

# YOU

Bible Study

**Sermon Series: Essentials of Christianity**

**To be used with:** The Return of Jesus

**Sermon Title Possibilities:** Christ's Eternal Kingdom

**Scripture:** Revelation 21:3-8

**Connection with Unit Theme:** To complement the small group study "The Return of Jesus," this sermon will explore the biblical characteristics of Christ's eternal kingdom.

Introduction: Context will be key to accurately handling this text. At this point in John's story, the tribulation has taken place and well as Jesus' millennial reign. The battle of Armageddon has been waged and Christ is victorious. After all of this has occurred, Jesus now sets up His eternal kingdom. The text clearly reveals things that are a part of everyday life today that will never be seen again. The text also reveals things that we long for today that will be realized forever more.

## **1. The things that will be no more (v. 4)**

### **a. Death is defeated**

It has long been said that the two greatest fears are death and public speaking. While we do not know if there will be any occasion for public speaking, we do know that death will be no more. When John penned this phrase, he wrote it as a statement of fact. We do not need to hope that death is defeated. According to God's Word, we can know that death is defeated.

This clear and resounding defeat of death has multiple implications. We will never need to attend another funeral because there will be no death. As a matter of fact, there will be no funeral homes in glory. A host of people have passed away while in a nursing home or hospital. These too will be gone because death is gone. Our way of thinking and living will radically change because death will be a thing of the past.

### **b. Grief is gone**

Grief can be defined as internal pain felt as a result of significant loss. Grief can be associated with death, but it can also be associated with other things like broken relationships or disappointment tied to unmet expectations. We have all experienced grief at some point in our lives. Many have felt this in silence or isolation. We have been heartbroken, but have never felt like anyone understood our grief. Therefore, we chose to suffer alone. All of these hurts will be gone forevermore when Christ sets up His eternal kingdom.

### **c. Pain has perished**

Where grief is internal and often unseen, pain is external and clearly seen. Having a disease that does not have a cure is painful for many. The person

experiencing the disease will suffer from pain as it takes over her body. The loved ones also experience pain in having watch all of this take place. Pain, while hurtful, is typically momentary. We feel pain from whatever the source might be, but in time, it passes. Whatever caused the pain will be gone in Jesus' kingdom. We know this to be true because He tells us there will no pain in glory.

## **2. The things that will be forever more**

### **a. God will reside with man (v. 3)**

John makes two conclusive statements in saying that God's dwelling is with humanity and that God will live with humanity. If someone has a personal relationship with the Father through the Son, then God's Spirit takes up permanent residence within the believer. This will be different in God's eternal kingdom. We will get to see God face-to-face. We will live in His presence and He will reside in our presence.

### **b. God will reign eternal (v. 5-6)**

To be seated on a throne shows power, it shows sovereign reign. Christ is enthroned right now and he will remain enthroned throughout eternity. He is the Alpha and Omega; He is the beginning and the end. These statements are written as statements of fact which are being lived out in the now. All so called arguments about who Christ is or claimed to be will stop. He is enthroned. All will realize this and properly exalt Him as King of kings.

### **c. God will revive His people (v. 6-7)**

When Jesus began His public ministry, He told His disciples, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled" (Matt. 5:6). Our filling and satisfaction will be truly found and realized in Jesus' eternal kingdom as he gives to the thirsty. No longer will we have to battle, conquer and overcome the struggles in this life. Instead, we will rest in the presence of God as His sons and daughters.

**Conclusion:** We know all that is stated about Jesus' kingdom is true because it is impossible for God to lie (Titus 1:2). The question is, will you get to personally experience Jesus' kingdom? His kingdom is for all, but each person must die to self and accept Jesus' substitutionary death for his or her sins. If you know Jesus, thank Him for your promised eternal home. If you do not know him, let today be the day that you accept Him as Lord and Savior.

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