

# “The End | The Beginning”

## 1 Corinthians 15:24-28

East Berlin Community Church

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### Introduction

- “Are we there yet?”
- The use of a map to silence the cry, “Are we there yet?”
- Review of the “Map of the Ages” to see how far we’ve traveled, and how far we still have to go.
  - Review of the Dispensations of Innocence, Conscience, Human Government, Promise, Law, and Grace
  - Next prophetic event is the rapture of the Church
    - 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 -- *“the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.”*
  - Seven-year Tribulation period follows the rapture
  - At the end of the Tribulation period, Jesus Christ returns to establish His kingdom here on earth
    - He will rule for 1,000 years over a Davidic kingdom
    - Satan and his demonic forces will be incarcerated for the 1,000 year duration
    - Satan will be released at the end to once again deceive people into following him in the final rebellion.
    - Jesus Christ will defeat Satan and his army, and throw Satan and his demonic forces into the lake of fire.
    - Unbelievers will stand before the Great White Throne in judgment. Those whose names are not written in the book of Life will be cast into hell.

## “The End | The Beginning”

### A. The End of Time

#### 1. The Death of Death

- 1 Corinthians 15:25-26-- *“For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.”*
- a. **Man was originally created to live forever, but because of Adam’s sin, death entered into the human experience**
  - Romans 5:12-- *“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.”*
- b. **Satan keeps mankind in bondage through the fear of death.**
  - Hebrews 2:14-15-- *“Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”*
- c. **Jesus Christ, by His death and resurrection, has taken the sting out of death.**
  - 1 Corinthians 15:51-57 -- *“Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” “O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your*

victory?" *The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*"

d. **At the end of time, death itself will be destroyed.**

- Revelation 20:14-- *"Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death."*

2. **The End of Christ's Kingdom on Earth**

- 1 Corinthians 15:24-28-- *"Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. For "He has put all things under His feet." But when He says "all things are put under Him," it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all."*
- a. **Jesus must reign until "all enemies are put under his footstool"**
  - 1) Jesus Christ in Revelation 5 is handed the "title deed" to the earth, His inheritance. He must take back what the usurper, Satan, has wrongfully taken as the "god of this age".
  - 2) During the tribulation period, and the series of judgments that unfold, Jesus Christ begins to reclaim what is rightfully His.
  - 3) At the end of the tribulation, Jesus Christ defeats the Antichrist and his forces, and establishes His kingdom here on earth.
  - 4) Satan at the end of the kingdom will lead the final rebellion, and will be cast into the lake of fire.
  - 5) All unbelievers will stand before the Great White Throne and they too will be confined to hell
  - 6) At this point death and the grave will be defeated and destroyed
  - 7) The present heavens and earth are destroyed by fire, making the way for God to create a new heavens and new earth.
- b. **When all of God's enemies are destroyed, Jesus Christ will hand over His Kingdom to God the Father, and the Messianic, millennial kingdom will merge with the Eternal Kingdom. Together God the Father and Jesus Christ will reign in the eternal state.**
  - 1) Jesus taught this scenario in the parable of the Wheat and Tares
    - Matthew 13:41-42-- *"The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth!"*
    - Matthew 13:43-- *"Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"*
  - 2) Daniel also predicted the same.
    - Daniel 12:3-- *"Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever."*

**B. The Beginning of Eternity-- Two Preliminary Disclaimers**

1. **The Biblical material of what life will be like in eternity is scant and limited.**

- a. This follows the pattern of what the Bible teaches of eternity past before time and creation itself.
- b. Only two chapters are devoted to describing the Eternal State. Revelation 21-22
- c. **Ramification: Not all of our questions are answered.**
  - 1) Eternity will be beyond our imagination
    - 1 Corinthians 2:9 -- *"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."*

- 1 Corinthians 2:10a -- *"But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit."*
- 2) God gives us a glimpse, a foretaste of what heaven will be like.
2. **While Biblical material may be limited, it is adequate and sufficient for us.**
- a. **We have limited information about the life and work of Jesus Christ, and yet we have enough information to support our faith in Christ.**
- John 21:25 -- *"And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written."*
  - John 20:30-31-- *"And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name."*
- b. **We have sufficient information so that we can KNOW that we have eternal life.**
- 1 John 5:13-- *"These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God."*
  - 1 John 5:11-12-- *"And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life."*