
Ignite

Heavenly Father, we eagerly wait for Christ's return in glory. Prepare our hearts for when Jesus' returns on His final victory against sin. Grant us the boldness to preach the gospel. May Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. AMEN



SERMON SUMMARY

Note to Word Facilitator: The sermon notes below is a summary of the sermon. You may choose to further summarize it according to the needs and context of your CG members. The goal is not just to go through it “verbatim” but to prepare well, allowing members to recall and engage the message in the best possible way.

The End #10: All Things New!

Senior Pastor Chris Kam

Revelation 21-22

(Reading Revelation 21:1-8)

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. Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children. But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”

Introduction

The Book of Revelation ends with these two last chapters. They describe the end of the old earth as we know of, and the beginning of the new heaven and the new earth. These two last chapters bring renewed hope after a series of chaos and destruction of the old earth. With the birth of the new heaven and the new earth - this is our amazing eternal home.

BIG IDEA: Your eternal home is an amazing place.

Our eternal home has 6 amazing and surprising facts.

1. The Old is gone *Revelation 21:1; 20:11*

The total destruction of everything that is current on this earth culminates to the end of life of the old earth. The old earth experiences a meltdown that marks the end for all (**2 Peter 3:10**). The end of the world has been predicted by Jesus himself (**Luke 21:33**). This is because God designed the universe to be temporal, and not meant to last for eternity (**John 1:3**). Although God created things and holds things together to give order and consistency (**Colossians 1:17**), He can also uncreate and let things go. Ultimately, the first heaven and first earth will pass away and life on the old earth will be over. Knowing that the end is inevitable, live a holy and Godly life (**2 Peter 3:11**), and set our minds on things above and not on earthly things (**Colossians 3:2**) so that in the end, when the old is gone, there is a place for us in the new heaven and the new earth.

2. The New has come *Revelation 21:1*

God is making everything new for the new heaven and the new earth. He is not just making an improvement or a renovation, but everything is “*kainos*”-fresh, unused, unworn and unprecedented. The new heaven and earth will completely and absolutely be new.

3. No more sea *Revelation 21:1*

The new world will be very different. There will no longer be any sea on the new earth. In the times of the early church, seas or oceans symbolised separation. With no more seas, there will be no separation in this eternal home.

4. New Jerusalem *Revelation 21:2, 3, 15-16, 22-23*

The capital city of the new earth is the New Jerusalem. The New Jerusalem will be different from any other capital cities known as it comes from heaven, built by God and not by man. The New Jerusalem is a cube-designed city, each side measuring 2,200 km long (and as wide and high). The cubic design of the New Jerusalem is very much similar to the inner sanctuary called the Holy of Holies (15 feet by 15 feet by 15 feet). This New Jerusalem is God’s dwelling place among His people. And we, in our new glorified bodies, will be part of this new city. The New Jerusalem will shine brightly with God’s glory, with God giving light and the Lamb as its lamp that it will not be surprising that the city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it.

5. It is unusual and unfamiliar

Our eternal home will be unusual and unfamiliar. With the old gone and the new has come, with no more seas, and a cubic-designed New Jerusalem; the new earth sounded very much like a science-fiction. This is simply because it is difficult to imagine such a perfect home, overflowing with positiveness, that the Bible describes it with negatives to make sense of it all - no more death, no more mourning, no more crying, no more pain (**Revelation 21:4**). It is such an amazing eternal home where there is no more death, sickness, ageing, crying, depression-we are ultimately free from any suffering!

6. Not everyone will be there **Revelation 21:7-8, 27; 1 John 5:4-5; Ephesians 2:6-7**

But alas, this is the truth-not everyone will have a place in the new heaven and the new earth! This eternal home is a city only for believers, whose names are in the Book of Life. It is a place for those who are victorious, who truly believe that Jesus is the Son of God, and who keep to a life of repentance and in faith. This is the mark of a true disciple, and Jesus himself made this distinction of his true disciples from false disciples. Any who are cowardly, unbelieving, sexually immoral, murderers, liars, idolaters, impure; will never have a place in the eternal home.

