in his power to destroy this fulfillment of prophecy but in time it came to pass.

Now the prophet spoke of the coming of Jesus Christ. Isaiah 7.14 These preachers spoke of the coming of Jesus. Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign.

Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall call his name Emmanuel which being interpreted is God with him. And Isaiah 9.6 God says unto us a son is born unto us a son is given. The government shall be upon his shoulder and his name shall be called Counselor, Wonderful, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

For all these years these prophets said one of these days Messiah will come. One of these days from the seed of David there will come forth a care over Israel. The animal sacrifice spoke of the coming of Jesus.

All of these lambs and all of these goats that they brought to shed their blood was a picture of the suffering of Jesus Christ because he was going to give his body and he was going to become a sacrifice. He was going to become an offering to God. And for hundreds of years for thousands of years all of the people prayed for the coming Messiah.

The Jewish race constantly besought God. Lord bring your set one, send the Messiah, send the Christ. And they went into their bondage.

They went into the Babylonian captivity and they were harassed by all of the other nations. And they cried to God and they wailed and prayed and they fasted. Lord send your one, your messenger that is to come.

But you know something, the delay of Jesus seemingly was postponed. He did not come as early as some of them had expected, but the prophets continued to predict the coming of Jesus Christ. But the Jewish race fell away from Jehovah God in unbelief.

They fell away and they went after idols and they went after Baal and Ashtaroth because of the promise of God seemed to be delayed even as we see in this very hour today. And God was forced to punish the apple of his eye. He was forced to punish them with heathen nations.

Now after the last book of the Old Testament was written, we have 400 years of silence. You've heard about that 400 years when God was not speaking. There were 400 years of seemingly dead silence and the children of Israel began to cry out to God, where is the Lord? Why don't we hear from the prophets any longer? They're not prophesying.

But the last book of the Bible, Malachi predicted this coming one. He predicted the coming of John the Baptist and he predicted the coming of Jesus. And so 400 years of silence and after that 400 year period, things began to fall into intricate detail.

As Malachi said, behold, I will send my messenger and he shall prepare the way before me and the Lord whom you seek shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant whom you delight in. Malachi says, behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts. Now after the birth of John the Baptist, events began to rapidly fall into place.

Six months after the birth of John the Baptist, we have this miraculous virgin birth. Jesus is born. The Son of God takes upon himself the form of a man.

Like it says in Philippians chapter 2, Philippians 2, 5 through 8, let this mind be in you which is also in Christ Jesus, who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God, but made himself of no reputation and took upon himself the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of men. The great creator becomes a man. And Jesus at the age of 30 began his earthly ministry.

You know what excites me today? Jesus only preached the gospel for approximately three and a half years. He had that small band of followers and this world is still rocking and reeling from the ministry of the God-man. Time has never been the same when Jesus set his feet upon the face of this earth.

Every nation, every continent, every country, I believe that the gospel has been heralded again and again to the four corners of the earth. And three and a half years he preached. He raised the dead.

He healed the sick. But Jesus was rejected by his people. It's hard for us to understand.

They prayed all these years. They waited for the coming Messiah. But when he came, they rejected him.

They didn't believe that he was the true Messiah. In fact, they called him an imposter. They thought he was an antichrist.

They didn't believe that God was fulfilling his promises to them. And so the religious rulers of that day and hour, the nominal, quote unquote, church of the hour, was the men that crucified our Lord as a blasphemer and as an imposter. They said he was born of fornication.

They said he was an illegitimate child. They said that you are not virgin born. They did not believe it.

You see, they had a wrong picture in their mind of who the true Messiah would be, because Jesus came in meekness and humility. And they couldn't understand that. He wasn't born in the courts of the Pharisees.

He wasn't born among the kings. But Jesus was born of a lowly maid of Nazareth, so poor. And Jesus was clothed with humility.

They thought someone would come in and they would come in and break away their yoke of Rome and take them from all their bondage. But Jesus didn't do that. He came to die for men.

