



## SERMON SERIES STUDY GUIDE

### The Kingdom of God, Pt. 4: The Kingdom of God in Christ

Pastor John Riggs

#### Summary:

This powerful teaching takes us deep into understanding the two kingdoms that exist in our world: the kingdoms of this fallen world and the Kingdom of God in Christ Jesus. Through the prophetic visions given to both King Nebuchadnezzar and the prophet Daniel, we discover that God has already revealed the rise and fall of world empires throughout history. From Babylon to Medo-Persia, from Greece to Rome, these earthly kingdoms have come and gone, yet they all share something in common—they are temporary, passing away, and ultimately under the influence of the prince of darkness. The sobering reality we face is that we were all born into this kingdom of darkness, separated from God by sin. But here's the transformative truth: through being born again in Christ, we have been delivered from that dark kingdom and transferred into the glorious Kingdom of God. This isn't just theological theory—it changes everything about how we live today. We're called to stop living for the temporary pleasures and pursuits of this world and instead embrace our true identity as citizens of heaven with an eternal purpose. Our calling is to be ambassadors of reconciliation, shining the light of Christ in an increasingly dark world, pointing others to the King who has already secured the victory.

#### Video Breakdown:

- Chapter 1: Two Kingdoms: Called Out from Darkness into Light 0:00 - 11:05
  - We learn that there are only two kingdoms in this world - the kingdoms of darkness and the kingdom of God in Christ - and that we have been delivered from one into the other with a specific purpose.
- Chapter 2: The Prophetic Vision: Four Empires and the Coming Kingdom 11:05 - 27:00
  - We examine Daniel's prophecies and Nebuchadnezzar's dream revealing four world empires - Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome - that would rule until God's everlasting kingdom is established.



## Scripture References from the Sermon

### Explicitly Mentioned References:

1. Daniel 2 - Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the statue/image
2. Daniel 7 - Daniel's vision of the four beasts
3. Daniel 7:16-18 - Interpretation of the four beasts and the saints receiving the kingdom
4. Daniel 7:23-27 - Details about the fourth kingdom
5. Genesis 3 - The fall of man and sin entering the world
6. Genesis 3:15 - The first prophecy (seed of the woman crushing the serpent's head)
7. Revelation 19 - Christ's return
8. Revelation 20 - The great judgment
9. Revelation 21-22 - Paradise restored/New heaven and new earth
10. Revelation 12 - The dragon (Satan) with seven heads and ten horns
11. Revelation 13:1-4 - The beast rising from the sea
12. Luke 4:5-8 - Jesus' temptation and Satan's claim to authority over kingdoms
13. Ephesians 2:1-3 (alluded to) - Following the prince of the power of the air
14. 1 Thessalonians 4 (mentioned) - The harpazo/catching away
15. 2 Thessalonians 2 - The day of the Lord, the man of lawlessness, and the apostasy
16. Romans 12:2 (alluded to) - "Do not be conformed to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind"

### Additional References Alluded To:

17. Galatians 4:4 - "In the fullness of time God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law"
18. Colossians 1:13 - Delivered from the kingdom of darkness, transferred to the kingdom of the Son
19. John 3:3-7 - Must be born again to enter the kingdom of God
20. 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 - The ministry of reconciliation
21. Matthew 6:19-20 - Store up treasures in heaven
22. 1 John 2:15-16 - The lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life
23. 1 John 5:19 - The whole world lies under the power of the evil one
24. Philippians 3:20 - Our citizenship is in heaven
25. 2 Timothy 4:3-4 - Itching ears, accumulating teachers to suit their own passions
26. Romans 8:18 - Present suffering not worth comparing to the glory to be revealed
27. Revelation 20:11-15 - The Great White Throne Judgment and the Lake of Fire
28. Matthew 24:32-33 (alluded to) - Parable of the fig tree/knowning the season
29. Matthew 24:36 - No one knows the day or the hour
30. Acts 17:26 (alluded to) - God has determined the times and places people would live



## Key Points:

- There are only two kingdoms in the world: the kingdoms of this world (under Satan) and the Kingdom of God in Christ Jesus
- Christians have been delivered from the kingdom of darkness and transferred into the kingdom of God's Son through being born again
- The world is rapidly moving toward degradation and a one-world governance system under the Antichrist
- Daniel's prophecies and Nebuchadnezzar's dream reveal four major world empires that would dominate history
- The Roman Empire represents imperialism that will be revived in the end times with ten kingdoms (ten horns/ten toes)
- Satan legally received authority over the world when Adam sinned, but Christ has defeated him through the cross
- The beast in Revelation 13 represents both a world system and a person (the Antichrist) who will receive power from Satan
- All three major religions (Judaism, Islam, Christianity) are waiting for a Messiah, setting up massive end-times deception
- The Antichrist will be a charismatic leader who performs false signs and wonders through Satan's power
- Apostasy is increasing dramatically, with many falling away from biblical truth
- God will send strong delusion to those who refuse to love the truth, so they will believe the lie
- Christians must not live for this world but understand their purpose is to reconcile others to God through the gospel
- Religious culture, especially in the South, creates false assurance of salvation for many who have never truly repented
- The Day of the Lord is approaching, and Christians must live with urgency and eternal perspective