Conclusion

Know this, that God is preparing a place for us, with all things new. This new heaven and earth will have nothing from the past. Instead, it will be made a perfect dwelling place where God will dwell with us. And we will be in constant awe of His majesty and overflowing mercy, glory and grace. Jesus is coming soon with His rewards (**Revelation 22:12**). Therefore, stay faithful and look forward to His coming, so that we can join Him in this new heaven and the new earth. At the end of it all, God dwells with us in our new and perfect eternal home, and this is how it will stay forever.

SERMON SERIES CONCLUSION

This section is meant to help you revisit the big picture of the series. After 10 sermons, it is possible to miss the main plot and objective of the series. Prayerfully ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as to how you can meaningfully close this series with your CG members with some suggested next steps.

The Book of Revelation has 22 chapters and it is here that it is revealed that the world as we know of will come to an end. But the end of the old world, is the beginning of the new heaven and the new earth, a more perfect eternal home that will last forever.

Hence, The End [to a new beginning] is to what is temporal, but the eternal life shall begin.

Knowing that the end will come, the Book of Revelation is encouraging us to live wisely in repentance and in faith. We are then aligned with God's thoughts in preparing for the end times. The Book of Revelation has indicated that things will not go well (the bad news), it will be worse (more bad news), there will be a period of intermission, before all things are set right again (the good news). We can encourage one another and as a church, to heed the revelations in the book so that we are prepared for the end times.

Chapters 1-3 address what is present. It is a call to us all to put things right, now. As a church, we must be aligned to God's way of life, otherwise we can grow weak from within and bear no fruit. Chapters 4-18 and 20-22 reveal the future and the things to come. Chapters 4-18 are the bearer of bad news and more bad news, as God's judgement and wrath will be upon the old earth. But it is also a call for God's people to remain steadfast and not to lose hope despite the temptations and the withering world around us. If we keep to our faith, God's mercy and glory shall prevail and we shall join Jesus in the new heaven and the new earth. As we hold on to this promise of the new heaven and the new earth, the second coming of Christ sets all in motion. The second coming of Christ as described in Chapter 19, is a pivotal point in the history of the world where the return of Christ will set things right again. This leads to the future of our eternal home, and Chapters 20-22 offers a glimpse of this perfect place with no chaos and suffering, but peace everlasting.

Through it all, we are reminded that Jesus is our Cosmic King and that He is always with us no matter the circumstance. With Jesus in our lives, we can be an overcomer and live victoriously and claim the promise of eternal life.

As we conclude the sermon series, we can start by reflecting upon how we are living our lives during the end times. And a good way to start is by **taking heed of Jesus' letters to the Seven Churches**. His letters to the Seven Churches are still very much real and true and applicable to us today. Let His message to the Seven Churches convict us and align our thoughts back to His eternal plan. May we draw insights from His letters, that rebuke and encourage us as we live knowing that the end times are near, and we are on our way to our eternal home.

Click [here](#) to access the **1st video (EPHESUS)**. *Subsequent videos will be released the following 6 weekends.*

Click [here](#) to access the **worksheet document** to the video.



APPLICATION

Note to Word facilitator:

As you prepare for this session, this is a great time to pray that the Holy Spirit will guide you to use the questions efficiently. You can select, modify or entirely create your own questions, according to the needs of your CG, especially if you feel that there are too many questions than required for the allocated time. The questions below are crafted with a certain flow in mind. You could use these towards the end or insert them in between your own sermon reflection and summary.

Suggested Icebreaker Activity/Questions

- Have you ever renovated or improved your house (or office, living space)? Did you change everything to new? Recall and share how it felt for you when you carried out the renovation/home improvement, and see everything is made new.
- If you have 75 acres of land in the new earth, what are your plans for your land? Have fun imagining how you would plan for your new land/home.

