

Revelation 21
I Have A Very Bright Future Ahead For Me
Pastor JD

DAVID: Lord, we come before You and just give thanks for all the things that You do in our lives, Lord. Thank You for Your blessings, Lord, and how You surround us with Your love and Your mercy, Lord.

Continue to give us — guide our steps each day, Lord. Continue to keep our hearts and our minds always focused on You, Lord. And we just lift up this time to You, Lord, as we listen to Your message. Lord, may You bless this time. In Jesus' name, Amen.

PASTOR JD: Amen and amen. And good morning and welcome. You can be seated. So glad you're here today. Thank you. Oh, you weren't talking to me. Don't you hate that? It's like putting your hand out to shake somebody's hand, and they don't. Never mind. Those of you online, we're so glad you're joining with us as well. We want to welcome you, and we want to get right to it.

Revelation Chapter 21. We're making our way verse-by-verse through the *Book of Revelation*, which is the last book of the Bible. We left off *verse 8* last week. We're going to pick it up, *verse 9* this week and go through to *verse 14*.

So I'm going to have you stand if you want, if you're able. If not, no worries, where you're seated is fine for the reading of God's word. Just follow along beginning in *verse 9* where John, by the Holy Spirit, writes, **“One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came to me and said, “Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.”**

And [Verse 10] he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and he showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.

[Verse 11] It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. [You almost get the impression that John is struggling to even describe what he's seeing] [Verse 12]

It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. There were [Verse 13] three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. The wall

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[Verse 14] of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb."

Wow! Let's pray. If you would please join with me. Father, sometimes we're without words when it comes to Your word because it is just so awesome and mighty in its power. This description that you inspired John to write down for us some well-nigh 2000 years later, it's kind of exciting.

What he's describing, this is really exciting. But we have a problem, Lord, and we want to bring that problem to You because only You can solve it. And the problem is, is that this just seems like fantasy, not reality.

So will You, as You only can by the Holy Spirit, make this real in ministering it to us because this is about us. Cut through, breakthrough whatever stands in the way of us seeing this as the reality of what awaits us in eternity.

Lord, speak to us in and through Your word, in that still, small voice of the Holy Spirit. Your servants are listening, Lord, especially those who are really struggling and hurting. They really are listening, Lord. So speak. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen and amen. You can be seated. Thank you so much.

So what I want to talk with you about today is how that those of us who are born-again Christians have a very bright future ahead for us. You know that saying, when, you know, especially from the proud parent they have — "My kid has a bright future ahead for them."

Okay, whatever. Well, that's nothing. My kid... Don't go there. Don't compete with that. That's carnal. But have you ever thought of it like that? That we as born-again Christians have a very bright and brilliant future ahead for us?

And as we'll see in the text that God deemed important enough for the Apostle John to write about, this isn't just a bright future that's ahead for us. This is forever and ever, for all eternity.

And like I just opened in prayer, I did that for a reason because this just seems fiction, like fiction, fantasy. It's like with our text last week, so too with our text this week, it's too

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unbelievable to be believable. But you better believe it. I'm not threatening you. You better believe it because this is God's word of truth.

You'll forgive me, but I need to just repeat myself again. We call it the word of God. Do you know what that means? God's word. It means that God has given me His word, and He can't go back on His word. His promises are unbreakable. Unshakable. Immovable. If God said it, and He did, that settles it. And it should.

In this, we talked about it last week, you know, about the *Book of Revelation* being the only book in the entire Bible that promises a blessing to those who read it, hear it, and take it to heart. And yet, it's the most unread book in the entire Bible by Christians.

How sad is that? Is FOMO what they call it? You know what FOMO, the acronym is? You do? I just, man, I need to get out more. Fear Of Missing Out.

Man, I — anyone who is a born-again Christian who has not read — at least read it or heard it taught and certainly taken it to heart, the *Book of Revelation*, man, they're missing out. That was a good save on the FOMO, wasn't it? I hope.

And God doesn't want you missing out on what He has for you, which is why we have this book in our Bibles. He wants us to know. Man, if you only — that was last week. I won't preach last week's sermon unless you want me to. No? That's a hard no.

Okay. If I only knew what I had to look forward to. It is too unbelievable to be believable. And that's why I prayed that God would just help us see this as not fantasy, but reality. I want to preface this, and I think it's incumbent upon me to do so by explaining why John, by the Holy Spirit, would write this with such meticulous detail.

