

BIG QUESTIONS

WHAT WE BELIEVE AND WHY IT MATTERS

What's God's Endgame? I Corinthians 15:54-57 Doctrine of Eschatology

Big Idea: When we understand how the story ends, we find the strength to trust the Author in every chapter of our lives.

- I. When Death Feels Final, Remember the Story Isn't Over [I Corinthians 15:54-57]
- II. The King Is Coming Back - And He's Bringing Justice with Him [Revelation 22:12]
- III. God's Ending Is a New Beginning [Revelation 21:1-5]
- IV. Live Today Like You Know How the Story Ends [I John 3:2-3]
 - A. Eschatology is not speculation; it's motivation for sanctification. [YAT]
 - B. Knowing how the story ends changes how we live now – with hope, courage, and purpose.
 - C. Our future hope should shape our present mission: to proclaim, serve, and love as citizens of the coming kingdom.

Study Questions and Prayer

- [1] Read I Corinthians 15:54-57. What does it mean that "death is swallowed up in victory"?
- [2] Read Revelation 22:12. How does knowing that Jesus is coming back with justice impact your daily life?
- [3] Read Revelation 21:1-5. How does the promise of a new heaven and new earth shape your perspective on current struggles?
- [4] Read I John 3:2-3. How does knowing the end of God's story motivate you to live with hope and purpose today?
- [5] Pray, asking God to help you live faithfully in the present, and be filled with hope for the future.

[I Corinthians 15:54-57] When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." [Isaiah 25:8, Hebrews 2:14-15, Revelation 20:14, 21:4]

⁵⁵ "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" [Hosea 13:14] ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. [Romans 4:15, 5:13, 7:5, 7:8, 7:13] ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. [Romans 8:37, 1 John 5:4]

[Acts 1:11] . . . "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." [Philippians 3:20, 1 Thessalonians 1:10, Matthew 16:27, 2 Thessalonians 1:10]

[Revelation 22:12] Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense [misthos - a reward that appropriately compensates a particular decision/action] with me, to repay [apodidomi] each one for what he has done.

[Revelation 21:1-5] Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth [Isaiah 65:17, 66:22, 2 Peter 3:13], for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. [Revelation 20:11]

² And I saw the holy city, [Revelation 11:2, 22:19, Isaiah 52:1] new Jerusalem, [Revelation 3:12] coming down out of heaven from God, [Hebrews 11:10] prepared [Revelation 19:7, John 14:3] as a bride adorned for her husband. [Isaiah 61:10]

³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. [Leviticus 26:11-12] He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. [Revelation 7:15] ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, [Revelation 7:17] and death shall be no more, [Revelation 20:14, 1 Corinthians 15:26] neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." [Isaiah 35:10, 51:11, 65:19]

⁵ And he who was seated on the throne said, [Revelation 4:2, 5:1, 9, 20:11] "Behold, I am making all things new." [2 Corinthians 5:17] Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." [Revelation 22:6, 3:14, 19:11, 1 Timothy 1:15]

[1 John 3:2-3] Beloved, we are God's children [3:1, John 1:12] now, and what we will be [Romans 8:15, Galatians 3:26, Ephesians 1:5] has not yet appeared; [Romans 8:18, 2 Corinthians 4:17] but we know that when he appears [1 John 2:28] we shall be like him, [Romans 8:29, 2 Corinthians 3:18, 4:11, Philippians 3:21, 2 Peter 1:4] because we shall see him as he is. [John 17:24, 1 Corinthians 13:12, Revelation 22:4] ³ And everyone who thus hopes in him [Romans 15:12] purifies himself as he is pure. [2 Corinthians 7:1]

[Revelation 22:20] He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." [22:7, 12] Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! [2 Timothy 4:8]

[2 Timothy 4:8] Henceforth there is laid up for me [Colossians 1:15, 1 Peter 2:4] the crown of righteousness, [James 1:12] which the Lord, the righteous judge, [Psalm 7:11] will award to me on that day, [1:12] and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing. [Revelation 22:20]