**Discussion Questions:**

How does understanding that there are only two kingdoms—the kingdoms of this world and the kingdom of God—change the way you view your daily decisions and priorities?

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In what ways might Christians today be living as if they belong to the kingdoms of this world rather than the kingdom of God, and how can we guard against this?

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The sermon emphasizes that our purpose is to shine Christ's light and reconcile the world to God rather than simply survive or build earthly success. How does this challenge your current understanding of your life's purpose?

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What does it mean practically to store up treasures in heaven rather than on earth, especially when living in a consumer-driven culture?

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How can believers discern truth in an age of deception and information overload, particularly when the sermon warns that those who do not love truth will be deceived?

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The pastor discusses how Satan legally gained authority over the earth through Adam's disobedience. How does this legal framework help us understand spiritual warfare and Christ's victory on the cross?

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# **Small Group Guide: Understanding the Kingdom of God**

**Based on the sermon from 1 Corinthians series**

## **Opening Prayer**

Begin your group time by asking God to open hearts and minds to understand His kingdom and our purpose within it.

## **Ice Breaker (5-10 minutes)**

What's one thing happening in the world today that makes you uncertain or concerned about the future? How does your faith intersect with that concern?

## **Key Sermon Points**

### **1. Two Kingdoms**

- There are only two kingdoms: the kingdoms of this world and the kingdom of God in Christ Jesus
- All people are born into the kingdom of this world (in Adam)
- To enter God's kingdom, you must be born again

### **2. The Empires of This World**

- Daniel 2 & 7 reveal four major world empires: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome
- These empires represent worldly systems that oppose God
- A final world system (revived imperialism) will emerge before Christ's return

### **3. Our Purpose as Kingdom Citizens**

- We are citizens of heaven living in this world
- We have the ministry of reconciliation
- Our purpose is to shine Christ's light and point others to the King

#### **4. The Coming Deception**

- The Antichrist will come as a false messiah
- Many will be deceived because they do not love the truth (2 Thessalonians 2)
- We must be rooted in Scripture to avoid deception

#### **Discussion Questions**

##### **Understanding the Kingdom (15-20 minutes)**

- 1. What does it mean practically that you are "in this world but not of this world"? How should this reality change the way you live day-to-day?**
- 2. The sermon emphasized that many Christians are "living for this world" despite being citizens of heaven. What are some ways we get caught up in living for earthly kingdoms rather than God's kingdom?**
- 3. Read Matthew 6:19-21, 33. How do these verses connect with the sermon's message about storing up treasures in heaven versus living for this world?**

##### **The Times We're Living In (15-20 minutes)**

- 4. The pastor mentioned we're living in potentially "the greatest time in the history of the world to be alive." What do you think he meant by that? Do you agree or disagree?**
- 5. How does understanding biblical prophecy and the direction of world events affect your daily faith? Does it create fear, urgency, hope, or something else?**
- 6. The sermon warned about deception in the last days. What are some ways Christians can guard against being deceived by false teaching or worldly philosophies?**

### **Our Mission and Purpose (15-20 minutes)**

7. **Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-20. How does understanding that we have "the ministry of reconciliation" change your view of your job, relationships, and daily activities?**
8. **The pastor said, "Your job has purpose and meaning far more than just providing for the needs of your family." How can you view your workplace as a mission field this week?**
9. **Who in your life (family, friends, coworkers) needs to hear the gospel? What's keeping you from sharing it with them?**

### **Truth and Deception (10-15 minutes)**

10. **2 Thessalonians 2:10-12 warns that some will perish "because they refused to love the truth." What does it mean to "love the truth"? How is that different from just knowing facts about Christianity?**
11. **The sermon mentioned that many people in the South have cultural Christianity without genuine faith. How can we tell the difference in our own lives between cultural religion and authentic relationship with Christ?**

