

CONNECT GROUP NOTES

Revelation Readiness.

Preparing today for an uncertain tomorrow.

Are You Ready for the Return of the King?

The revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to

Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it,

the seven spirits[a] before his throne, 5 and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the



Encourage the group to take turns reading and answering questions. It is best to ask the questions as they appear instead of waiting till the end

TOPIC : Are you ready for The Return of the King?

To find this sermon visit

www.outlookchurch.co.za/sermons

TIME TO PONDER:

We have been looking together over the past few weeks at the book of Revelation. This week is the Good news. The return of the King. King Jesus our victorious saviour.

Revelation 19:11-16

11 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. 12 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. 13 He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. 14 The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. 15 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. 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written:

King of kings and Lord of lords.

Today we are going to look at the return of the King. All the previous weeks have been designed to make sure we are getting us ready for the return of the King. Revelation is also most importantly about the WHO - Jesus.

In Revelation 16:16 we see the troops of the world gathering together against the Kingdom of God at Armageddon to wage war against the Rider on the white horse and His armies.

However the army of heaven is ready for battle, the charge being led by Jesus the King of kings.

Question 1: How has an understanding of what is to precede Jesus's coming left you feeling? Despondent, afraid?

TIME TO REFLECT:

5 Things about Jesus Return:

First we see Jesus is clearly coming back, and coming back as a conquering king!

Acts 1:9-11

9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. 10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 11

“Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

Jesus the returning King is described as the Faithful and True, with eyes like flames of fire, robe dipped in blood, whose name is the word of God. With a sharp sword coming from his mouth to rule the nations with a rod of iron. The King of kings and Lord of lords.

Secondly we see who the army is that is riding with him.

Revelation 19:14

14 The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean.

The army of heaven is the bride of Christ.
(See Revelation 19:7-8)

Thirdly as part of this return, is what the Bible calls the FIRST RESURRECTION

The resurrection of the people of God

Revelation 20:5-6

5 (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

Paul spoke of this many times.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice

of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Jesus returns and with Him the dead in Christ return, as an army, and are reunited with a resurrected eternal body. Those believers who are still alive are caught up into the army coming from the clouds and are changed from perishable to imperishable bodies.

Question 2: How do you feel about having to be part of the army of God, knowing what the beast and the anti-Christ and the army of this world are capable of?

TIME TO DISCUSS:

Fourthly we as the army don't have to fight!

Jesus destroys his enemies! There is no prolonged battle of Armageddon! Jesus destroys them with a Word. Just like he created the heavens and the earth with a word. Now he destroys his enemies with a word.

Revelation 19:19-21

19 Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to wage war against the rider on the horse and his army. 20 But the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who had performed

the signs on its behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshipped its image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulphur. 21 The rest were killed with the sword coming out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.

This is great news. We are part of an army but we don't have to fight. Jesus has done all that is needed for victory.

Fifthly the victory is followed by the supper of the Lamb.

Revelation 19:9

*9 Then the angel said to me, "Write this:
Blessed are those who are invited to the
wedding supper of the Lamb!" And he added,
"These are the true words of God."*

Psalms 23:5

*5 You prepare a table before me in the
presence of my enemies. You anoint my head
with oil; my cup overflows.*

Jesus returns with his army bride. Is united with the saints still living. The saints are united with immortal bodies. Jesus destroys this Armageddon army, the beast and the false prophet with a word and the wedding feast is celebrated!

Question 3: How do we live now in the authority of Jesus? Even though the Returning King has not yet fully come?

What happens next is the thousand year reign of Jesus.

Revelation 20:1-4

1 And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. 2 He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. 3 He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.

4 I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because

of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshipped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ, a thousand years.

There are many theories as to exactly how this plays out but we tend towards the belief that Jesus Christ will physically reign from a physical throne - probably from the city of Jerusalem on this earth. Probably for a literal 1000 years (does say it 6 times). The saints (you and I) will reign with Christ on earth during that time.

This is consistent with the rest of the New Testament, where we are frequently told that believers will reign with Christ and be given authority by him to reign over the earth.

ACTION STEP

The Encouragement:

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

- The assurance of Jesus' return should make us live with hope!
- The thought of being part of the first resurrection, which means being safe from the final judgement should leave us encouraged.

- Knowing the outcome of the final battle should give us courage.
- Knowing that we will be rewarded with a role of rulership in his Millennium kingdom should inspire us to greater faithfulness.

To listen to other sermons

<https://outlookchurch.co.za/sermons>