

## The Story: Chapter 31

### The End of Time

Pastor Kevin Donoho

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#### **DURING THE STORY SERIES, REMIX CLASS SESSIONS WILL BE DIVIDED INTO TWO SEGMENTS:**

1) **THE STORY STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS CHOSEN BY THE LEADER.**

2) **THE FOLLOWING REMIX QUESTIONS:**

#### **Opening Discussion**

- What thoughts, feelings, or impressions do you have about the sermon this week?

#### **Thought #1: How do we approach the book of Revelation?**

Pastor Kevin pointed out this week that this book may be the most searched and the least understood of the Bible. With imagery and language that can be hard to understand, there are a few ways that believers may choose to approach it.

1. The book scares me...so I avoid it.
2. This book is like a code to crack - let's figure out when Jesus will return.
3. It's confusing...so I disregard it.

Do any of these sound familiar? Which do you find yourself falling into? Is there a "category" not mentioned that better describes how you approach the book of Revelation?

Pastor Kevin reminded us of this truth:

This book is connected to the rest of the Bible, which is all about God on Mission to rescue His people. If we read the book of Revelation through this perspective, we

may be able to see some shifts in our understanding.

As you think of the overarching theme mentioned above, how does this shift your perspective on topics or themes found in the book of Revelation? How can this help shape your view as you read it?

#### **Thought #2: Knowing the ending gives a full picture of God's purpose.**

Where it started...

In Genesis 1 and 2, we see that God created us with intentionality and purpose. We were created in His image to flourish and live our best life. He envisioned us living in relationship with Him, with others, and with all He created.

Sit with this reality for a moment. Revisit the truth that YOU were made with intentionality and for a purpose. How does knowing the Father's heart for you from the very beginning influence your day-to-day perspective?

How it's going...

We then see, before long, the lasting impact that sin has on this beautiful plan. The thread that started unraveling in the garden quickly turned things into a mess. This didn't stop God from pursuing His people from a desire to have a relationship with us, which leads us to the centerpiece of the story: the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

We see that God was on mission to save His people back then, and we see that He does the same today. How does this truth shape your view of God the Father? Does this differ in any way from previous views you've held of Him? As we move into the

book of Revelation, how will this truth help shape the way you read it?

Where the story ends...

Read Revelation 21:1-6

*“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty, I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life.”*

Here we see that God’s desire has not changed. He is still in pursuit of being in relationship with those He created.

The book of Revelation continues to reveal that you were created to be in a relationship with God. And through this connection, we find fulfillment, direction, and purpose.

Take a moment and reflect on your walk with Jesus. Where have you found fulfillment where there was lacking?

Direction where there was wandering?  
Purpose where there was irrelevance?

**Thought #3: When we know the ending, it gives us hope for the future.**

Revisit Revelation 21:3-5

*“And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!”*

When you know the ending, We can approach it with excitement instead of anxiety. God has guaranteed the ending!

Consider your current circumstances. Is there a situation, a relationship, or a concern that is burdening you? How does THIS guaranteed ending change how you approach that? How does it shift your view of how you invest your time and resources? How does it change your view of suffering or hardship? How does the HOPE of the future change you in the present?

**Thought #4: When we know the ending, it gives us a calling for the present.**

Pastor Kevin reminded us that God is the author of a beautiful story with a magnificent ending. We are called to live as a *sneak preview* of what is to come.

What does this mean for us in our everyday life? How do we LIVE with the end in mind? It’s important to note that while a