But the Jewish race rejected him. They crucified him as a blasphemer and imposter and false Christ. They did not know that he was the one they were blinded.

But you know something? Even though they took him and they blasphemed him and they bruised him, I have a message, maybe the Lord willing, I'll be preaching this week, that the body and face of Jesus was so brutally beaten that you couldn't even tell he was a man. Isaiah said, As many as were astonished at thee, his visit was so marred more than any man, his form more than the sons of men. God's Word teaches us that you couldn't even tell that Jesus was a man when he hung on the cross.

But three days after that death and after that burial, someone says, Oh, why didn't he have a tomb of his own? Well, he wasn't going to stay there very long. Just short occupation, three days. And the Father and Jesus brought his life up again.

Jesus said he had the power to raise his life. The Father rose him from the dead and the Spirit of God rose him from the dead. And this authenticated the ministry and life of Jesus.

The resurrection proved to the world and to the religious leaders that Jesus was indeed the Messiah, that he was indeed the fulfillment of all the Old Testament prophecies, that he was the set one. And he walked around this earth for 40 days, speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God after that type of brutality, after that time type of mistreatment. But after that, he was taken up into heaven.

And as the disciples were brought to a certain place, they watched him leave. And an angel came down from heaven and said this, while they looked steadfastly toward heaven, as he went up, as Jesus went up, behold, two men stood in white apparel, which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, so shall come in like manner as you've seen him go into heaven. This is the promise of the second coming of Jesus.

Now, after the ascension of Jesus, we have what is called the church age. We are in the church age right now, a dispensation of grace. There have to be no prophecies fulfilled for the rapture of the church.

That's the next event in God's calendar. Nothing has to take place. But God turned away from his people, from the Jewish people, because they rejected him.

And God went to the Gentiles. Most of you today, probably all of you, are Gentiles. That means that you are not a Jew.

And because Jesus was rejected of the Jewish race, he began to pick out a people for his name, Gentiles. And now today, men for 2,000 years have been preaching the gospel. I've been preaching, repent and believe the gospel.

Jesus died and rose again. For 2,000 years, men have been preaching the same truths that I'm preaching to you today, until the body of Christ is complete, until God has called as many as he will. When the last member of the body of Christ is called into eternal life, the Bible says that the next event will be the rapture of the church of Jesus Christ.

The term rapture is not found in Scripture, but it's the next event. It comes from the Latin word rapio, a snatching away. You know something? I believe that we're so close to this event, even as the Jewish people refuse to believe because of the long delay of the coming of Jesus.

I believe that's happened to us today. That's why God says that we are to watch for his coming. But the time elapses, and we live in this time element, and we forget to be sober and watch on the prayer as Jesus commanded us to watch and to be sensitive and to be prayed up and to be into the word of God and watch the signs of the times because Jesus is going to come and it's going to be intimate.

It's going to be immediately. The Bible says that those who are dead will be raised from the graves first with new incorruptible bodies, and they will be reunited with their spirits and their souls have been with the Lord until this point. One day I remember going down into Tampa, Florida.

I was on a jet airplane, and I was thinking about the rapture as we rode down, as we were flying down, descending upon the airport there, the landing field. My eye caught a graveyard. My mind's eye was set loose, and I just wondered what it would be like to be in that plane and to see the rapture of the church.

There are pictures that are drawn and painted today of cars crashing, of planes crashing with men that have gone to be with God. You see, this is going to happen. Many of us today, in this very hour, right now, we may never die.

We may well be the rapture generation. We may be lifted up in whirlwind style before the Lord. Many of the greatest prophecy scholars today, my friends, they believe that we are so close that it can't go much longer of this great event.

Actually caught up alive in the twinkling of an eye, men will never die. Can you imagine that? And Paul revealed this truth to the churches. He said, for the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God, the dead in Christ shall rise first.

Then we, which are alive and remain, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. He said, wherefore comfort one another with these words. He said, these are to be words of comfort.

One of these days, you don't know, it could even be now. It could be a short period of time. Jesus could be He's descending this very hour.

