

(Revelation)

God's Kingdom reaches it's fulfilment in the return of Jesus, the final defeat of Satan and the ushering in of heaven.

Introduction

The Good News continues to spread, and many more people become followers. John, a follower, is exiled to a deserted island because he tells others about Jesus. God gives him a vision of the end of time when Jesus will come to reign forever as King.

Jesus

John sees Jesus. His eyes are like flames of fire, His feet like bronze, His voice like ocean waves. A sword comes out of His mouth, and He is shining. Jesus is sitting on a throne with jewels, flashes of lightning and thunder. Thousands of people are praising Jesus.

Destruction

There will be famines, wars, plagues, natural disasters on the earth. Satan raises up a huge beast who has power over all the earth. The beast has a false prophet, and together they deceive the world. They commanded that everyone must worship the beast or die.

Armageddon

Satan and beast decide to wage war against God. They gather their army at Armageddon. Heaven opens. Jesus comes riding out on a horse – eyes like fire, crowns on head, sword from His mouth. On His robe is written King of kings and Lord of lords. Jesus speaks and destroys the army. The beast and false prophet are thrown into the lake of fire.

1000 Years

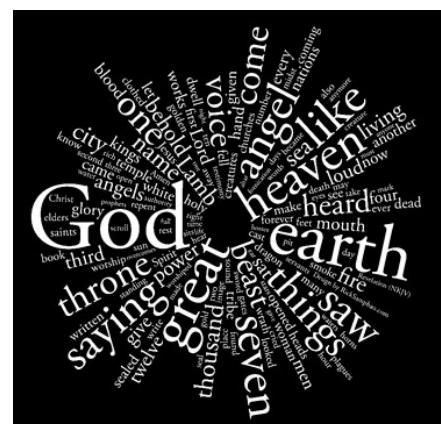
Satan is bound for 1000 years. Those who have been killed because they followed Jesus are raised to life and reign with Jesus for 1000 years.

2nd Battle

After 1000 years, Satan is released and he deceives the nations. He again gathers an army to wage war against God. God sends fire from heaven to destroy the army. Satan and death are thrown into the lake of fire. Everyone is raised to life, but only those who are citizens of God's Kingdom are spared being thrown into the lake of fire.

New Heaven and New Earth

John sees a new heaven and a new earth. God says, "God's Kingdom is among His people! He will live with them, and they will be His people. There will be no more pain or sorrow or death. I make everything new! To all who are thirsty, I will give freely from the springs of the water of life."



Weekly Meditation and Reflection

Below are some questions and further reading if you would like some extra food for thought on this story. Some may find it helpful to journal the answers, and others may simply want to read and pray through them.

1. Notice that John sees Jesus as a mighty King before He comes back to save the world at the end of time. That means the Jesus with the flaming eyes and voice like ocean waves is *our* Jesus – our current King. Spend some time thinking about John’s description of Jesus and meditating on it. Praise God for who He is as majestic King!
2. How do you feel about what is going to happen at the end of time? What does this knowledge mean for your life and the way you live it today? Is there anything you want to change about your daily life now as a result of what you now know?
3. Spend some time considering the stories we have learnt, from Genesis to Revelation. Think back over these stories and allow the Holy Spirit to prompt you and direct your thoughts.

Meditate on the following passages:

- Matthew 25:1-13
- Matthew 22:1-14
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18