

When He Comes

1 Corinthians 15:20-28; Coast Community Church; Earl Miles; 3-3-24

“Now at last they were beginning Chapter One of the Great Story which no one on earth has read: which goes on forever: in which every chapter is better than the one before.”

— C.S. Lewis, *The Last Battle*

What will happen when Christ returns?

- 1. See the Full Harvest:** We will see the full fruit and harvest of Christ’s life and death and resurrection. (20-23) (Romans 8:23; 16:5) *“Firstfruits comprised the first sheaf of the harvest, which was brought to the temple and offered (Leviticus 23:10ff). In a sense, it consecrated the whole harvest. Moreover, firstfruits implies later fruits.”* – Leon Morris
- 2. Believers Will Rise:** the resurrection of believers in their glorified bodies will take place. (23) (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18) *“Christ’s resurrection, therefore, is a pledge and assurance of the future resurrection of the dead in Christ. The term also denotes a representative example of the rest of the crop.”* – Anthony Thiselton
- 3. The End:** The end comes to this fallen world and the beginning of all that God has planned for eternity commences. (24) (Revelation 20:1-8) *“The end, to telos, has a purposive ring about it. Telos means the end or aim and the thought is thus of the consummation of all things, of that climax to which everything is destined to lead up.”* – Leon Morris
- 4. Handing Over the Kingdom:** Christ hands over the kingdom to the Father: the kingdom of the Son ends and the kingdom of the Father begins. (24) *“Now ... the Father has placed Him at His right hand with this understanding, that He is not to resign the authority that He has received until they have been subdued under His power.”* – John Calvin

The Kingdom of the Son and the Kingdom of the Father/The Kingdom Now and the Kingdom Not Yet (Matthew 13:24-43; Matthew 10:7; Luke 17:20-21; Colossians 1:13; John 18:33-38; Matthew 28:16-20; Romans 14:17; Luke 11:2; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; 1 Corinthians 15:50
- 5. Abolishing All Authorities:** Christ abolishes all rule and authority and power that opposes the rule of God. (24) (1 Corinthians 13:11; 2 Thessalonians 2:1- 12) *“In that day there is no governing power of any kind that will not be completely subservient to Him. Katargeo (put down): its basic significance of ‘render null and void’, ‘make inoperative’ is much in point here. ... he does speak of all rule, other than that of Christ, as being rendered completely inoperative.”* – Leon Morris
- 6. Abolishing All Enemies:** Christ puts all enemies under His feet meaning absolute defeat. (25) (Luke 19:11-27) *“He proves that the time is not yet come when Christ will deliver up the kingdom to the Father; with the view of showing at the same time that the end has not yet*

come, when all things will be put into a right and tranquil state, because Christ has not yet subdued all His enemies.” – John Calvin

- 7. Abolishing Death:** Christ abolishes the final enemy, death, so that death is no longer the experience of God’s people in God’s reign. (26) (Revelation 20:11-15) *“In the Bible, by contrast, death is viewed as a disruption of life that, apart from resurrection, reduces the totality of the self as a psychosomatic unity. In this sense it is an enemy associated with fallenness, sin and divine judgment.” – Anthony Thiselton*
- 8. All Things Put in Subjection:** All things will be put in subjection to Christ except the Father. (27) (Ephesians 1:19b-23; Colossians 2:10; 1 Peter 3:22; Hebrews 2:8; Revelation 22:1-5) *“The opening words are very similar to those of Psalm 8:6. There they refer to the dominion that God has given to man, the summit of creation. Here they apply to Christ only and they are more far-reaching.” – Leon Morris*
- 9. Son Subjected to the Father:** The Son will be subjected to the Father *“as the Man to rule the earth”* but not as God Himself. (28) (John 14:25-31) *“Paul is not speaking of the essential nature of either Christ or the Father. He is speaking of the work that Christ has accomplished and will accomplish.” – Leon Morris*
- 10. God Will Be All in All:** God will be in all, the focus of all, the purpose of all and the satisfaction of all. (28) (Revelation 22:9-27) *“Paul’s words, however, mean nothing but this, that all things will be brought back to God, as their alone beginning and end, that they may be closely bound to Him.” – John Calvin*

Conclusion

What should we do? *Trust and Love!*

- Believe that there is life after death; this isn’t all there is.
- Believe that Jesus is the key to the kind of life after death that you want.
- Believe that Jesus is returning and there is an End to sin and that will be the Beginning of all that we desire.
- Believe that Jesus is reigning over His enemies now and will one day bring an end to them.
- Believe that we don’t have to fear death because Jesus will bring an end to it for His people.
- Believe that one day our experience of God through Christ will be such that He will be all (we need and desire) in all (those who are His): supreme and central in our hearts and lives!

- Don’t be an enemy of God. Be reconciled through faith in Jesus! – Romans 5:6-10
- Seek first the kingdom of God. Pursue happiness in the world to come. – Matthew 6:24-34
- Be faithful to the End. Wait on the Lord to make everything right. – Revelation 2:18-29

We may need to come to Jesus (to turn and trust) or to follow Jesus (to trust and love) more.