And He's going to say, I believe, in Revelation chapter 4, Come up hither! And in the twinkling of an eye, God is going to take His people home. Are you ready for that moment? Are you prepared? Oh, I wouldn't want to go up to meet Jesus backslidden. God's Word said that some will be ashamed.

Some will be ashamed at the beam of seed of Christ because they'll suffer loss because they were not watching for that day, that even like the children of Israel falling away in unbelief. Paul said again, behold, I want to show you a mystery. Something that's never been revealed to men before this time.

A mystery. We shall not all sleep. All of us, we're not going to die, but we shall be changed.

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump for the trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be raised, incorruptible, and we shall be changed. But Paul says this corruptible body must put on incorruption. This mortal must put on immortality.

We're going to become immortal beings. So when this corruptible shall put on incorruption and this mortal shall put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is the grave.

The strength of sin is the law, but thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. You see, the coming of Jesus, this rapture of the church, this snatching away is imminent. By imminent, I mean that it can happen today.

It can happen at this very moment. Right now. Listen to the exhortations of the disciples of Jesus.

Listen to the Word of God about this imminent taking home of the saints, taking the departure of the saints. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.

But the end of all things is at hand. Be therefore, because of what I've just said, sober and watch unto prayer. Paul Peter said, because of the soon coming of Jesus.

He says make sure that you stay in the devotional closet. Make sure that your mind is exercised unto prayer. Make sure that you're walking with Christ because it may come at any moment and you've got to watch for it.

The night is far spent. The day is coming. It is at hand.

Let us therefore cast off the work of darkness and put on the armor of light. He says because this day is at hand, put on the whole armor of God. We passively say today in our churches, I don't need the whole armor of God.

What if you don't have on the whole armor of God when it is an imperative command? Do you think that we're going to get away with it? Do you think that we could just passively, live in passivity and say, well, it could be for others, but it's not for me. But in Ephesians chapter six, he says put on the whole armor of God. That's prayer.

That's Bible study. That's seeking God. Let me say something this week.

I hope that many of you will come. I hope that all of you will be diligent in coming as we're going to see some things. Some of you may be bound by strongholds and not even knowing it.

And deceived already and consumed as Peter was talking to Christians. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will not tarry. Be patient, he says.

Be patient. Establish your hearts for the coming of the Lord, James says, draw nigh. It's at hand.

All of these men were looking for the coming of Jesus. And then after that event, after the rapture of the church, after the evacuation of the church, we have what is called the great tribulation period. In two phases.

First of all, the tribulation period, the first three and a half years. And then another three and a half year period of great tribulation that will come upon the space of the earth. All of the wars that we've ever experienced will be like Sunday school picnics compared to this holocaust, to this unleashing of divine wrath upon the earth.

Or men will cry in torment. Or demon spirits will ascend out of the bottomless pit. And they will torment men like scorpions that will be bitten with poison.

And then God, for a season, will take away death for them and they will not die. It will be a time of great persecution. The Bible uses various names for this tribulation hour.

It is called the day of the Lord. It is called the time of the end. It is called the end of the world.

A time of ignatiation. A time when God, the God of the universe, who has been sinned against and offended from the very beginning of time and from man in the garden of God will bring forth His vengeance upon a sinning world that has rejected His only begotten Son. It's called a time of darkness.

It's called a time of trial, of judgment. A time of wrath. The seven year period will be a time of Jacob's trouble.

The children of Israel. Those who rejected Christ. They rejected their Messiah.

And so you know what comes past? Satan will enter into the body of a man. And he will try to deceive the Jewish race into believing that he is the God-set Messiah. Since many of the Jews today do not believe that Jesus came 2,000 years ago, Satan is going to take advantage of their unbelief.

And he is going to literally come into the body of a man. And he's called the Antichrist. He's the one that's going to bring great judgment upon this world.

And during this seven year period, we have the rise of Antichrist and false prophets. You can see it today. So many men claim to be in the Christ.

