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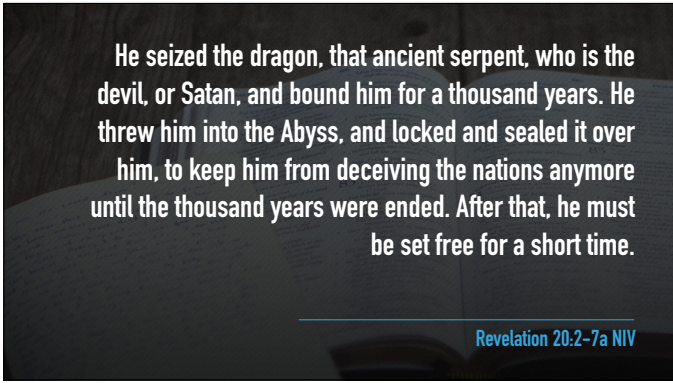
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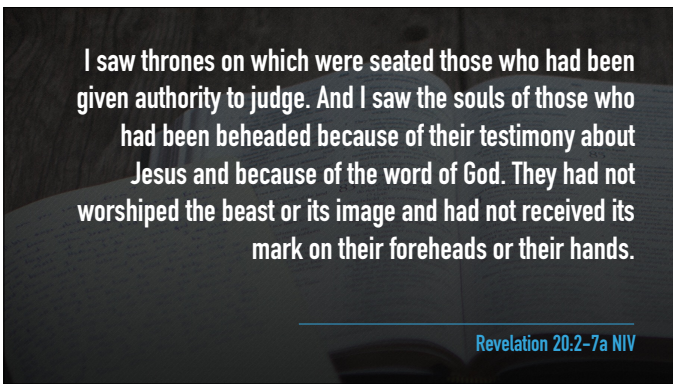
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They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. (The rest did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no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

Revelation 20:2-7a NIV

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## WHERE WE NEED TO START TODAY

- ▶ It's ok to disagree about the millennium.
- ▶ It's sin to divide over the millennium.

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## WHAT WE DON'T KNOW FOR CERTAIN

- ▶ When?
  - ▶ Are these passages arranged chronologically or cyclically?
  - ▶ Is the millennium before or after Christ returns?
  - ▶ Is the millennium present or future?

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## WHAT WE DON'T KNOW FOR CERTAIN

- ▶ How long?
  - ▶ Is the millennium literally 1,000 years?
  - ▶ Is the millennium simply a planned, perfect, limited time?

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## WHAT WE DON'T KNOW FOR CERTAIN

- ▶ What and where?
  - ▶ Will the millennium involve a physical resurrection of Christians to reign on earth during the millennium?
  - ▶ Will the millennium involve a spiritual resurrection of Christians to reign in heaven during the millennium?

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## WHAT I THINK I KNOW FOR NOW

- ▶ Christ has come once, and Satan has been bound.
- ▶ Satan could not stop Jesus.
- ▶ Satan cannot stop Christians.

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Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony...

Revelation 12:10-11a NIV

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## WHAT I THINK I KNOW FOR NOW

- ▶ We are in the millennium.
  - ▶ Christians who are alive now reign with Christ on earth.
    - ▶ Satan cannot keep the church from proclaiming the gospel, and he cannot keep the nations from believing the gospel.
  - ▶ Christians who have died now reign with Christ in heaven.
    - ▶ They are worshipping God as they reign with Christ as judge.

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### WHAT I THINK I KNOW FOR NOW

- ▶ Christ will come again and Satan will be obliterated.
  - ▶ After a final period of Satanic revolt, there will be a final point of Satanic defeat.
  - ▶ The return of Christ will usher in full and final judgment, once and for all.

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### WHAT WE ALL KNOW FOR SURE

- ▶ God is sovereign.
- ▶ Satan is subordinate. (12:12)
- ▶ The gospel will advance through the church. (Matt. 24:14)
- ▶ Jesus will return for the church.

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### WHAT WE ALL KNOW FOR SURE

- ▶ At the end of history, every single one of us will be judged by God.
  - ▶ Two questions will determine our eternity:
    - ▶ Did we put our faith in Jesus Christ's work? (13:8)
    - ▶ Was there evidence of faith in our work?
      - ▶ Were we faithful in our worship?
      - ▶ Did we fight against sin?
      - ▶ Did we trust amidst suffering?