### **Key Takeaways**

**Write these down or share which one resonates most with you:**

- ✓ I am a citizen of heaven with an eternal purpose, not just living for retirement and comfort
- ✓ The world system is passing away; I should invest in what lasts eternally
- ✓ I have been given the ministry of reconciliation—sharing the gospel is my primary calling
- ✓ Loving truth and staying rooted in Scripture protects me from deception
- ✓ The day of the Lord is coming; I need to live with urgency and purpose
- ✓ My daily work and relationships are opportunities for kingdom impact

## Practical Applications

### This Week's Challenge (Choose 1-2):

#### Personal Growth:

- Spend 15 minutes each day reading Scripture specifically to "renew your mind" (Romans 12:2)
- Identify one area where you've been living for "this world" and surrender it to God
- Journal about what it means that you will "rule and reign with Christ" eternally

#### Relational Impact:

- Pray daily for one specific person who doesn't know Jesus
- Have one intentional gospel conversation this week
- Ask a Christian friend to hold you accountable to living as a "citizen of heaven"

#### Kingdom Mindset:

- Evaluate your calendar and finances: What percentage reflects kingdom priorities vs. worldly priorities?
- Before making decisions this week, ask: "Am I living for the kingdom of this world or God's kingdom?"
- Share one truth from this sermon with someone outside your small group

### Reflection Questions for Personal Time

1. If I'm honest, what percentage of my thoughts, time, and resources go toward building God's kingdom versus building my own comfort in this world?
2. Do I truly believe Jesus is coming back? How would my life look different if I lived with that reality at the forefront of my mind?
3. What fears or concerns about the future am I holding onto that I need to surrender to God's sovereignty?

### Memory Verse

**Daniel 7:18** *"But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever."*





## Sermon Transcript:

Good morning, everyone.

hope you guys are all doing well it's good to see you all here this morning and uh for all of those that are watching online or listening by radio today we want to welcome each and every one of you here as we take part in uh fellowshiping and ministering to one another and then worshiping the lord and now we're going to open up his word which is one of our most uh at least for me significant times of my week that i thoroughly enjoy is coming

and gathering together with God's people and opening the Word of God up as we look and learn together what God teaches us for everything that we need, not only for our faith, but also for practice.

So, so grateful for that this morning.

Well, we are going to continue on in our breakaway part in our series in 1 Corinthians.

We have been teaching now for the last few weeks on the kingdom of God, and really looking at the kingdom in two separate ways.

The first was that we understood that there is really only two kingdoms in this entire world.

There's only two kingdoms.

That's all there is.

There is the kingdoms of this world Scripture talks about.

And then there is the kingdom of God in Christ Jesus.

And that all of us were originally born into the kingdom of this world, or the kingdoms of this world.

Being born in Adam, born in sin, we were born into the kingdoms of this world.

But we also learned that to enter the kingdom of God, you must be born again.

And that for those of us that are here in Christ today, that we have been born again.

And we have entered into the kingdom of God in Christ Jesus.

We have been delivered from the kingdom of darkness and we've been brought into the kingdom of the glorious Son.

And so we've really been looking together at what Scripture teaches about the kingdom.

And you say, well, John, why is this so very important?

Well, it matters greatly for us today as Christians so that we have a firm understanding as to why things are happening in the world the way that they are.

And that as Christians who live in this world,

We know that we are not of this world, that we are actually citizens of heaven.

And yet we have a high calling and a responsibility that God has given us for those who have been redeemed by the blood of Christ.

We have the ministry of reconciliation.

That is, we are to be used by God, reconciling, as if it were, the world to Himself through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

And so we have a very important calling and purpose as we live in this world, not being of this world.

But what you're noticing is that the world is rapidly moving its way towards degradation.

It is actually becoming more and more and more depraved, and things are becoming more and more depraved.

uncertain as we move forward in fact we're hearing all kinds of things in the news today about a huge coming financial crisis to the United States of America into the American dollar now they've been saying this for many years but I believe we're on the precipice of what could be something very devastating for what we might experience here in the United States as we look at things moving the way they are in all the happenings in the world right now we are

at war with Iran.

We are there.

We are fighting this war.

And Israel is fighting with us.

And you're going to find some interesting things about why this matters in our current time and situation.

As the world and everything that God has set forward in time is moving to a very, very specific day that Scripture calls the day of the Lord.

We are moving to the day of the Lord, and we have been since God set everything in motion.

And as I mentioned to you maybe last week or the week prior, if you take the Word of God and you just basically take the bookends of Scripture and then the rest of its entirety, from Genesis we learn that the world started in God's creation in perfect order.

beautiful beauty and perfect communion with God, with Adam and Eve living in a perfect world, untainted by sin, unbroken fellowship with God, unbroken fellowship with one another, just living in a world of perfection that God had created that was very, very good.

And then we have sin entering the world as Satan tempted Eve and Adam sinned and they actually broke the command of God.