Jesus said, when those times come, you know that the time is at hand. We have the revival of the Roman Empire. I can't go into all of that.

The rebuilding of the Jewish Empire. They're already rebuilding, trying, making plans on rebuilding this Jewish Empire. Everything, the Middle East is God's time clock.

We see over there, all of the attention in the news media, a lot of it in the television reports are focused on the Middle East. Why? Because that's where God's going to move again, beloved. God's bringing our attention back there because God is moving.

God is working. God is working in the children of Israel. And then we have this rebuilding of the Jewish Temple, as I've already mentioned.

Do you know that there were some Jews that were imprisoned? Just a while back, I read from the Jerusalem Post. They were in prison because they wanted to speed up Armageddon. And they wanted to destroy the Muslim Temple and began to rebuild the Jewish Temple.

And in the headlines of the Jewish Post, it says, Orthodox Jews try to speed up Armageddon. I'll tell you something, when they're acting like this and they're being moved in God's spirit, the time is at hand. It's time for us to awake.

It's time for us to see the signs of the times. Most of us, we're disillusioned. We don't even read these things.

We don't even know what's taking place because we're so overcharged with the cares of this world that we don't have time to study Bible prophecy in the light of events today and news events today. And then we have the Russian invasion of Israel. This is already being taken place.

We can see how these Russians and how Israel, the things are just accelerating to this fulfillment of prophecy. Worldwide persecution, a new monetary system. I, and most of you probably heard of this, but I had meetings just a couple years ago and some people were very alarmed.

They had received government checks with the mark of the beast on those checks. Many people were scared to death. They didn't know what was taking place.

They wanted to know why they had 666 on those government checks. After many phone calls to the IRS and other men, they confessed that those checks were let out too soon. I want to tell you something.

It's not whether or not the mark of the beast is going to come, it's already here. The system is already set up. The computer system is already there.

The beast they call, they're beginning to call this computer system the beast. It's already there if you've ever read the books, the new money system. They're ready for the change over right now.

They know that we need a cashless society. There's so much thievery and robbery and all these other things. And it's in progress right now, but you know who's hindering the fulfillment of Satan's plan? The church.

The Bible says that he that hindereth when he's taken out of the way, Satan's program will be completely fulfilled. And that's why I believe that revivals postpone judgment in this nation. I believe that God will give us a season of repentance if we will listen to God in these days and obey the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

But the church is hindering the fulfillment of the complete plan of Antichrist today. But during this tribulation hour, a total of 21 judgments are poured out upon the earth. And they constitute three series of sevens.

Three series of seven judgments, each described as the seal judgment, the trumpet and the vial judgments. First of all, we have as follows. Seven seal judgments, let me read them.

The world's greatest dictator, the Antichrist, the beast, war, famine. It's gonna be time as you see during the tribulation period where this new world system and also be a one world religious system where the false prophet will be used of the Antichrist to promote this worldwide religion. There is going to be a death blow and persecution, disaster and hour of fear.

Then there's gonna be seven trumpet judgments that are gonna come upon the earth. The world's greatest fire, oceanic disturbance, pollution of water, darkness, pestilence, insect evasions upon the face of the earth. They're going to torment men and eat the crops.

And we have time of army and a time of storm. Then there's gonna be seven vial judgments that's gonna be poured out upon this earth. The world's greatest epidemic, diseases and sickness and malignant growths are going to be accelerating.

Contamination of the water by blood, scorching plagues, invasion of these demonic powers upon the earth as God is going to literally open up the bottomless pit and there will become all of hell will spew out the powers, the demon spirits, the unclean spirits will march upon this earth and they will take full control and they are going to torment men and they're gonna drive them to agony. All of these things are gonna come upon the earth. Earthquakes, oh how we've seen the acceleration of earthquakes in just the last 40 years.

We've had so many earthquakes. You know something? I listened to a news report just two months ago. They said, they entitled the news report Wacky Weather.

