

“The Final Chapter”
God’s Story of Redemption — Part 10
Revelation

1. The Book of Revelation presents to us Christ the King.

The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

Revelation 1:1-3

... Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen. Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."

Revelation 1:4-8

Things aren’t always what they seem!

I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

Revelation 1:9

Application: Rome was not in control of the world. God was! Washington D.C., Russia, China, or Isis do not run our world, God does. God’s Story is the final Story and it will reveal His glory.

2. The Upper Story has the final say.

- The center of the universe is heaven.

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." At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it.

Revelation 4:1-2

- The center of the Universe is full of worship.

... In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back. The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle. Each of the four

living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under his wings. Day and night they never stop saying: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come." Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say: "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."

Revelation 4:6-11

- Christ prevails against sin and Satan.

When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Revelation 20:7-10

- God creates a new heaven and a new earth.

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, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live 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."...

Revelation 21:1-6

3. What began in Genesis is finished in the Revelation.

- God created the heavens and earth/God creates new heavens and a new earth.
- God made the sun moon and stars/the glory of God will light the new city.
- The lost paradise of Genesis is the found paradise of Revelation.
- Satan appears in the first garden/Satan is banished from the eternal garden.
- The "Tree of the knowledge of good and evil" takes down the first garden/Only the tree of life is present in the eternal garden.
- In Genesis, man hides from God/In Revelation, God dwells with man.

Application: You are part of the grand Story of God. You know how the Story ends, but there are still things to be done. Because God's Story is still being recorded, what will it say about you?

- Will it show that you chose to eat from the tree of life?
- Will it depict you as a person who trusted God?
- Will it draw you as a person who forgave people who hurt you?
- Will it show that you were one who knew the call of God on your life?
- Will it depict you as being committed to the Commission of Christ?
- Will your portrait capture you passing on your faith?
- Will it show you walking and talking with God? If this is your story it means you have truly captured "God's Big Idea."

He wants to be with you!