I mean, we're talking the numbers of the gates, the walls, the size, the foundations, the names on them, on everything. By the way, it gets even more detailed for those of you that read ahead to stay ahead.

We're going to get measurements, man, next week. You have to come next week because we're going to — this guy is going to come out with a measuring — not a contractor's

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measuring tape. But a measuring rod. And he's going to provide even more meticulous detail about how massive this thing is, the New Jerusalem.

Okay, so back to the preface. Let me pose it as a question. Why — and this is healthy and good to ask — why do I have this in my Bible? Because we know that all Scripture is inspired by God and God breathed and for our correction, direction, redirection, rebuke, instruction, etc., etc.

So it's here for a reason. Okay God, what's the reason? Well, I want to show you the reason why you have this in your Bible. Because I want to renew your hope. I want to refill your joy, and I want to restore your faith, all of which the enemy comes only to steal, kill, and destroy.

And sadly, he is being met with smashing success, I'm sorry to say. He robs Christians of their hope, kills their joy, all to destroy and shipwreck their faith. So God knows this, warns us about this, and wants us to know this and do something about this. So that's why we have this in our Bible.

I'm going to refer to them as three realities from the text that are prophesied yet future. Realities because a reality is the antithesis of a fantasy. Am I right?

And if there were ever a book in the Bible that has been so misused and even abused, it's the *Book of Revelation*. "Oh, you can't understand that book. That's a hard book to understand. It's so full of symbolism and meaning. It's all allegorical."

Really? Well, listen, I've been taught, and I've learned over the years in my relationship with the Lord that the Bible is to be taken literally, unless there's a clarity as to it being an analogy, a parable.

So this is literally going to happen. And John got to see it first. That's okay. We'll let him. He's in his 90s. Give the man a break. He's been banished to the island of Patmos, left to die. Give him a break.

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But he was the one that God would choose and use to write this down for us because God wants us to know this. This is really real, and it's going to happen. This is not some, you know, fantastic, you know, allegoric, symbolic. No.

We're going to... Well, I'm getting ahead of myself. The first reality is in *verse 9*, and it's that we'll be married as the wife to Jesus. The second in *verses 10 and 11* is we'll be in the Holy City with Jesus. And then the third in *verses 12 to 14* is that we'll be in the eternal safety of Jesus forever and ever. We have a very bright future ahead for us, don't we?

Okay, one last thing before we jump in. As we go through this, I hope and pray that all of us, and I always include myself, will lift up our weary heads, battle-weary heads, and look up for our blessed Savior who's about to rapture us up to our eternal home. Fair?

Can we view these three realities through that lens of reality? Because if not, I don't think — I don't want to look at anybody when I say this. I don't think there's one of us here today that wants our time here today to be a waste of time, is there? I mean, isn't that why you're here? You're here to hear God speak into your life.

Now, I apologize for the vessel He's chosen to use to speak through. but you get what you get. If you're in *Numbers 22*, you would have gotten a donkey. So you should be happy about that. So we want to have ears to hear. Notice — let me have this one — we have eyelids. We don't have ear lids.

And all seven letters to the seven churches in *Revelation Chapters 2 and 3* end in the same way: **“Let him who has an ear hear.”** Well, that's pretty obvious. I got two ears. You better listen twice as much. I wonder why God didn't give us ear lids. And I also wonder why He would end the letters that way: **“Let him who has an ear hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.”** Here's why. Because just because you have an ear doesn't mean you hear.

I always share — you'll forgive me again — when I was a little boy, a rascal, my mom with her thick Arabic accent in English, would get so mad at me and she would yell at me, (Yelling) Wahido! And as soon as she hit that, that key, that pitch, that tone, boom! I didn't hear anything else.

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Husbands, you do that to your wives. I won't look at you. And wives, don't elbow your husbands. You know, you're just yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. And oh, but you're polite and you're getting good at it. You insert the "Is that right?" you know, at the appropriate place and like you're really hearing.

You're not hearing. You're thinking about your teatime and going golfing. You're thinking about something else. You're not listening to a word she's saying. But man she would hit that tone. (High-pitched sound)

All I heard after that was (High-pitched sounds) I had ears. But I — they weren't ears that would hear what she was saying. We do that with the Lord. Let me explain. We will get to our text. Don't rush me.