They said in all of recorded history, we have never had weather like we have in the last three and four and five years. They said we have no records in history of such wacky weather, of strange events. My friends, I wanna tell you something.

It's all the fulfillment of biblical prophecy. How can you go a year in Michigan and not even have a foot of snow? And then the next year you have snow unbearable and you're shoveling every day. What are all these things? Why are all these floods? Why all these earthquakes? What's happening? What's taking place? God's program has been in operation for a long time but we're beginning to see it move more rapidly to the fulfillment, even as that 400 years of silence and even as we had John the Baptist come on the scene, things began to move so fast.

And as God's operation and program is moving fast, so we have the delusion of satanic beings in the church where Satan is doing everything he can to make the church cold, indifferent, lukewarm so they will not be concerned about a lost and dying world around them. And they'll be so caught up with materialism and the cares of this world and the great American dream that millions of souls will go into an endless eternity because the church got her eyes off her head and that's what's happening today. I wanna tell you something.

The state today of our fundamental churches is appalling in the sight of God. No one can be a student of the word of God and not see that it makes God sick. And the reason being is that the majority of our people in our churches are not truly born again.

They did not have a real born again experience. I'm seeing this everywhere I go. I'm seeing professing Christians that have professed to know Jesus Christ for years, I'm seeing them really get born again.

Leaders in the church, men and women in the church, and they will say, I've been a professing Christian since I've been 11 years old, but I've never had the word of God open to me. I've never had a desire to pray like a desire right now. I don't know what's taking place.

How can you explain it? Those are the new birth evidences. And we're seeing this everywhere we go. People have been disillusioned.

You can't play this fast and loose with Christ and claim to be a true follower of Jesus Christ. You can't live in sin and fornication and idolatry. God says all liars shall depart the lake which is burned with fire and brimstone.

God says without holiness, no man shall see the Lord. And that's not the imputed righteousness of Christ either. It's the practical holiness, practical Christian living.

As we'll maybe share that later on in the week as we see that many people are deceived as Jesus said, not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven. People are going to do wonderful works. They're going to do all kinds of things.

But then after this period of tribulation, we have the return of Jesus to the earth. Now, when he comes during the rapture time, the first phase of the second coming of Jesus, he will only come as far as the clouds and he will call up the church. At his second coming, Jesus will place his feet upon the Mount of Olives.

And then we have in scripture that Jesus is going to set up his kingdom for 1,000 years. Jesus will rule and reign with his saints. Those of us who have been taken up with him will come back with him at the second coming and they will rule and reign over this earth.

Think of it. Me and you, those who are Christians will come back with the Lord at this great climactic moment and we will be those who will rule during this millennial period, 1,000 years of peace. Because God, Jesus, is going to bind Satan and put him into the bottomless pit for 1,000 years.

John saw a picture of that angel that was descended from heaven and had a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold of that old dragon, Satan, the devil, which is called the devil and Satan, and vowed him for 1,000 years that he should not deceive the nations until the 1,000 years be fulfilled. And then after that he shall be loosed for just a little season.

And so Satan is bound for 1,000 years and so we have peace on earth. And during Christ's 1,000 year reign, the earth is a new picture. The inhabitants of the earth will live in peace and happiness.

Wild animals will be as tame as house pets. Wars will cease. Wars will come to an end.

They'll take their weapons of war and they'll beat them into plowshares. And we won't learn war anymore. It'll be a time of glory and blessing.

But something that amazes me, that never ceases to astonish me, that after this 1,000 years of peace where Jesus is ruling under the face of this earth, the Bible says that Satan is going to be loosed one more time to deceive the minds of men. And one more time, men will turn against God. That just goes to show you that human nature is wicked.

Even though they saw Jesus, God, reign on the face of the earth, even though they experienced such joy and happiness, yet Satan is going to come and deceive the kings of the earth and the men's, the women and young people of the earth. And one more time, they're going to gather their armies. The last war, and it's going to last very long.

Because it's like trying to take a pop gun and shoot it at this wall. It's really like trying to take a pop gun and shoot it at an iron wall. Because God says that He's going to consume them with the sword of His mouth.