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### WHAT WE ALL KNOW FOR SURE

- ▶ At the end of history, every single one of us will be judged by God.
  - ▶ Two destinations lie ahead:
    - ▶ Eternal torment.
    - ▶ Everlasting joy.

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## WHAT WE ALL KNOW FOR SURE

- ▶ We live between two worlds:
  - ▶ We are travelers on a journey in this country today.
  - ▶ We are citizens of a kingdom in a country to come. (Phil. 3:20)

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## WHAT WE ALL KNOW FOR SURE

- ▶ We live between two times:
  - ▶ The birth of Christ (The King has come!)
    - ▶ The kingdom of God is a present reality.
  - ▶ The return of Christ (The King is coming!)
    - ▶ The kingdom of God is a future hope.

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## WHAT WE ALL KNOW FOR SURE

- ▶ We live for one purpose:
  - ▶ To experience the consummation of God's kingdom.
  - ▶ A kingdom...
    - ▶ People who are ruled by a king.
    - ▶ A place where the king has dominion.
    - ▶ A purpose for the king and his kingdom.

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## CONSUMMATION OF THE KINGDOM

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## CONSUMMATION OF THE KINGDOM

	PEOPLE	PLACE	PURPOSE
<b>CREATION</b> <i>(Genesis 1-2)</i>	God's blessing on His people	Perfect fellowship	God's glory multiplied to all people
<b>FALL</b> <i>(Genesis 3-11)</i>	God's blessing & judgment through Adam & Eve	Disrupted fellowship	God's glory marred in all people
<b>PATRIARCHS</b> <i>(Genesis 12-50)</i>	God's blessing & judgment through Abraham, Isaac, Jacob	Promised fellowship	God's glory made known to all people through His faithfulness

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## CONSUMMATION OF THE KINGDOM

	PEOPLE	PLACE	PURPOSE
<b>EXODUS &amp; CONQUEST</b> <i>(Exodus - 1 Samuel 8)</i>	God's blessing & judgment through Moses, Joshua, Judges, Samuel	God with His people: Tabernacle	God's glory made known to all people through His deliverance
<b>UNITED MONARCHY</b> <i>(1 Samuel 9 - 1 Kings 11; 1 Chronicles - 2 Chronicles 9)</i>	God's blessing & judgment through Saul, David & Solomon	God with His people: Temple	God's glory made known to all people through His anointing
<b>DIVIDED MONARCHY</b> <i>(1 Kings 12 - 2 Kings; 2 Chronicles 10 - Esther)</i>	God's blessing & judgment through prophets	God with His people: Exile	God's glory made known to all people through His discipline

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## CONSUMMATION OF THE KINGDOM

	PEOPLE	PLACE	PURPOSE
<b>JESUS</b> <i>(Matthew - John)</i>	God's blessing & judgment through Jesus Christ	God among His people: Incarnation	God's glory made known to all people through His salvation
<b>PRESENT</b> <i>(Acts - Jude)</i>	God's blessing & judgment through His church	God in His people: Body	God's glory proclaimed to all people
<b>NEW CREATION</b> <i>(Revelation)</i>	God's final blessing and judgment	Eternal fellowship	God's glory enjoyed by all people

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## WHAT WE ALL KNOW FOR SURE

- ▶ God's people: God's final blessing and judgment
  - ▶ For all who have revered the King
    - ▶ Inexpressable joy (Psalm 16:11)
    - ▶ Heaven exemplifies God's eternal blessing for conquerors who have turned from this world to Christ.

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### WHAT WE ALL KNOW FOR SURE

- ▶ God's place: Eternal fellowship (21:3)
  - ▶ We will be with Him.
    - ▶ Death will be replaced by life.
      - ▶ No more sin. (21:1)
      - ▶ No more sorrow.
      - ▶ No more sickness.
      - ▶ No more separation.

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### WHAT WE ALL KNOW FOR SURE

- ▶ God's place: Eternal fellowship (21:3)
  - ▶ We will be with Him.
    - ▶ Night will be replaced by light. (21:22-25)
    - ▶ Corruption will be replaced by purity. (21:27)
    - ▶ Curse will be replaced by blessing. (22:1-4)

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### WHAT WE ALL KNOW FOR SURE

- ▶ God's place: Eternal fellowship (21:3)
  - ▶ We will see His face.
  - ▶ We will reign with Him. (22:5)
    - ▶ Our bodies will be resurrected. (Phil. 3:21)
    - ▶ All creation will be restored.
- ▶ For God's purpose: God's glory enjoyed by all people. (21:3)

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God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with him.