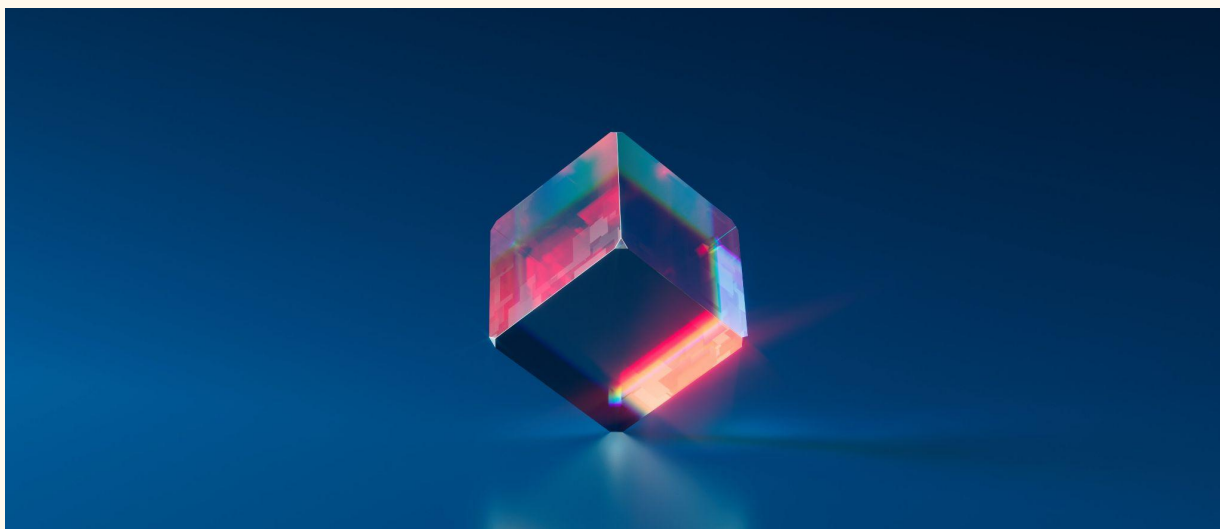


Photo by Uzunov Rostislav on Pexels

Suggested Word Introductory Questions

- The old earth will be gone, and the new earth will come. In the events leading to the destruction of the old earth before the birth of the new, how do we encourage one another to keep the faith so we see each other in the new earth?
- Having had a glimpse of the new heaven and the new earth in the Book of Revelation, are you excited at what is to come? What draws you in-the passing of the old, the cubic city with 75 acres of land, God dwelling among His people, among others? Share your thoughts.

Suggested Questions linked to the Sermon:

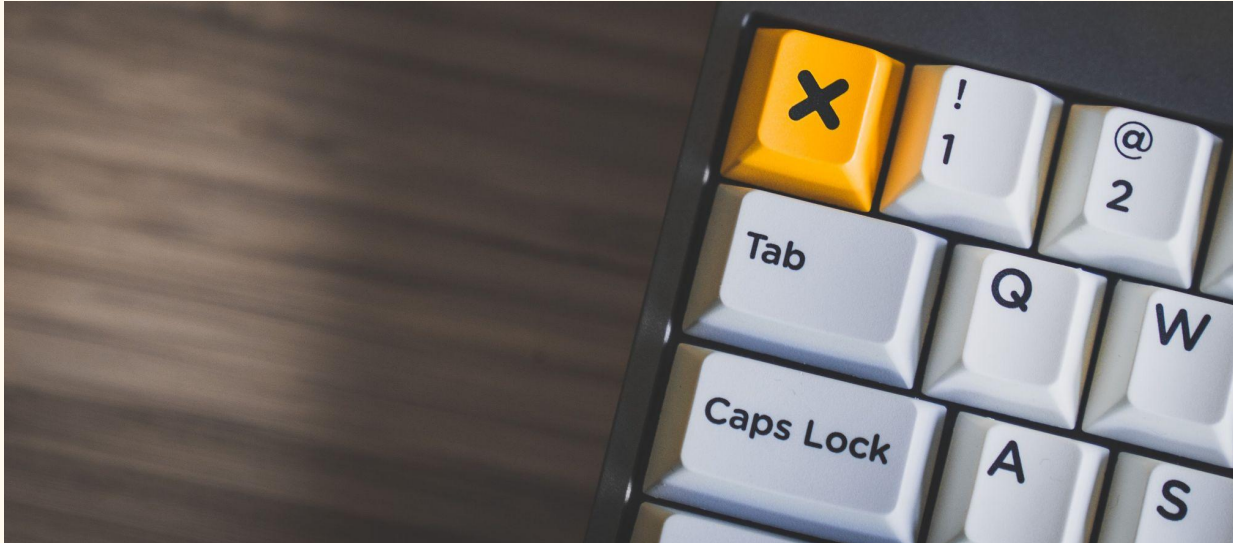
- Of the 6 amazing and surprising facts of our eternal home, which fact stood out the most to you? Why, and how will you respond to this?
- Total destruction of our existing earth is inevitable, even the scientists have evidence of the progressive decay of earth. How does this truth impact your biblical understanding and the life you live?
- What steps can you take to align your life with the exhortation of Apostle Peter? *2 Peter 3:11 Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives...*
- How can you envisage Revelation 21:3 and Revelation 21:4? How is that relevant to your life today? *Revelation 21:3 remarks that God's dwelling place is now among the people... and Revelation 21:4 writes that there will be no more death, mourning, crying or pain...*

