

APOCALYPSE:

Your Life in God's Kingdom PT 3

Revelation 20:4-6

Pastor Jason Dennett's Teaching Notes

NKJV - "And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years."

Mississippi Man Revives in Body Bag - A coroner at a Mississippi funeral home was shocked to see a leg moving inside a zipped body bag. Walter Williams, 78, had been declared dead several hours earlier and morticians were about to start the embalming process. Then the coroner, Dexter Howard, noticed the twitching inside the bag. When he unzipped it, he discovered Williams was breathing. Waking up in the hospital, Williams couldn't remember dying or being taken to the funeral home. According to his daughter, Williams claimed, "He was just asleep." **While it must have seemed like a resurrection to Williams' family, in reality it was only a resuscitation.**

*"Our way to Heaven lies through the wilderness of this world...
Earth is embittered to us, in order that Heaven may be endeared"*
- Matthew Henry "Commentary on the whole Bible" (1706)

"I do not know how near it may be to us; it may be that some of us will be ushered very soon into the presence of the King. One gaze at Him will be enough to reward us for all we have had to bear. Yes, there is peace with the past, grace with the present, and glory for the future."
- D. L. Moody "12 Select Sermons" (1884)

*"Heaven is as near to our souls, as this world is to our bodies;
and we are created, we are redeemed, to have our living in it."*
- William Law "The Spirit of Prayer" (1750)

"Heaven is not a state of mind. Heaven is reality itself."
- C. S. Lewis "The Great Divorce" (1946)

*"I want to know one thing—the way to Heaven;
how to land safe on that happy shore."*
- John Wesley "Sermons on Several Occasions" (18th century)

"What will life truly be like in Heaven?"
"Will we be able to eat food in Heaven? What kinds?"
"Will there be animals in Heaven?"
"What will we look like in Heaven? Will we have physical bodies?"
"Will Heaven be boring? What will there be to do for all eternity?"
"Will we recognize and know each other in Heaven?"
"Will we still be married in Heaven?"
"Will we have special jobs to do in Heaven?"
"Will our bodies have special abilities or supernatural powers?"
"Will we truly live forever in Heaven?"
"Will we see God face to face in Heaven?"

I. The Saints will **RULE** with Christ (v.4)

II. The Saints will **RISE** like Christ (v.5-6)

I. The Saints will **RULE** with Christ (v.4):

"And I saw **thrones**, and they sat on them, and **judgment** was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they **lived and reigned with Christ** for a thousand years."

- The Saints will Rule with Christ, as **KINGS**. ("thrones")
 - **"..I saw thrones, and they sat on them.."**
 - **Dan 7:18, 22, 27** - "But **the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever**, even forever and ever. '...the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for **the saints to possess the kingdom**... Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, **shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High**. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him."
 - **Rev 4:2-4** - "Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne. And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald. Around the throne were **twenty-four thrones**, and **on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting**, clothed in white robes; and **they had crowns of gold on their heads**."
 - **"We might say that God is just as concerned that we know that we are destined for a throne, that we are His sons, heirs, and that we will reign with King Jesus. Jesus says of His people, "He shall come and sit on my throne." We are invited to reign with Jesus as overcomers, as it says in Revelation 3:21: "To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne." The point is beautiful – just as Solomon was destined for a throne and David wanted everyone to know it, so the Christian today is destined for a throne and Jesus wants everyone to know it. Much of what we experience in this life is simply preparation for that future reign with Jesus. Even if no one else gets the message, we who believe should know: we are destined for a throne." - David Guzik**
- The Saints will Rule with Christ, as **JUDGES**. ("judgment")
 - **"..judgment was committed to them."**
 - **Rev 2:26-29** - "...he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, **to him I will give power over the nations - 'He shall rule them with a rod of iron;** They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels' - as I also have received from My Father.."
- The Saints will Rule with Christ, as **CO-REGENTS**. ("..reigned with Christ..")
 - **"..they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years."**

- **Matt 19:27-30** - "Then Peter answered and said to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?" So Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first."
- **Rev 3:21** - "To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne."
 - "There is a crown there which nobody's head but yours can ever wear. There is a seat in which none but yourself can sit. There is a harp that will be silenced till your fingers strike its strings. There is a robe, made for you, which no one else can wear, waiting for you...So they are waiting and watching for you." - **Charles Spurgeon**
- **QUESTION: How will Jesus determine your ministry? How will He decide who receives which ministry in His Heavenly Kingdom??**
 - **Matt 25:14-21** - "Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. He called together his servants and entrusted his money to them while he was gone. He gave five bags of silver to one, two bags of silver to another, and one bag of silver to the last—dividing it in proportion to their abilities. He then left on his trip. The servant who received the five bags of silver began to invest the money and earned five more. The servant with two bags of silver also went to work and earned two more. But the servant who received the one bag of silver dug a hole in the ground and hid the master's money. After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to give an account of how they had used his money. The servant to whom he had entrusted the five bags of silver came forward with five more and said, 'Master, you gave me five bags of silver to invest, and I have earned five more.' The master was full of praise. 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together! " (Waiting? Watching? **WORKING!!**)
 - **1 Cor 3:10-15** - "Because of God's grace to me, I have laid the foundation like an expert builder. Now others are building on it. But whoever is building on this foundation must be very careful. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ. Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials—gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person's work has any value. If the work survives, that builder will receive a reward. But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builder will be saved, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of flames." (**Construction...Evaluation...Compensation!**)

II. The Saints will RISE like Christ (v.5-6):

"But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years."

- **"Resurrection" is core doctrine taught in the Bible, which states that there is life after death, and that every human being will (at some future point) be physically/bodily resurrected, and live for eternity either in a condition of blessedness or punishment, based upon their relationship with Jesus Christ.**
 - **Dan 12:1-3** - "At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, every one who is found written in the book. *And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt.* 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."
 - **Hoping for Resurrection through Cryonics** - Alan Sinclair does not want his death to be permanent. After he dies, his blood will be flushed from his body and replaced with antifreeze. Technicians will then cool the body with dry ice and fly it to a cryonics center in Michigan. The center will keep it at minus 320 degrees. When a solution is found for whatever kills him, future technicians will thaw him out. Cured Alan will exist on earth once more. His wife has already died and undergone the cryonics solution.
- - **1 Cor 15:50-58** - "What I am saying, dear brothers and sisters, is that our physical bodies cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. These dying bodies cannot inherit what will last forever. But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. *We will not all die, but we will all be transformed!* It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, *those who have died will be raised to live forever.* And we who are living will also be transformed. For *our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die*; our *mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies.* Then, when our *dying bodies have been transformed into bodies that will never die,* this Scripture will be fulfilled: "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ. So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless."
 - **1 John 3:2-3** - "Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure."
 - **Phil 3:20-21** - "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body."
- **This verse teaches us that there are in fact 2 categories of Resurrection that are coming; 2 different future Resurrections that will encompass all of humanity:**
 - The **"First Resurrection"** is for the **REDEEMED.**
 - The **"Second Resurrection"** is for the **CONDEMNED.**
 - **Rev 2:11** - "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. *He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.*"

- **John 5:25-29** - "Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth - those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation."