**Transcript**

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The Final Countdown – Judgement Day 11/3/24
Mike – Baptism & Prayer Night – GO VOTE
Recap -
What’s The first thing we know of? Remember it starts with what already happened:
1) the first coming of Jesus – it was all prophesied that he would come to earth, be born of a Virgin, he was fully man, fully God. He did miracles, he taught his disciples, he told them things that would happen, and they happened. He was crucified, a horrific death on the cross. He took on all sin, past present and future, he suffered majorly, he died, and God raised him from the dead 3 days later.
2) What’s next – what do we call this period of time?
the church age. That is what we are living in right now. The time between the first coming of Jesus and the second time. We know He will come again. But He hasn’t yet. As we live in the Church Age, we are called to be ready and prepared for the next important and pivotal event in God's timeline—the Rapture, where Jesus will gather His church."
3) The Rapture - What has to happen before the rapture takes place? Who gets raptured first?
Jesus comes for his church and he snatches us up in the air with those who believed in him that have died and all of us living on earth who believe in him. Immediately after the Rapture what happens?
4) The Tribulation – How many years does it last? Can you still give your life to Jesus during that time? After the rapture there will be a period of 7 years – a period of great tribulation. . It was difficult and it is difficult to hear how bad things will get, but its important we understand what it will be like for those left behind.
5) And then at the end of the tribulation, what takes place? the second coming of Jesus takes place, when he comes with his church and we have the GREAT 1000-year reign, a great period of peace where we are all together with Jesus here on Earth. That was last week’s focus.
6) Then comes the great white throne judgment where Satan, demons, fallen angels and unrepented sinners are eternally separated from God, and then the incredible new heaven and new earth. That’s what we are heading into today.

Last week was so exhillerating – thinking about how awesome the Millenium will be – King Jesus in person here on earth with us and all His followers. The rewards we will receive. The peace on earth, the prosperity and wealth, No devil made me do it. But here’s the thing - all of that is just the appetizer to heaven. It’s limited snapshot of what heaven will be like. A preview of the new earth. When the Millennium ends, God is going to create a new heaven and a new earth – a new universe!
Rev 20 vs 7 tells us that the Millenium will come to an end READ 7-10 NLT
After a 1000 years, multitudes of people will rise up against Jesus – one final rebellion. Even in the Millenium some will rebel. Some people smarter than me wrote this: George Eldon Lad – After a thousand years in an almost perfect environment, it will become clear that sin- rebellion against God, is not due to an evil society or a bad environment. It is due to the sinfulness of the hearts of men. Dr. Dwight Pentecost says a similar thing – The Millennial age is designed by God to be the final test of fallen humanity under the most ideal circumstances, surrounded by every enablement to obey the rule of the king, from whom the outward sources of temptation have been removed, so that man may be found and proved to be a failure in even this last testing of fallen humanity.
Everyone who goes into the Millennium will be righteous, but I touched on this a little bit last week. There will be marriages among those who come out of the tribulation, children born and some will rebel against God. Everyone has to make a personal decision for or against Jesus even in the Millenium.
Only heaven, the new heaven and new earth – our eternal home will be sinless and pure. 2 Peter 3:13 – But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.
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We read in Rev 20:7 Satan will be released from his prison – remember he was thrown in prison at the beginning of the Millenium – not hell yet. The Beast and the antichrist were cast into the lake of fire, which is Hell but not Satan yet – he was bound up and now we read, he is released. He doesn’t escape – God makes the decision to release him. Why? The founder of Dallas Theological Seminary gave this as an answer to that question – “If you will tell me why God let him loose in the first place, I will tell you why God lets him loose the second time”. It seems that Satan is released at the end of the 1000 year Reign to reveal that the ideal conditions of the Kingdom, under the personal reign of Jesus, do not change the human heart. Scripture is accurate when it describes the heart of man as desperately wicked and the releasing Satan at the end of the Millenium proves that. Satan goes right back to doing what he does best – deceiving people, he will go out to the 4 corners of the earth to deceive the nations and to gather many (whose number is as the sand of the sea) for battle.
So even after a 1000 years of living here with Jesus, man will still listen to Satan’s deception and reject God. Dr. Jeremiah explains this as “even at our best, the world is almost perfect for 1000 years, we are not able to save ourselves – we will always rely on Jesus for our redemption. A perfect environment cannot produce a perfect heart.
So the enemy is released. Rebellion begins, an army is mustered up and we start to think there will be a terrible and long battle. But Rev 20:9 tells us and fire from heaven came down on the attacking armies and consumed them.! God will kill Satan’s army so quickly with fire – that’s a common form of judgement in the bible for those who oppose God.(Gen 19:24, Lev 10:1-2, 2 Kings 1:10)
There is no match for God Almighty’s power! No evil can overpower Him.