And everything is over then. It's all over with. Eternity.

All of humanity has come to an end. All of the devices of man, all of wickedness now comes to an end. And John saw that picture and listened to it.

It hasn't taken place, but one day it will take place. And if you're wise, you will prepare for that day. John saw a white throne.

The judgment of God. He saw the great white throne judgment. John said, and I saw a great white throne.

And Him that sat upon it, from whose face the earth and heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. John says, I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God.

And the books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged out of those things which are written in the books according to the works.

John says, and the sea gave up the dead which were in them. And death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire.

This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. John saw this picture of all of humanity being wafted up into the throne room of God.

God takes those who have deteriorated in the bottom of the seas. Their bodies have rotten. Their bodies have long deteriorated.

But God with a great might and power in His omniscience, He brings all those cells and atoms and molecules together. And He brings the bodies that they lived in on this earth. And He calls those dead bodies to the throne room in heaven.

And then hell, all of their souls that are in hell in Hades, that waiting place for the second death, all of those souls are brought before God. And they are reunited with their actual bodies. Stalin, Hitler, all of these men, all of these wicked men will stand before God.

All my friends, that just boggles my mind. God says in His word that every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. Every human being that has ever walked the face of the earth, who has ever stirred up dust on planet earth, every man will bow down before Him and say, You're Lord, You're God.

And John is staggered as he sees this sight. Of all of humanity standing, he saw the dead stand before God, the princes and the kings and the poor and the rich, all alike, they're all there, they're all equal now. John sees this picture of hell and death being taken by God and cast into the lake of fire.

And then what happens? Jesus Christ will usher in a new heaven and a new earth. Isn't that wonderful? Some people think we're just going to be fairies floating around on cloud nine. Nothing could be further from the truth.

We're going to rule in the rain. There's going to be so many things that your mind, God says that we can't even really touch it in our understanding. God says there's going to be a new heaven because this earth is going to be destroyed by a nuclear holocaust as we see in Peter.

Yes, I believe that this world is going to be destroyed by a nuclear holocaust. I believe it because of the words of Peter of the elements of the earth being dissolved. And in the prophecies of Ezekiel where the eyes of men will rot and deteriorate as they stand on their bones and flesh because of this fallout of this nuclear explosion.

And this whole earth is going to go up in a ball of fire. But God, He says, He's going to create a new heaven and a new earth. Listen to these words in closing.

John hasn't taken place yet. He was there at the isle of Patmos. He saw all these things and he said, I saw a new heaven and a new earth.

For the first heaven and the first earth were passed away and there was no more sea. Nigh John saw the holy city. New Jerusalem coming down from God out of heaven prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

John said, I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men and He shall dwell with them and they shall be His people and God Himself shall be with them and be their God. And God shall wipe away all their tears from their eyes and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying. Neither shall there be any more pain for the former things are passed away.

And He that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And He said unto me, He said unto John, Write, for these words will come to pass. They are true and faithful.

And God is speaking to John and He says, I am the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto Him that is athirst of the fountain of water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things and I will be his God and he shall be my Son.

But the fearful and unbelieving and the abominable and murderers and whoremongers and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars shall depart in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death. You know, my friends, as James says, this life is just a little vapor compared to eternity. And you know what the job of a preacher is through the Holy Spirit to get God's people and to get the lost to face eternal realities.

And what we have in the next world, in the next life, that's why it's going to be worth it all when you see Jesus. One glimpse of His dear face, all sorrows will erase. But if you miss out on God's calling today and the Holy Spirit of God convicting you, He says, I stand at the door and knock.

Jesus says, repent of your sins and believe in Me. What do you believe in? Jesus died and rose again. If you do not believe the Gospel, if you're not saved in this day, you will go through the tribulation period and you may never, ever have another opportunity to receive Jesus Christ.

Would you bow your heads with me? Every head bowed. I'm going to ask the organist to come and play a song as we think along these lines.

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