And sin entered the world and by sin death entered.

And all who have ever been born from Adam on, we all die as a result of sin.

But then if you go from Genesis chapter 3, we have the first prophecy in Scripture ever given that the seed of the woman would crush the head of the seed of the serpent, or of the serpent.

And we learn right there that God is promising, though, that there is hope coming even for this fallen world.

And that is the prophecy speaking of Christ who would be born of a woman in the fullness of time.

God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law to redeem those under the law.

And that was a prophecy back in Genesis 3.15 speaking of Christ who would come and bring redemption and He would reconcile everything that had been lost by Adam and the cause of the fall and the curse.

And that in Jesus Christ, the second Adam would come and he would bring a reversal and a reconciliation and a redemption of all that was lost.

And all the way through Scripture, we're following names of people, righteous individuals that God would provide through history that would bring the one who would come and do that, being Christ.

And then you get to Revelation chapter 19, and Christ, He returns again.

And then Revelation chapter 20, we have this great judgment.

And then 21 and 22, and what you find at the very end again is this, that we, the people of God, will one day again...

be living in perfect communion, in perfect relation with God, in a perfect world, in perfect relationship with each other.

We will live in paradise restored again one day.

And all of Scripture is the story about how God had already set forth before the foundation of the world

A way in which he would redeem all that was lost and it is fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

And the fulfillment of it is what we as Christians one day will live in and enjoy for the rest of eternity.

This is the story of Scripture.

And so we're learning about these two kingdoms because there still are these opposition works going on in the world.

We have the kingdoms of this world, the kingdom of darkness, and we have the kingdom of God in Christ Jesus.

And as Christians, we all live from a position of victory being in Christ in the kingdom of God.

We all do.

Every one of us do.

I hope my voice will hold out this morning.

I'm wondering.

So let's get back to where we were last week.

Last week, you remember, we went back into Daniel chapter 2, and we began looking at the dream that God gave King Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, and this image that he saw.

And Daniel interprets the image, and there's four empires that would come following and beginning with Babylon.

We know that we move into the Medo-Grecian Empire, the Medo-Persian Empire, excuse me.

Number three would be the Grecian Empire.

And then finally, into the legs and the feet would come this empire that was an incredible empire of imperialism.

and it was called the Roman Empire and then as you move down into the feet and into the toes we have this mixing of clay and iron together and then the ten toes and we're going to learn more about what this means today as this empire extends all the way down through the corridors of history before the rock that was not cut out by human hands rolled down the mountain and destroyed the image and all of it was completely wiped away

And this stone grew into a mighty mountain that took over the whole entire world.

And this was the kingdom that would be an everlasting kingdom.

And what we were told all the way back in Nebuchadnezzar's dream is that the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords, Jesus Christ Himself will come and He will destroy all the worldly kingdoms and set up and establish His kingdom on earth forever and ever.

And then we moved into Daniel chapter 7.

I know some of you weren't here, so I'm doing a little bit of a background for you.

In Daniel chapter 7, you'll know that now Daniel himself, now under another king that followed Nebuchadnezzar, which would be Belshazzar, now we have Daniel serving further on past Belshazzar.

He's now serving the king of Persia.

Because that was the next empire that came after Babylon.

And he has a dream now.

And in his dream, if you remember back to Daniel chapter 7, that Daniel sees these four beasts that were coming up out of the sea in his dream.

And the first beast that he saw was like a lion and it had two wings on it.

And the second beast that he saw was a bear.

And the bear was rising up on one side and had three ribs in its mouth.

And the next beast that he saw coming up out of the sea was a leopard.

And this leopard had four wings.

You'll remember that.

And then after the leopard, he saw this horrifying, terrible beast that rose up out of the sea that was absolutely terrifying to Daniel.

And this particular beast that Daniel saw that was terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong, he stomped out all of the other beasts.

And this empire here was made of iron.

And we know that is speaking of the Roman Empire.

And so God is giving Daniel a picture of these four kingdoms, just like he did King Nebuchadnezzar using some different imagery here, but they're illustrating the exact same thing.

And so the angel comes and tells Daniel exactly what is going on here.

And he comes to Daniel and he tells him what is going on and what these things mean.

And this fourth and terrifying, dreadful beast had ten horns.

Thank you so much.

I'm sorry about this this morning.

But it's the best I can do.

He had ten horns, and also we see that these ten horns on this dreadful beast are representative of what Nebuchadnezzar saw with the ten toes in his image.

It's the same thing.

