

## **GOD'S GOOD PLAN FOR THE FUTURE**

Kelly Walter | June 24-25, 2023

Week 4: Jesus' Glorious Return – Part 2

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in Me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with Me that you also may be where I am.” John 14:1-3 NIV

### **Revelation 2-3... The Church Age**

The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

Revelation 1:20b NIV

### **Revelation 4... The Rapture of the Church**

After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, “Come up here and I will show you what must take place after this.” Revelation 4:1 (NIV)

### **Revelation 6-19... The Tribulation**

### **Revelation 19-20... The Second Coming of Christ**

I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. “He will rule them with an iron scepter.” He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh, he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. Revelation 19:11-16 (NIV)

### **Revelation 20... The Great White Throne Judgment**

Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.

Revelation 20:11-12 (NIV)

### **Revelation 21-22... The New Heaven and New Earth**

<sup>11</sup> Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives <sup>12</sup> as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.<sup>[a]</sup> That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. <sup>13</sup> But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

2 Peter 3:11-13 NIV

### **Seven Ways to Prepare for Jesus' Glorious Return**

Let us rejoice and be glad and give Him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and His bride has made herself ready.

Revelation 19:7 (NIV)

#### **1. Ephesus: Return to your first love.**

Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. <sup>5</sup> Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.

Revelation 2:4-5 (NIV)

#### **2. Smyrna: Remain faithful.**

“Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.”

Revelation 2:10 (NIV)

### **3. Pergamum: Reject doctrinal extremes.**

“Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality. Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans.

Revelation 2:14-15(NIV)

### **4. Thyatira: Remove impurity.**

“Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols.” Revelation 2:20 (NIV)

### **5. Sardis: Renew your purpose.**

Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God.

Revelation 3:2(NIV)

### **6. Philadelphia: Revere the Word of God.**

“...I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.” Revelation 3:8 (NIV)

### **7. Laodicea: Repent of lukewarmness.**

“I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.” Revelation 3:15-17 (NIV)

“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.” Revelation 3:20 (NIV)



# GOD'S GOOD PLAN FOR THE *future*

## JESUS' GLORIOUS RETURN - Part 2 Talk-it-over Notes | June 24-25, 2023

### REVIEW IT

Jesus is coming again! He has promised to take us to the place that He has prepared for us... The New Heaven and The New Earth. Meanwhile, He tells us to not be afraid of what we may experience here, even if it includes persecution. Instead, we should use this time to prepare “as a Bride prepares for her Bridegroom.” The purpose of biblical prophecy is not prediction, it's preparation.

Spend some time in the word: Read Revelation chapters 2 & 3

### TALK ABOUT IT

Jesus gives 7 words of encouragement to the 7 churches.

1. Return to your first love
2. Remain faithful
3. Reject doctrinal extremes
4. Remove impurity
5. Renew your purpose
6. Revere the Word
7. Repent of lukewarmness

In which of these 7 has Jesus helped you to make the most progress in the past? Describe what that progress looks like in your life.

In which of these 7 would you like Jesus to help you to make progress in the future? Describe what that progress might look like.

### ACT ON IT

Jesus cautions us to not let our theology decline to the level of our behavior; but, instead, the let our behavior rise to the level of our theology. What is one area of behavior that you could “elevate” to a new height this week?

### PRAY ABOUT IT

Ask how you can pray to support one another this week and then close in prayer.