



BAND of BROTHERS – WEEK 11: The Kingdom Come

FALL 2021

So prepare your minds for action and exercise self-control. Put all your hope in the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world. So you must live as God's obedient children. Don't slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires.
– 1 Peter 1:13-14 NLT

- **The Final fulfillment of the Kingdom**

*All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation, and **we have a priceless inheritance – an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see.*** – 1 Peter 3:1-5 NLT

- The promise of an inheritance

*...because we are united with Christ, we have **received an inheritance** from God, for he chose us in advance, and he makes everything work out according to his plan.* – Ephesians 1:11 NLT

- It's already ours by **right**
- But it is not yet ours in **reality**

*Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you **will receive the inheritance** as your reward.* – Colossians 3:23-24 ESV

- Our future inheritance is guaranteed

*For by the power of the eternal Spirit, Christ offered himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins. That is why he is the one who mediates a new covenant between God and people, so that all who are called **can receive the eternal inheritance God has promised them.*** – Hebrews 9:14-15 NLT

- But what exactly *is* our inheritance?

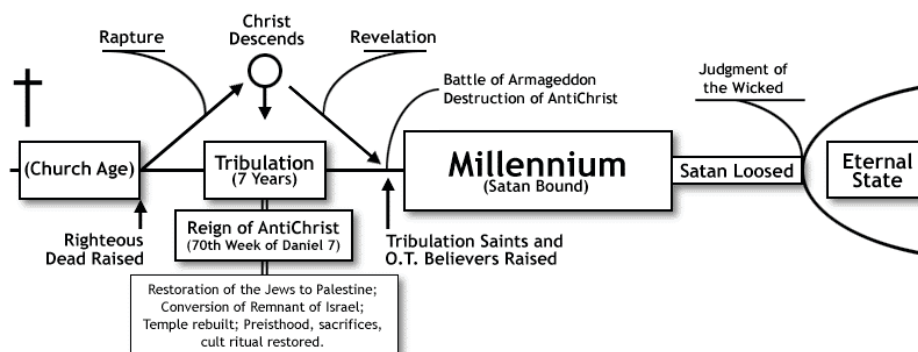
*“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, **inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world.**” – Matthew 25:34 NLT*

- This Kingdom has three features:
 1. It’s **imperishable** – ἄφθαρτος – *aphtharton*
Free from corruption or decay (Matthew 6:19-20)
 2. It’s **undefiled** – ἀμίαντος – *amianton*
Devoid of flaws or imperfections (Revelation 21:27)
 3. It’s **unfading** – ἀμόραντος – *amaranton*
Untouched by the effects of time (Daniel 7:14)
- Kept in heaven
 - Was Peter teaching that heaven is our inheritance?
kept – τηρέω – *tēreō*
 - Reserved
 - Guarded, watched over
 - Attended to carefully
 - The Kingdom is reserved and guarded in heaven
 - But its **final location** will not be heaven

*Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw **the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.***

*And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, **the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.**” – Revelation 21:1-3 ESV*

DISPENSATIONAL PREMILLENNIALISM



- The bookends of the redemptive story

GENESIS	REVELATION
Heaven and earth created (1:1)	New heaven and new earth recreated (21:1)
Sun created (1:16)	No need of the sun (21:23)
The night established (1:5)	No night there (22:25)
The seas created (1:10)	No more seas (21:21)
The curse announced (3:14-17)	No more curse (22:3)
Death enters history (3:19)	Death exits history (21:4)
Man driven from paradise (3:24)	Man restored to paradise (22:14)
Sorrow and pain begin (3:17)	Sorrow, tears, and pain end (21:4)
The Devil appears (3:1)	The Devil disappears (20:10)

- Revelation 21

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." – Revelation 21:1-4 ESV

- God will completely eliminate...
 - ...any need for tears
 - ...the threat of death
 - ...all causes of sorrow
 - ...any reason to cry out in distress
 - ...and the presence of all pain

the former things have passed away. – vs 4

- Everything associated with the fall will be done away with
- The innocence, beauty, and peace of Eden will be restored
- God's final judgment on His cursed creation will be permanently reversed

When God spoke from Mount Sinai his voice shook the earth, but now he makes another promise: "Once again I will shake not only the earth but the

heavens also.” This means that all of creation will be shaken and removed, so that **only unshakable things will remain**. – Hebrews 12:25-27 NLT

Since we are receiving **a Kingdom that is unshakable**, let us be thankful and please God by worshiping him with holy fear and awe. For our God is a devouring fire. – Hebrews 12:28-29 NLT

unshakable – ἀσάλευτος – *asaleutos*
not liable to overthrow and disorder, firm stable