God is spelling out for Daniel the exact same thing that he actually helped Daniel do.

interpret in Nebuchadnezzar's dream and these are very significant empires that God is revealing and they're forth telling in the future these imperialistic type of empires that would rule over the entire world and also would have power over and inflict persecution upon the people of God first being the nation of Israel but as we're going to learn also

The people of God being the church, the bride of Christ.

We all have been joined together and we now are the people of God.

The saints of God are comprised now of what?

The Jews who have come by faith in Christ have been born again.

They are part of the church.

We Christians that are Gentile by nature have believed the same gospel, joined in together by faith in Christ and we are the saints of God.

That's who we are and that's what Scripture teaches us.

So Daniel in chapter 7, he approaches one of those that were in the vision in chapter 7, verse 16 through 18.

If you want to go there, we're going to pick up and then we're going to get right into where we left off this last week.

Hopefully we'll be able to get through this today.

In Daniel chapter 7, verses 16 through 18, Daniel says that I approached one of those who stood there and asked him the truth concerning all of this.

So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of the things.

These four great beasts, he said, are four kings who shall arise out of the earth and

But the saints of the Most High, listen to this, shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever and ever.

So Daniel asks for an interpretation about what these beasts represent.

And they represent four kings or four kingdoms or empires, if you will.

And then he says, but he wanted him to know something.

That these empires would not continue to rule over the world and the people of God forever.

No.

No.

Right here, Daniel's told that the saints themselves would receive a kingdom, the kingdom, and that kingdom is the kingdom of the Most High God.

And that kingdom would be an everlasting kingdom.

And so Daniel's also receiving these very same things about these empires, not one being gone, which would have been the Babylonian Empire, the Medo-Persian Empire, the Grecian Empire, and then the Roman Empire.

and Daniel's been given these in his vision in Daniel chapter 7 verses 23 through 27 we're going to quickly go through this thus he said to me as for the four beasts there shall be a fourth kingdom this is speaking of the Roman Empire or the empire of imperialism by the way have you all been hearing the word imperialism a lot in the news lately anybody been hearing this

I've been hearing it quite frequently now, speaking of imperialism.

We're going to be moving into the uprising, if you will, or this new uprising of this imperialism over the world, where imperialism will simply be that there will be a world governing dominance that will rule over the entirety of the people of this world.

And it shouldn't surprise us because we're seeing so much of this today.

Everything is based on the world.

It doesn't matter if it's the League of Nations after World War I. It's the United Nations after World War II.

It's going to fail, by the way.

It's not going to be able to keep peace on the earth.

We're seeing right now that we're usurping all of that right now in the war that we're in in Iran.

We're just doing our own thing.

And this will fail.

But there is coming a governance that will govern the world.

That's why we have all these things in place, like the World Economic Forum, and they have the G7s, and they have all these things.

What are they pushing for?

They're pushing for a one world governance where they will be governing the whole world underneath one rule.

That's what we're moving toward, is a one world, new world order.

And I've mentioned to you this several times.

Many of our presidents have talked about this.

This is nothing new.

And they talk about the new world order.

What they're talking about is this coming imperialistic, Luciferian, satanic, anti-Christ world system that will come in the future, that will rule over the entirety of this globe.

And it's coming quickly.

That's what we're learning about here as we move into this.

Yes, Rome was an incredible empire, but it was an imperial empire.

You always hear them talk about the imperial Rome and empire.

Well, that's because of the dominance in which it displayed over the entirety of the world.

It had dominance and dictatorship over it all.

That's what we're moving back into.

As we have a revived Roman Empire, as we see it move down into the feet and toes, what once was thought to have been gone and have a fatal wound, as we're going to learn, actually will rise back up again and it will rule over this world with imperialism.

And that's why the system that we have now has got to come down.

It has to come down.

A lot of you are saying it seems like they're trying to destroy this thing.

Yes, they are.

Because it has to come down in order for the new one to come up.

And that's why these things are happening.

I wouldn't be a bit surprised if the American dollar completely is eliminated.

I wouldn't be surprised if digital currency moves in and takes the place of just hard cold cash and coins and bills.

It's more control.

It's more power.

It's more ways to regulate and dominate.

Don't be surprised by these things.

These are the days in which we Christians are living in.

And raise up your head.

Why?

Because God ordained that you would be alive of all people on the face of the earth throughout the history of time of humanity.

You of all people have been ordained by God to be alive in this time and in my opinion is the greatest time in the history of the world to be alive.

And your purpose and your calling is extremely important.

So very important that you get this.

But here's the problem.

Everybody is so overwhelmed with life today.

We're so zeroed, focused in on just surviving today.

Meeting all the demands.

The fast pacedness of our society.

Trying to pay the bills.

Trying to raise family.

Everything that we're doing, we're staying so busy, so focused on just our existence.