The Holy Spirit speaks in a still, small, refining voice, like a whisper. And that's the problem because the volume of our busy lives and getting busier, it seems, by the week. The volume of our lives is turned up so high I can't hear the still, small voice of the Holy Spirit.

So what am I going to do? I'm going to say, Hey, speak up! like I did to my algebra teacher, Mr. Bowman. I got a chance to share with him that I used him in many sermon illustrations. He got a kick out of that. He had one of those monotone voices.

And the first day of class I had no clue. I walk in — I'm confessing some stuff, aren't I? I walk in, and he comes in. "Okay, class, you need to settle down and sit down and get your textbooks ready." (Speaking monotone)

I'm like, "Hey, teach, speak up, I can't hear you!" To which he said, "No. This is how I speak. You want to hear me? Quiet down." What? I'm in high school, man. I'm not even born-again yet. That wouldn't come until I was age 19, miraculously, thankfully, by the grace of God.

Okay. Why am I going into all of this? Because you guys, please, I'm pleading with you. This is real, man. And if you don't see it like that, you don't hear the still, small voice of the Holy Spirit speaking to you about that, you're going to miss out. I don't want you to miss out. And if you do, when we get there, don't tell them that you went to church here. No, that's...

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Oh, you didn't know about the Holy City, the Jerusalem, the New Jerusalem? You didn't know anything about it? Four gates? Wow. 12 gates and 12 angels? Wow! Where'd you go to church? Well, I went to a church on the windward side. Can you just say you've never seen me before in your life in this life?

Let's get to our first one. *Verse 9*. We'll be married as the wife to Jesus. Now, this weirds out guys. I get it. I'm a guy. It's a guy thing. But it shouldn't. Here, John writes that one of the seven angels started by inviting him so he could show him the bride who has now become the wife of the Lamb.

Who is the Lamb? Jesus. Did you know that we're engaged? Yeah. We're engaged. We're going to — we're going to be — isn't there a song? I don't want to ruin it or get it stuck in your mind. ♪ And we're going to get married ♪

No, you're not feeling it? I'm not feeling the love. That's what I'm not feeling. Well, let me see if I can just kind of, by way of a personal example. I met my wife 39 years ago. We courted for two years.

For you young people courting — I know it's foreign to you — it's where you court her. Not just date her. You're courting her. It's a courtship. And then there comes the engagement. And the engagement is only for the proposal, accept the proposal of marriage. And then a date is set for the wedding. That's right here.

So we courted for two years, and then we set the date. And I couldn't wait. And I had a calendar. This is. 1988, when calendars were calendars, I'll tell you. And I took the marker, and I marked and counted down the days until our wedding day because I'm going to get married. And I was so excited, and I couldn't wait.

You know, every time we partake together and celebrate and commemorate the communion table, the first Thursday of each month, which I think is coming up. No, not this Thursday. Scratch that. It's the following one. This Thursday's the 31st. But you need to — oh, *Zechariah 4*. Ho! The following one.

You know that Jesus two times as a bridegroom speaking — I'm getting ahead of myself — speaking to His bride says, **“I eagerly await...”** Some translations render it **“fervently**

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desire” when we will partake together again because this is the last time we're going to do this. The Last Supper. The next time we're going to be doing this is at the wedding feast of the Lamb when you're My wife, baby. Okay, maybe He left the “baby” off.

And wedding day came, and, I mean, it couldn't come fast enough. Have you ever thought about that like that? You know, we're excited about Jesus coming and rapturing us before the seven-year Tribulation. Imagine how much more excited He is.

I think He's got a calendar like the one I had in 1988 on His heavenly wall, and He's marking down the days, counting down to that wedding day that He eagerly awaits and fervently desires. This is our future.

You know, I've, over the years as a pastor, talked with many, particularly young people who, really in their singleness desiring to be married. And I try my best. I ask the Holy Spirit for wisdom, the words to speak in love, seasoned with grace, to bring comfort and encouragement. Because this is a thing. Because to be lonely is lonely.