For thus says the Lord of hosts: Yet once more, in a little while, **I will shake the heavens and the earth** and the sea and the dry land. And **I will shake all nations**, so that the treasures of all nations shall come in, and I will fill this house with glory, says the Lord of hosts. – Haggai 2:8 ESV

- **All things new**

And he who was seated on the throne said, **“Behold, I am making all things new.”** Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” – Revelation 21:5 ESV

“Remember not the former things,
nor consider the things of old.
Behold, I am doing a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” – Isaiah 43:18-19 ESV

“For behold, **I create new heavens
and a new earth,**
and the former things shall not be remembered
or come into mind.” – Isaiah 65:17 ESV

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, **he is a new creation**. The old has passed away; behold, **the new has come**. – 2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV

- God is going to **redeem** and **renew** everything
- As His glorified Kingdom citizens, we will have a glorified Kingdom in which to live

- **The beginning and the end**

And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, **the beginning and the end**.” – Revelation 21:6 ESV

the beginning – ἀρχή – *archē*
that by which anything begins to be, the origin, the active cause

the end – τέλος – *telos*

that to which all things relate, the aim, purpose

- Jesus is the **first-cause** and **final focus** of it all

He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. – John 1:2-3 NLT

*...through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see – such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. **Everything was created through him and for him.** – Colossians 1:16 NLT*

- **The source of all life**

*To the thirsty I will give from the spring of **the water of life** without payment. – Revelation 21:6 ESV*

*Then the angel showed me **the river of the water of life**, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, **the tree of life** with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. – Revelation 22:1-2 ESV*

- Back to the beginning

*And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. **The tree of life** was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. – Genesis 2:9 ESV*

***A river flowed out of Eden** to water the garden... – Genesis 2:10 ESV*

- Everything in the Kingdom exudes and extends life
- And it all flows from the throne of God
- The curse of death is eliminated as an option
- The tree of the knowledge of good and evil is nowhere to be found
- We will have full knowledge and understanding

*Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but **then I will know everything completely**, just as God now knows me completely. – 1 Corinthians 13:12 NLT*

- **A rich heritage**

*The one who conquers will have **this heritage**, and I will be his God and he will be my son. But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral,*

sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.” – Revelation 21:7-8 ESV

*Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit **the kingdom of God**? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. **But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.** – 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 ESV*

- The New Jerusalem – the bride of Christ

*Then came one of the seven angels...and spoke to me, saying, “Come, I will show you **the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.**” And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me **the holy city Jerusalem** coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God... – Revelation 21:9-11 ESV*

- The New Jerusalem will be a **perfect city** (21:9-21)
 - Well-designed
 - Beautifully constructed
 - And accommodating to all
- It will be a **perfect temple** (21:22-27)
 - God’s presence will make the entire city a temple
 - In it, the nations will worship the Godhead
- It will be a **perfect garden** (22:1-5)
 - There will be a life-giving river
 - It will feature the “trees” of life
 - A place of spiritual and physical nourishment
- It will be the **perfect home** for the righteous (22:14-15)

*Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that **they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates.** Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. – Revelation 22:14-15 ESV*

*Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter and give thanks to the LORD.
This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it. – Psalm 118:19-20 BSB*

Without growing weary, you have persevered and endured many things for the sake of My name.

*He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. **To the one who overcomes**, I will grant the right to eat from the tree of life in **the Paradise of God**.* – Revelation 2:3, 7 BSB

- The Kingdom is reserved for overcomers

Blessed [gratefully praised and adored] be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant and boundless mercy has caused us to be born again [that is, to be reborn from above – spiritually transformed, renewed, and set apart for His purpose] to an ever-living hope and confident assurance through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, [born anew] into an inheritance which is imperishable [beyond the reach of change] and undefiled and unfading, reserved in heaven for you, who are being protected and shielded by the power of God through your faith for salvation that is ready to be revealed [for you] in the last time. – 1 Peter 1:3-5 Amplified Bible

- The Kingdom *is* coming
- Our place in it is reserved and secure
- But we must live with the end mind
- We must not lose sight of the objective

*So prepare your minds for action and exercise self-control. **Put all your hope in the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world.** So you must live as God's obedient children. Don't slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires.* – 1 Peter 1:13-14 NLT

For Further Discussion

- How could living with the end in mind make a difference in the way we live our lives in this age?
- How does all this change your view of this line from the Lord's prayer: "Your kingdom come, your will be done"?
- Of all the descriptions of the coming Kingdom found in Revelation 21-22, which do you look forward to the most and why?