Question Bank *(Extra questions that you can use to bring your discussion further as you see fit):*

- Did you have any misconceptions about heaven or about life after death when you were growing up? How were these eventually corrected? What new revelations did you receive from this sermon?
- In what ways are you encouraged by what was revealed as your eternal home? Why?
- There is a consistent call to live holy and Godly lives (2 Peter 3:11), even right now as we are in the end times. How has this resonated with you over the sermon series? What change will you make and how can the CG support you? Pray together for one another.
- How has this entire series on the Book of Revelation influenced you and the way you live? What is the key take home message for you? How can you better prepare yourself and others (family, church, community) to live in the end times?
- Activity: Be intentional about who you would want to share the gospel with, knowing that the end times are here. Pray for one another or as a CG to be intentional in reaching out to others in your own circle or in the community.



SERMON REFLECTION



A Photo by Sam Pack on Unsplash

The Book of Revelation was my favourite book when I was younger, as it was the most exciting to read. There was drama and action in all the chapters. None of the other books in the Bible were the same. But as I grew older, I realised that the Book of Revelation has a much greater significance - it is apocalyptic, symbolic, and prophetic with visions of the future.

In all honesty, this 10-part sermon series was not easy to go through or to summarise (being part of the Ignite Team). I was on a roller-coaster of emotions as well, feeling varying degrees of shock, disbelief, anger, sadness, fear, yet being comforted, encouraged, hopeful and victorious - throughout the various weeks. As I wrapped up the summary for this last sermon, I could not help but mischievously wonder - *if God had given us an opportunity to change anything in the Book of Revelation, what would we have changed?*

Tempting, really, and my human nature drove me to make a list.

Would I have removed the letters to the Seven Churches so that our inequities are never revealed and the churches are perfect in image? Would I have erased the trumpets and bowls and the epic episodes of the wrath of God upon the earth? Would I have kept the world as it is? Why could I not just remove all the bad news and more bad news, and connect the dot directly to the coming of Christ and the new life in the new heaven and earth? Why not do away with all the suffering and pain, and persecution, so we have an easier pathway to our eternal home?

Tempting, really, to make it all go away, but my heart was convicted.

Without the letters, we will never have known how we fall short of the glory of God. We will never be rebuked on how forgetful we are on things we should and should not do, how we unabashedly tolerate/compromise with worldly things, and how we often lack commitment to God. If the trumpets and bowls and the wrath of God are absent, we will never learn to live courageously, to endure, overcome and emerge victorious. We will never have adopted a life of living in repentance and in faith. We would never have the courage to surrender ourselves to God, and to give up and let go of temporal worldly things as victory comes through surrender, just as how Jesus surrendered himself on the cross. We will never learn to practise patient endurance, to see the power of unceasing prayers, and to live a life worthy for a cause to reach the lost and the least. In short, nothing good comes from taking ourselves out of God's sovereign plan.