You know that the marriage is a microcosm of our marriage in heaven? The family is a microcosm of the family of God. Let me try this. I don't know how well it will work. We'll see. We'll find out soon enough. We're brothers and sisters in Christ, right? You know what that makes us? Siblings. No wonder there's so much sibling rivalry.

Our heavenly Father, Jesus, our bridegroom. We're brothers and sisters in Christ in the family of God. It is a picture of — I'm going somewhere with this — it is a picture of the heavenly scene, yet future.

Now, here's where I'm going. Could this be why the enemy has destroyed so many marriages? He hates your Christian marriage. And he hates your family. Why? Because of what it represents. That's why the divorce rate among, I'm going to say, professing Christians and non-Christians is identical.

See, Satan knows you smite the shepherd, you scatter the sheep. You take off the head, you split it apart. That's why the attack on the men today — guys, seriously, this is this is real and raw, especially as we see the hour fast approaching.

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See, Satan's goal is to get the man, as the head, God-ordained authority and head of that home out of the picture. I think he's done a pretty good job. See, he's split - what God has brought together let no man put asunder. We say in the vows. The two shall become one flesh.

The father — the husband shall leave his father and mother and cleave, be glued to his wife. And the two shall become one. We're going to be one communion, common union, united in marriage to Jesus as His wife for all eternity.

Can you grasp that, that you and I are going to be married to the Son of God, God the Son, for all eternity? What problems are you going through again? Think on these things. Satan keeps bringing up your past? Remind him of your future.

Oh, and his too which is why, by the way, he tries to keep as many Christians out of the *Book of Revelation* as he possibly can. How would you like to have a book inspired by God written about your demise and how it ends for you, and it doesn't end well for you?

I'm going to get that thing off Amazon as quick as I can. I don't want anybody reading that. I don't want anybody knowing that if they're a born-again believer in Jesus Christ that they are going to be united in holy matrimony with the Savior of the world, the Son of God, God the Son, for all eternity. We haven't even just got started.

Where are we going to live, honey? That's number two. *Verses 10 and 11*. This is so cool. I know that I'm probably having more fun teaching this than you are hearing this, assuming you're hearing it.

Are you hearing this? We'll be in the Holy City with Jesus. John describes how this angel — and specifically we don't know the name of the angel. We just know he was the seventh angel who had the seventh plague. That's saying something. I mean, I'll stand to attention when he comes up to me and says, "Here, come on, I want to show you something." I'm going, "Okay, where are we going?"

He says, in the spirit, he was carried away to a mountain great and high. We got it. We have to; otherwise, you ain't going to see this thing in its entirety. That's how massive and huge this thing is, and amazing and magnificent this thing is.

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So he's shown it. It's like how do I — it's indescribable. Is that a word? Undescribable? Indescribable? Just we'll deal with it later. Just let me have that one too. It's beyond description.

And this is why he's almost scrambling, trying to write it down. Because he was commanded to write it down. This is important enough to write down. I want you to write this down because there's going to be a church on the windward side of Oahu in the year 2025 that's going to be studying this verse-by-verse, and they're going to be greatly encouraged by it because they're going to know what I have in store for them.

Well, what do you have in store for us? The New Jerusalem. Do you know that in the Jewish bridal customs, especially in the Galilee region, that the — again, I'm getting ahead of myself a little bit, but that's okay — the bridegroom would go to prepare a place. And the bride and the groom, now husband and wife, would live in Jerusalem after the marriage.

So this Holy City, the New Jerusalem, can you imagine to John's amazement, he's shown the Holy City? I mean, I don't know. I think this would be pretty cool. It's coming down out of heaven from God. That alone I — that alone I — I'm trying to — let me wrap my mind around this before you tell me more about this.

Because it's coming down out of heaven from God but shining so brightly and brilliantly with crystals and jewels for the glory of God. Colors. Pure brilliant, bright colors and jewels, the likes of which have never been seen by the eyes of fallen man. Is that a good enough place for you, honey? That'll do nicely. Thank you very much.

And we're still just getting started. This new Jerusalem, our future dwelling place. And we're not going to be just confined to it. We're going to — this is going to weird you out. I know it's going to mess some people up. So I'll just do my best to make it simple, in as much as I'm able. Our glorified bodies are going to be able to do glorified things.