That we're in danger of missing and being deceived about what all is going on.

And trust me, they'll keep throwing more and more and more things your way.

Most of these things are nothing more than distractions.

They're smoke and mirrors, man.

When something is keeping you distracted over here, oh my goodness, look at that.

They do something over here.

It's smoke, it's mirrors.

They're doing all the stuff, and you say, who?

Well, we know this world is run by a cabal of elitists.

We know that.

They are Luciferian.

Do you not know that Satan has the authority to give his power, his throne, and his dominion to whomever he chooses?

These people at the highest level, they are Luciferian, satanic worshipers, where Satan is using them to accomplish the bringing in of his false messiah euphoric time.

It's going to be the time of Antichrist.

What is it?

It is the false messiah with the false prophet and this governance over this whole world.

Satan is bringing it in and these elitists who have all the money in the world

all the power in the world, all the authority in the world are just simply pulling strings to all these political puppets out there who you think are really running things.

They aren't running anything but their mouth.

That's the truth.

And many, many Americans are so deceived in this.

And people get really mad when you start talking about this nation as if we're not being deceived in America.

Amen.

You're being so deceived you don't even know it.

And what I pray is, oh God, don't let me be deceived.

Why do you think we have a two-party system?

Why?

To give people the idea that they actually have some sort of power.

One party against the other to keep you busy, to keep you thinking that you have this and you're doing this.

Listen, you may vote in one left or one right, but behind it all, they're all working for the same team, man.

There's only one team working right now.

And that is those who get in line and follow exactly what is being done and told by those who hold the strings of the puppets of this world.

And who is behind it all ultimately?

Satan is behind it all.

He's the one who has the whole world that is completely under his power.

The darkness that is over this world.

And God has allowed him this to accomplish God's perfect plan that culminates in what?

The day of the Lord that is coming.

So we're here.

A lot of people don't want to hear this today.

They want to think that everything is going to continue on as it always has and that it always will.

They're not anywhere near the way they were 10 years ago, folks.

It becomes a new normal.

We just get used to things.

I just flew back from Oregon last night.

I was speaking in Oregon here over the weekend.

I'm telling you something, I was in Portland.

Unbelievable.

The liberalism and the wokeness that goes on in that area.

Unbelievable.

It's crazy what we find going on in the world.

And so Daniel here is going to get an understanding to what's going on here.

So let's go ahead and let's jump up to Revelation 13, 1-4.

Remember, starting with King Nebuchadnezzar, Babylonian empire.

He was the lion.

He was the head of gold.

Number two next in line that would come would be the Medo-Persian empire.

It was the arms and the chest of silver.

In Neb's dream, in Daniel's dream, it was the bear that was raised up on one side with three ribs in its mouth.

Next would come the Grecian Empire, which would have been the waist and the belly of bronze in Neb's dream.

But in Daniel's dream, it was the leopard.

this fast empire, the Grecian empire under Alexander the Great who had four wings.

Why did he have four wings?

We learned last week because his empire would not be given to his kids because he had no kids, but he had four generals and his four generals are represented in the four wings of the leopard who represents Alexander Great and the Grecian empire.

You can't make this stuff up.

This is what God has already told Daniel and told us hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of years before the time of Christ.

And then we move on from there and we have this ferocious beast.

The Roman Empire.

It is the legs and it is the feet and the toes of what we find in Neb's dream.

It is the ferocious beast with ten horns made of iron that tramples out the rest of all of the kingdoms in Daniel's dream.

Now I'm going to show you so you can understand the empires and the kingdoms of this world differently and why Scripture tells us don't live for this world.

Don't live for this world, man.

It's ridiculous to live for the kingdoms of this world.

Why?

Because God told us that these kingdoms are what?

They're passing away.

They're passing away.

But there's one kingdom that has already come in Christ as He has victoriously trampled under feet all of what Satan has accomplished.

He has now reconciled us to God through this blood who was given by sacrificial atonement on the cross of Calvary.

that we who were lost in darkness unable to come to God God did something for us that we could not do for ourselves he sent his son to live perfectly in order that his son would give his life and God would say I'll put the sins of the world on a sinless sacrifice I will crush my son and I will kill my son in order that my justice and my wrath would be fully met in the sun

so that people, sinners like you and me, by faith in Jesus, could be reconciled to the Father, and we would receive His righteousness, and we were justified by Christ because of the grace that God has poured out in order that we might be reconciled to Him.

We are in the kingdom, and yet so many Christians are caught up

Because you've been so brainwashed and so programmed all of your life to live for this worldly kingdom.

But Scripture says don't do that.

He says store up treasures though in heaven.

Why?

