

“Life In the End”

Use this guide as a tool to help you prepare to experience spiritual transformation in a practical way. It is a flexible guide that will help you discover, own, and apply the truths of God’s Word.

Message Summary

The StoryFormed Way series has led us to encounter the redemptive narrative that is threaded through the bible from Genesis to Revelation. We saw how God created everything for His glory and how humanity, the pinnacle of His creation, was to bear His image in all the world and multiply worshippers. Adam and Eve, the first humans, however failed to obey God and turned their back on His commands. They decided to make their own rules and live life on their own. Adam and Eve’s rebellion turned all of creation on its head and brought about sin, sorrow, sadness, and ultimately death into the world. However, God in His love, grace, and mercy chose not to destroy what He had made. Rather He chose to redeem it.

The rest of the Old Testament story is about how God set out to bring redemption to fallen humanity. This redemption ultimately came through the Person of Jesus, the Messiah. Apart from Jesus we would stand before God and ultimately be judged for our sin. However, God in His grace, gave His Son as a substitute for our sin. God condemned His Son so we could become justified in God’s sight through faith in Jesus Christ.

Jesus promised that one day He would return and take His children to a new home. He promised it would be a place where He dwells. The book of Revelation, a letter written and addressed to seven literal churches, describes how God will put an end to human rebellion, judge wickedness, and take His children to this new home; a new heaven and a new earth. At the very end of this letter, God gives us a glimpse of this new paradise and we realize that life in the end will be better than it was in the Garden of Eden. God’s people will live in a place where the curse of sin will be removed and Jesus will be present with His people.

The implications of this reality are huge for the Christian. How should we live in light of the fact that we will return to the Garden and live with the presence of our Savior for all eternity? The answer simply is to rest in the security He provides. We should sacrificially serve others knowing that any inconvenience, trial, sorrow, or tribulation doesn’t compare to the joys we will experience in the end. And we should live and long for the end of the world, recognizing that He will not return until this good Gospel we proclaim is received by every nation, tribe, and tongue. Therefore, let’s live our lives looking forward to life in the End!

Message Outline

3 Aspects of Life in the End:

1. Redeemed Humanity will return to the Garden (1-2).

Our Sovereign God will:

- Quench the thirst of our heart.
- Satisfy the hunger of our soul.

2. The Curse of sin will be removed (3-4).

We will:

- See Him fully.
- Serve Him worshipfully.
- Belong to Him only.

3. The Lord will be present with His people (5)

- Evil will pass away.
- We will reign with Him.

Therefore, let’s set our hearts on:

1. The satisfying security of the Savior.
2. Sacrificially serving our Lord.
3. Living and longing for the end of the world.

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Group Discussion

Use the following questions to help make application of God’s Word to your Head (What God wants me to know), to your Heart (What God wants me to desire/value), and to your Hands (What God wants me to do).

In regard to Revelation 22:1-5:

1. What does this passage say about God’s character?
2. What is God doing here? How does this passage fit in the overall narrative of the Bible?
3. What is God saying about me?
4. Where am I not living by faith? How do I return to faith?
5. How should I practice this in everyday life?

Weekly Prayer Focus

- **Church:**

- Pray that all who have believed the Gospel will obey Jesus in believer’s baptism.
- Pray for new relationships that will lead to Gospel conversations.
- Pray for the elders as they lead us to accomplish the mission.
- Pray for the Missional Communities to impact their communities with the Gospel.
- Pray for Missional Communities to multiply into new neighborhoods.
- Pray for new DNA groups to start.

- **Local:**

- Pray for Gospel impact during Easter Season 2016.
- Pray for the Storyformed Way, a 10-week journey through the Story of God. Pray for open and receptive hearts and for God to use this journey to draw people to Himself.
- Pray that God would burden us with the lostness in our cities, neighborhoods, and at work.
- Pray that God will identify 5 people you can begin to invest in and engage with the Gospel.

- **Global:**

- Pray that God would give you a heart for the nations.
- Pray for the team working in SEA, the new believers, for those who have heard the Gospel, and the church planting movement among the unreached.
- Pray for Good Shepherd Ministries and Bill & Sandy Younger.
- Pray for Servants Hearts Ministries and Bob & Georgette Kornegay.
- Pray for Pastor Abraham and his church in Guatemala.