How do I know that? Because when Jesus received His glorified body, He walked through walls. I'm going to try that as soon as I — the first day — I've always wanted to walk through a wall. Hey! Everybody's oh! How'd you get in here? I just walked through the wall. I got a glorified body. We're going to be traveling in ways that no eye has seen, no ear has heard.

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And we have VIP status too. Because hey, isn't that... The paparazzi all over the place. I don't think they're going to be there. But isn't that — that's — isn't that the bride, the wife of the Lamb? Yeah, that's her. Wow! That's there dwelling? The Holy City, the New Jerusalem. Wow! Whoa! I'm looking for some other ones, but you just fill in the blanks.

Okay, let's circle back to why do we have this in our Bibles? Why? Why the detailed description? Why the — okay, John's writing down about these brilliant, bright, pure, see-through crystals and jewels.

Why? Answer: To settle troubled hearts with the promise of our betrothed bridegroom who prepared this unfathomable eternal home. Can I draw your attention to *John 14*, first three verses? You know, most — talk about FOMO. This is a big FOMO verse. Because most Christians miss out on what's here. The Savior has just got done telling the disciples that He's going to be given over as the Son of Man to be crucified. And they're freaking out. They are so unsettled. Their hearts are so troubled. They've been with Him for three-and-a-half years, man. And now He's going to go. And what a way to go.

So verse 1 *John 14*, Jesus says, **“Let not your heart be troubled.”** Why would Jesus say, let not your heart be troubled if their hearts weren't troubled? Whenever you read in Scripture, **“Do not be afraid.”** Why would God inspire the writer to write, **“Do not be afraid”**? Wait for it.

They were afraid. Don't be afraid. Don't be troubled. I'm going to tell you why. I'm going to settle your heart. I'm going to calm your fears. I'm going to restore your hope and joy and renew your faith.

“You believe in God, believe also in Me. [Now watch for verse 2] [Oh, man] In My Father's house are many mansions.”

Mansions? Did you say mansions? Yeah. So you mean like when I walk to Kailua Beach — which is never because I don't get out much anymore — and I walk by these mansions that they build on Kailua Beach. Are you talking mansions like that? No. Those are toilets in comparison. I'm sorry for the — if you got a better one, let me know. No, that's your finite fallenness. No.

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These are mansions with bright, brilliant, colorful — you know, God created all that. You know that, right? God created music. God created color. God created art. God created precious metals and jewels. He's the creator of it. He created gold. I think it's next week.

Spoiler alert. The streets, spoiler alert, gold. We're going to be driving on gold streets. Just don't bring gold bars with you because you're going to be looked at really weird. Like, why are you bringing asphalt up here, man? The streets are made of this.

And this is not just gold like we know gold. This is pure gold, so pure you can see through it. You see your image in it. You know, these are mansions. (Stumbling over words)

Not mansions like man's mansions. Did that come out right? Okay, good. I'll take it. No, this is God's mansions. And then He says this.

And this is kind of peculiar at first read because He says, ***"If it were not so, [If this were not true or too unbelievable to be believable or too good to be true] I would have told you. [But it's not] I go to prepare a place for you."*** [Honey. Added]

He's speaking as a bridegroom to the bride at the engagement. And that's how they would formalize and finalize the betrothal. They would drink from the same cup. Sound familiar? They would eat from the same bread. Sound familiar? And then it would be according to the ketubah. What's the ketubah? The written word in the father's house.

Oh, I mean, the typology is just (Explosion sound). Don't get me started. I go to prepare a place for you.

And I want you to listen very carefully to verse 3. **"If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."**

Excuse me. That sounds an awful lot like the pre-Tribulation rapture to me. That's because it is.

"Oh, come on, you pre-Tribber! Jesus never talked about the pre-Tribulation rapture."

"Oh, yes, He did. We just read it. And they would have got it!"

I'm sorry. I'm not — I'm sorry for yelling. Sorry. Not sorry. (Tripping over words) Easy for me to say. (Struggling to find words) I receive you.

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[So] “That where I am [Where are You?] [In the Father's house] there you will be also.”

Where? In the Father's house. What's the matter with you? You know we talked about this in the Update. The pre-Tribulation rapture, He does not come to the earth. He comes in the air to take us out of the earth, to meet Him in the air before His wrath is poured out on a Christ-rejecting world.