Then – The one of the best verses in the bible Rev 20:10 – “Then the devil, who had deceived them, was thrown into the fiery lake of burning sulfur, joining the beast and the false prophet. There they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.” The end of the devil – but not the end of us, God’s people – just the beginning!
Matthew 25:41 Then the King will turn to those on the left and say, Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons. Hell and Satan’s punishment has always been God’s plan. That’s why you will here people say “We know the end of the story”. Satan’s days have always been numbered – even he knows it! One day he will be confined to the lake of fire with no possibility of parole and no hope of escape.
That brings us to the title of this message – Judgement Day. There are 2 separate judgements that take place. One we have already discussed that happens at the beginning of the Tribulation – We call that the judgement seat of Christ. 2 Cor 5:10 tells us “We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.” This is where our works are evaluated to determine our rewards. No condemnation, only rewards. This takes place for all Christians – those of us who follow Jesus and are raptured. Like I talked about last week, our faithfulness now determines our rewards during the Millenium -1000 year reign here on earth with Jesus. What we do during that time.
The second Judgment – The Great White Throne Judgment. There will be a judge but no jury, a prosecutor but no defender, a sentence but no appeal. The final judgment of the world. All unbelievers will be judged at the Great white throne judgment. Judged not by cultural opinions of right and wrong but judged by the unbending standard of God’s truth.
Here is an easy way to understand and keep the 2 judgements separate – the first No unbelievers will appear before the Judgement seat of Christ. And second no believers will appear before the great white throne judgment.
So we go back to Rev 20: and after vs 10 where the devil is throne into the lake of fire. Verse 11 Read – Who is the judge – in John 5 Jesus said, The Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. So Jesus will be the Judge – The one who came and died for the sins of the world is the judge of those who refused His free gift of eternal life.
Rev 20 goes on with John’s vision – he sees bodies and souls of unbelievers – all ages, whether rich or poor, famous, beautiful, plain, powerful, weak, intelligent, all ranks and all races of people – all standing together sharing one thing- they will utterly be without hope because they died without truly knowing Jesus.
Vs 12 – “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. When the unsaved dead people stand before God, their past deeds will be exposed. Those who stand awaiting judgment (remember this is only those who never trusted in Jesus, never asked him to forgive their sins, never submitted their lives to Him, they will stand and many will cry out Look again, of course my name is in there, my name must be in the book. Imagine the terror.
Worship
The final judgment comes – Rev 20 vs 14-15 “Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.”
We live in an age where it is promoted that everyone has a right to live by his own choices, without consequences. Thinking about and understanding Hell is unpopular and often rejected even among some Christians. But scripture affirms it. A couple verses – Matt 25 41 “ The King will also say to those on the left hand, depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels…..And these will go away into everlasting punishment. Luke 16: Hell is a place of torment and flames of wailing and gnashing of teeth where the worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.
It's such a heart aching thought to see the rejection of Jesus in our world today and thinking of the punishment awaiting those who turn their backs on God after hearing the knowledge of Him.
Peggy – read the lyrics from Judgement Day
Our eternal future will be sealed. Now is the day of salvation. I urge you to turn to Jesus today, right now. Jesus himself said “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God…Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. John 3:18 and 5:24.
It's not too late – right now you can proclaim Jesus as Lord of your life. You can confess your sins and approach the throne of Grace.
It’s a free gift from God. He gave his one and only son to be born of a virgin, lived, died by brutal crucifixtion and God raised him from the dead so that you could be saved from all your sins and spend eternity in a perfect heaven with Jesus.
Have you accepted his gift? You can receive it and unwrap it today. Have you surrendered your life to him? Have you asked Him to forgive your sins and be your Lord and Savior. He makes it so easy, so simple. I want to give you the opportunity to say yes to Him today.
invitation – let’s bow our heads. Today is your day. If you don’t know Jesus as your Lord and Savior. You haven’t surrendered your life to him or you are unsure. You haven’t opened His free gift. if that is you and you want to make the decision to follow Jesus today – pray after me and you won’t be praying alone. We all pray together at Joy Church, always. No one prays alone. Jesus, I know I am a sinner
and I am sorry for my sins
, please forgive me ,
I surrender my life to you,
be my Lord and Savior,
fill me with your Holy Spirit,
I give you my life today.
Thank you for saving me
I receive your free gift of eternity. Amen
Before you open your eyes
Just keep your heads bowed and eyes closed. If you just prayed that prayer would you just raise your hand so I can see it, just me, everyone else has their eyes closed. Online just type it in the chat – I gave my life to Jesus or I said yes today. I want to pray for all of you. Thank you, God, for those who just gave their lives to you. Thank you for forgiving their sins, saving them, giving them the assurance that they will be forever with you Lord in eternity. They won’t face the Great White Throne Judgement. Give them peace Lord Jesus and excitement today as they begin a brand new and awesome life with you Jesus. We love you so much Lord. Amen