Because nothing can take that from you.

Don't get caught up in the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life, which is what all these kingdoms down here are all about.

But it's so hard, isn't it, Christian?

It's so difficult because you've been taught and programmed living in this world that this is what your purpose is.

You've got a government that doesn't care so much about you as a citizen as much as they care about the hours you work and the money you provide through taxes.

Why do you think moms got sent back to work?

Because the government figured something out.

If we can get the moms out of the homes and get them into the workforce, we double our income.

And we're still 10 trillion in debt because our own government will not work within its own laws.

No balanced budget.

Just spend the trillions, man.

Our interest every year is one trillion dollars.

You and I can't even calculate a trillion dollars.

And we just keep blowing it and spending it and giving it away to other countries and all kinds of crazy stuff.

America is broken.

I mean, we've been broke for so long.

And they've got these wooden sticks that they keep propping everything up, trying to hold it up in order that people still have the idea that everything is okay.

But that will not stand.

It's going to crash.

And people that are living for this world are going to be devastated when these things happen.

Don't live for this world, man.

Live in it.

Enjoy the life that God has given you.

But take what you have and use it for the kingdom.

Think about it differently, Christian.

Because this thing is passing away.

Quickly passing away.

Now, can you all still hear me okay?

It's getting pretty quiet, so here we go.

In Revelation chapter 13, verses 1 through 4.

We're going to spend some time here.

We're going to move through here quickly.

I have a lot of passages that we want to look at this morning.

I want to try to help you understand these things because, Christian, you need to know.

Just because of the uncertainty of our time.

But listen, I know one thing.

A lot of people are not interested in truth today.

They have itchy ears, man.

Don't tell me what I don't want to hear.

Tell me what I want to hear.

Make me feel good about my own condition.

I'll come.

I'll listen as long as you tell me what I like.

But as ministers of the gospel, my responsibility is not to make you happy, not to please people, but to be truthful with God's word and to just share the mail, deliver the mail.

And we are those that will do that here.

But not everybody likes truth today, so they go find all these kinds of teachers who the last days tells us they have itching ears and they set before them teachers to tell them what their itching ears want to hear.

And it's everywhere today.

And the internet is just compounded by the billions and billions and billions.

People don't like truth.

But it's dangerous not to love truth as we're going to see.

Why?

Because people who do not love truth, do you know that you will be deceived in these days?

Because truth is the only thing that is going to guide you along with the Spirit of God who leads you in all truth.

If you hate truth, you're going to get caught up in these last days.

We're going to learn that here in just a moment.

Revelation chapter 13, 1 through 4.

Now, John, he's on the island of Patmos.

Now, he's having a vision.

God's giving him here this entire revelation of Jesus Christ.

And we're here in chapter 13.

And it says, and I saw a beast, here it is, rising out of the sea with ten horns.

You're going to see a lot of the same things.

Except this beast has got seven heads.

With ten diadems or crowns on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads.

These aren't godly things.

The names on the heads, which actually we're going to learn represent empires, they're not Christian empires.

They're worldly pagan empires.

And they have blasphemous names on the seven heads.

And the beast that I saw was like a leopard.

Its feet was like a bear.

Its mouth was like a lion.

And to it, the dragon.

Remember, we learned about the dragon last week.

Who is the dragon?

In chapter 12 of the book of Revelation.

Satan is, isn't he?

He's the dragon who has seven heads and he has ten horns.

Remember the depiction?

It's exactly like this.

Why?

Because Satan is behind these fallen world empires.

He's orchestrating and working these things within this world under God's sovereignty, yes, but he took the right and title deed of the earth from Adam.

And so he's able to do this legally.

But that's going to all change because Christ Jesus has come.

Now, notice that this beast that we're seeing here that John sees in chapter 13, it shows us these pictures of the other beasts that Daniel saw in Daniel chapter 7.

We have these empires that we see part of this beast here.

What we're looking at is this world system.

And this beast is simply what happened to empires in the past.

When Nebuchadnezzar was overrun by the Medo-Persian Empire, that empire absorbed the Babylonian Empire.

And there were parts of that empire that were absorbed into the Medo-Persian Empire.

but there were still aspects of it now that became a part of the Medo-Persian Empire.

Then when Greece came and took in the Medo-Persian Empire, it actually took bits and pieces from the former empires, which was Babylon and Medo-Persia.

And then we get to the Roman Empire.

We find the Roman Empire did the same thing.

It just grabbed these other empires, or the Grecian Empire, pulled it into itself.

But these other bits and pieces, especially if you study all of the paganism of these empires, you're going to learn this.