I'm not going to go into the whole — well, maybe just a little bit because I think it might be for someone who needs to hear this just for encouragement and reassurance. There's no way that our bridegroom is going to let us get all buss up in the seven-year Tribulation before the wedding.

I'm sorry for the illustration, but can you imagine? We've gotta make it through. Okay, here comes the bride. (Walking with a limp) I know it's silly, but you get the point, right?

No, the Apostle Paul writing to the Corinthians, said, you know, I have a godly jealousy for you. I want to present you as a pure virgin bride to Christ. Oh, that's chicken skin, man. We talked about this on Thursday night.

The imputation versus the expiation where God removes our sin and replaces it with His righteousness and purity. I love how one said it. When God sees us, He sees not our sin, but His Son. He's going to go to build a bride of chamber. That's how they would have understood it.

You can go to Israel today. You can see these room additions on houses. What is it? It's the bridal chamber that the groom is building and preparing for a place for his bride that he's engaged to. How's that one? I was going to say, if we go to Israel again. But I don't think we're going to go to Israel again. I think the next time we go to Israel will be in the New Jerusalem.

Okay. Last one and we're done. *Verses 12 through 14*. This might seem like maybe a firm grasp for the obvious. But we'll be in the eternal safety of Jesus. So here, John goes on to describe our new home, New Jerusalem, as having a great high wall with 12 gates, upon which are written the names of the 12 tribes of Israel.

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And then that's not all. He continues his detailed description, writing that there are three gates on the east. I messed up. I can't find my car in a parking garage. I have no sense of direction. My wife, you could blindfold her and, you know, she could find her car in Mississippi. I can't find it at the mall. I forgot where I parked. What level was that? So let me get a do-over here.

There are three gates on four sides. Total of 12: east, north, south, and west. And there's angels at each of the gates, and the names of the 12 tribes of Israel are written on them.

And that's not all. I hope that didn't sound like an infomercial. There's also 12 foundations upon which are written the names of the 12 apostles. And by the way, for those of you wondering, wait, what? What about Judas? No, no. Paul. Paul. Is everybody okay with that? Okay. Just want to make sure.

Okay. Let me bring this in for a landing. Why? Why did the detail? Why the — Why is this important? Why do I need to know about it? First of all, this city sounds amazing. But now you're getting into more detail about gates and walls and foundations and the names.

Why? Because walls, gates, and foundations speak to our safety for all eternity, both of Jesus and with Jesus. You know what the greatest concern in the day in which we find ourselves living? Is safety and security.

Again, another spoiler alert. I'm sorry. But if you read ahead to stay ahead, you already know what's ahead. These gates never shut. The 12 angels, I mean, that's a pretty easy job. You don't have to open and shut them. You just have to stand there and look pretty, I guess. I don't know.

People are going to make — going in glorified bodies. There's no more flesh, you know. We got rid of that in *Chapter 20, Chapter 19*. Remember? The world, the flesh, the devil: Gone. It is done. The old order of things has passed away and died. This is the new. The new heavens, the new earth. Where did the old one go? Forget the old one. It's gone.

So we're all in glorified bodies for all eternity, unable to sin. That's a biggie. I get asked that on occasion, actually often, sometimes.

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“Man. So, man, I don't want to — ho, am I going to blow it in heaven?”

“No you're not.”

“I'm not?”

“You can't. You're going to be in a perfected, sinless, glorified body and mind.”

Hey, the mind alone. I get a new, glorified, perfect mind. That alone. For all eternity, I'm going to have the mind of Christ. I'm going to be like Him. I can't wait. I can't wait.

How insecure are we? How many locks do you have on your doors? How many firewalls on your computers? How many cameras? I won't tell you how many I have. I'm have a lot, actually, just to be safe. Just in case. You never know these days. No, I don't see any cameras here. No locks. No need to even shut them. No worry. Complete security for all eternity.

Can you wrap your mind around that? Is this too fantastic? Is this to, again, unbelievable to be believable? I believe it because God said it and promised it, and that settles it. It's not a matter of if. It's a matter of when.

And I hope it's soon because things are getting a little bit gnarly out there — I'm sorry to use an '80s word.

Almost by the day I'm like, “Lord, You know, right? Because You're all knowing, You know, right? I mean, I don't need to inform You, or, you know, show You my newsfeed. But You understand?”

“I know.”