Revelation 21:3 NIV

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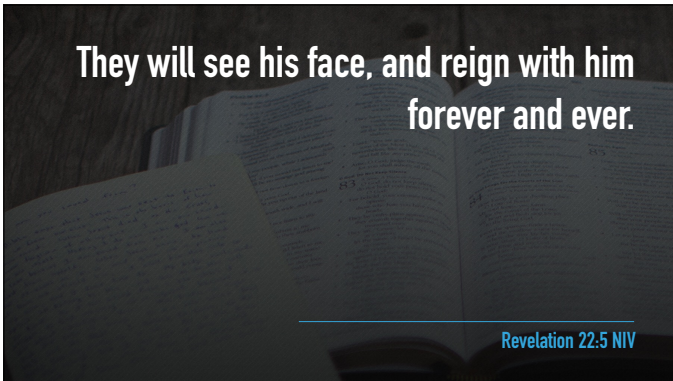
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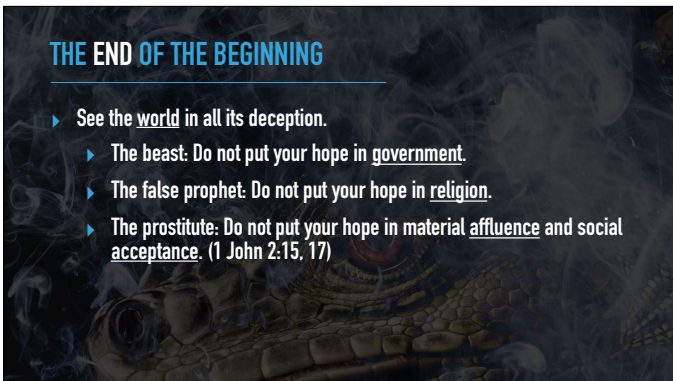
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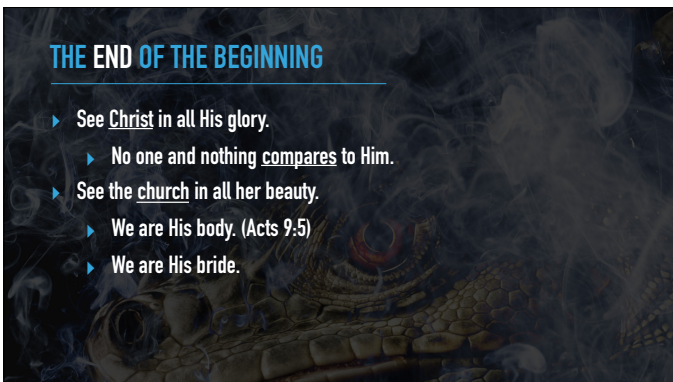
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## THE END OF THE BEGINNING

- ▶ See your life in proper perspective.
  - ▶ Fight against sin.
    - ▶ Resist compromise.
    - ▶ Refuse complacency. (22:18-19)

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I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll: if anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll. And if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll.

Revelation 22:18-19 NIV

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## THE END OF THE BEGINNING

- ▶ See your life in proper perspective.
  - ▶ Endure amidst suffering.
    - ▶ Do not be surprised by it.
    - ▶ Do not be overcome in it.
    - ▶ Jesus is present with you.

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## THE END OF THE BEGINNING

- ▶ God, give us unwavering holiness in this world...
- ▶ With unshakable hope in the world to come.

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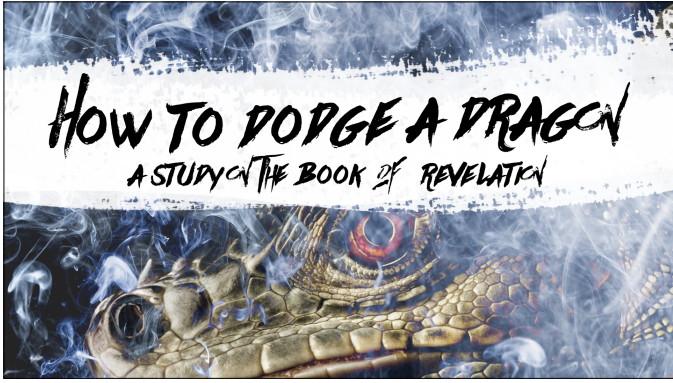
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