In all things, the focus is always on Jesus and his second coming. Therefore, be vigilant, be faithful, be fruitful and be fervent. I take comfort in knowing that at the end of it all, God ensures that "All is good". I hold on to His promise and I will not stop praising "Holy, Holy, Holy, Is the Lord God, Almighty". I now face the end times with renewed faith, and I am prepared to be blown-away by His unceasing love, grace and mercy.

Father Lord, forgive us that we have at times, never quite fully understood your message in the Book of Revelation. We understand now that it is not meant to intimidate but to encourage us to journey on and hold on to Your promise till Jesus comes. Give us the ability to discern and the courage to remain in the world but not of the world, as we pass through this old earth. As our journey to our eternal home will be challenging, help us to keep our eyes on Jesus so that we live a life worthy for You in these end times. Amen.

Contributed by Adeline Ting (PJN2)



PRAYER

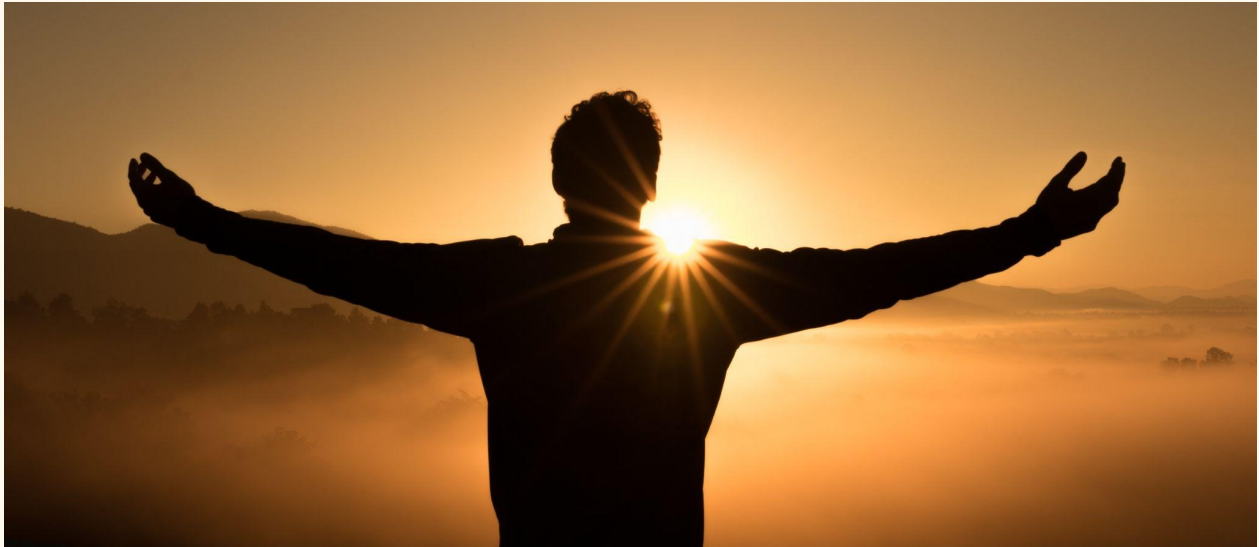


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Note to CGL: You (or someone you assign this portion to), may lead by praying OR reading these prayers together as a CG during worship.

Malaysia's Labour Abuse Allegations

Malaysia relies heavily on migrant workers to power manufacturing, agriculture, and the global supply chain for products such as semiconductors, iPhone components, gloves, palm oil, etc. Complaints of abusive work and living conditions for workers, who come mainly from Indonesia, Bangladesh and Nepal, have increased.

Pray for:

- Christians in these industries to stand up for just labour practices.
- More activism in this area, and against unbridled consumerism and greed that may lead to such practices.

Nairobi, Kenya

“Little Mogadishu” in Nairobi, Kenya is home to fundamentalist Muslim settlers from Somalia, who often commit violence against Christians here. Muslims who convert to Christianity may lose their extended family, face job security issues, persecution or have their lives threatened.

Pray for:

- Christian converts to find protection and be able to live and proclaim the name of the Lord in this neighbourhood.
 - International Christian Concern, who provide economic support and protection to Christians here, to flourish in strengthening the saints."
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