“Can You get us out of here?”

“I will.”

“When?”

“You'll see. Just be ready. Be watching. It won't be long. It's soon. Behold, I come quickly. You'll see. Just wait. You'll see. I know all about it.”

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And by the way, one last thing and we'll end. Some of you are going, man, what's wrong with you? You sick? You're ending early. Not so fast. The Apostle Paul, by the Spirit, said the sufferings of this life are not even worthy to be compared with the glory that awaits.

Can I just encourage you with this? Because I know that many are struggling and hurting and suffering. And it's intense. I'm drinking from that cup. You know that. You know what? I have God's word on it, that as painful as it is, as scary as it is, as hard as it is, as painful, unbearable. When I try to compare it with this, pfft! Those are words in the JDV.

I mean, in fact, I'm not so sure that when Paul writing to the *Philippians in Chapter 4:8* says, **"Think on these things"** that he wasn't talking about these things: whatsoever things are.

Isaiah said it like this: **"He will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee."**

Just, I'm almost done. But listen, please, by way of an encouragement to those who are just really weary and hurting and suffering.

I'm going to share with you what my wife and I do when we go through, which we are, those painful times, scary times. I start to think on these things. You know what's interesting? An interesting dynamic takes place. And God knew this all along.

All of a sudden now, we've had a much-needed change of perspective. Because isn't it true that when you look at your problems, they get bigger, and your God gets smaller? But when you look on and think on your God, He gets bigger, and your problems get smaller. In light of eternity, this is temporal.

What we just studied today, that's eternal. Eternal. You know eternity is, right? You know how long forever is? It's forever. No, I was thinking about this the other day, and it brought me great encouragement because I'm always fighting the clock. I hate the clock. I don't think they're of God. I think they're of the devil. And God just reminded me to think about and think on this: There will be no clocks in heaven. Hallelujah, Jesus! No alarm clocks. No need. No time. We're in eternity.

And one more. Can I just have one more? Cockroaches. I'm not 100% sure if they're going to be glorified cockroaches, but I still don't like them. Termites. I know there's no more nights. I just don't know about termites. That's again, that's next week.

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So you have to come next week too. There's more detail to think on and to get a change of perspective. Because sometimes life can be so hard in this fallen world, in this last hour, that it blurs our eternal home, our eternal promise, our bright future. You need to flip it around. Let your bright future blur your temporal struggles and suffering. What's that timeless classic hymn? When your eyes are on Jesus, the things of earth grow strangely dim. They lose their luster.

Why? Oh, man. Nice mansion on Kailua Beach, by the way. You should see what I got waiting for me. Oh, man, no more pain — this was last week — no more sorrow. Jesus himself is going to wipe the tears from our eyes. No more crying. No more dying. That's a song. I mean, forever.

Shouldn't that have some kind of an impact on you now, knowing that this is what awaits you in your very bright future ahead of you? It does me. Were it not for this, I don't know. I don't know. I don't even know if I'd be standing behind this pulpit, as is my privilege to, teaching God's word.

When the bottom falls out and everything closes in, you think “This is it, man.”

“No, it's not it, man. This isn't how it ends.”

“No, I'm not getting out of this one.”

“Oh, yes, you are. It's just not on your schedule. Or according to how you want it to be. It's in God's perfect timing for God's glory.”

Okay, I told you I was done. David, come on up. Stand up. Yeah. See? Not too bad. Not as bad as last week. I almost went into a third service last week, I think. Thank you for your patience, your grace. Thank you for your listening ear.

Father in heaven, we're — we're needing to refocus and adjust the lens of our lives to the glory that awaits us with You in our eternal home. And some of us, need it more than others right now, right now because of what's happening. So, Lord, I know that's why we have this in our Bibles. It's to give us a preview of what's ahead so that we'll have new hope and renewed faith and new joy.

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So, Lord, would You grant us that grace? Grants us the grace of being able to fix our eyes on You, set our mind on You and get our mind and our focus off of the struggles and the pain and the suffering.

And thank You, Lord. We, like You, eagerly await, fervently desire for that trumpet to sound, the dead in Christ to rise first. Then we who are alive and remain to be caught up in a fraction of a fraction of a fraction of a second. Oh, Jesus, come quickly. Maranatha! In Jesus' name, Amen.