That the gods that they worshipped in Babylon are the same gods that they worshipped in Medo-Persia, that they worshipped in Greece, and that they worshipped in Rome.

The only thing they did was give them different names.

That's it.

It's still the same demonic worship of pagan deities.

No different.

And we don't have time to get into all those things today.

But that's exactly what we're seeing.

This idolatry was just something was a part of all of these religions.

And God's people were to be called out and to be set apart different from all of that world.

Why?

So that God's people could point that world to God.

We are to be different.

We're set apart.

We've been sanctified as holy, set apart unto God.

Why?

So that the world that we live in can see that we are different as we shine the light of Christ in this dark world and that by our way in living and talking and doing, we point other people to who?

The king of the kingdom in which we belong.

The kingdom of God in Christ Jesus.

That's why we're here.

I know you thought you were here just to get you a nice home, drive a nice car, build a nice retirement, and then retire and die.

That's not what you're here for.

And if that's all life is, man, what a drag.

What a drag.

That's unbelievable.

No, your purpose is far greater than that.

Your purpose has eternal consequences.

Your calling is a calling given by God Himself to His people in His kingdom to shine the light in the darkness of this world so that others might come to know our King.

That's what we're here for.

And so here John is seeing this incredible image of this beast.

And the features of the beast here, they represent these other kingdoms as we're going to see and as we have seen.

And the ten horns, once again, they're representing something else.

What?

The same thing Daniel saw.

And the same thing Nebuchadnezzar saw.

This thing is extending out.

These ten horns have great meaning.

And in Luke chapter 4,

Verses 5 through 8.

You might want to circle this, underline it in your Bible.

We have gone over this many times.

But you need to know this.

There is legal things that have happened, exchanges that are going on, things that God does.

You know, God, He keeps His Word.

God never ever goes outside of His Word.

Never will.

Never will.

And there's a legal transaction that happened when Adam, who was created in the image of God, he was to have dominion and he was to rule over all that God had created.

Did you know, Christian, that's what we are going to do one day?

We, again, are going to rule and we are going to reign with Christ on this earth.

Did you know that?

You are and you will.

This is a fact.

So if you don't have all you think you want to have in this lifetime, dear Christian, don't let that bother you because you will rule and reign for all eternity.

And not only will you rule and reign, but you will not have to rule and reign in a fallen world.

No, you won't have to.

All right, let's move on here.

Luke chapter 4, 5 through 8.

Notice this in Jesus' temptation before he starts his ministry, led out into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit, and now he's going to be tempted by the devil, by Satan himself.

Now he is fully God and fully man, Jesus is, yes.

He emptied himself of what?

Certain aspects, not of his divinity, but he set aside those privileges.

in order that he could come and walk in full obedience to the Father's will, in order that he might perfectly follow and walk in obedience to everything that God ever said, including the law, including everything that God had set forth for Christ to perform.

That's why he had so many prophecies he had to fulfill, where he was born, what he did.

All of these things were part of Scripture, and Christ had to fulfill all these things, and he did, praise God.

now as you get here you'll notice something the devil takes Christ he shows him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment and he said to him to you I will give all this authority and their glory for it has been delivered I've spoke on this many times it has been delivered to me how was it delivered to him

Adam delivered it to him.

It's kind of like Jacob and Esau, where he gave away his birthright and his blessing for a bowl of soup, man.

And this is what happened to Adam.

He obeyed Satan, he disobeyed God, he was usurped, and Satan took authority over Adam, and he also took the rightful place to rule and to reign.

And that's what Satan is doing.

And that's why we see these things happening in our world.

That's why when we see the dragon in chapter 12 of Revelation, he's got seven heads representing these seven world empires.

He's behind what's going on, many of the things we see today, all the wickedness and the depravity that's going on in the world.

Oh yeah, and those that serve him.

So we see that he's been delivered this right, if you will.

And so when we look at this beast, we understand why the dragon is involved in this.

It's important.

So Satan gives the beast, as we see here in Revelation 13, 1-4.

Let's read this.

Revelation 13, 1-4.

I was hoping we would get through this today, but we are not going to make it.

Apologize for the voice today.

I know it's frustrating to listen to that.

John in Revelation 13 says, I saw a beast riding out of the sea with ten horns, seven heads, and with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads.

And the beast that I saw was like a leopard.

Its feet were like a bear.

Its mouth was like a lion.

And listen, and to it the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority."

One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed and the whole earth marveled as what they followed who the beast Christian don't follow the beast Christian don't follow the beast system Don't you're not of that world anymore You're in it, but you're not of it praise God.

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So don't get all wrapped up in it.

Don't do it.

Now, notice the whole earth marveled as they followed the beast.

And they worshipped who?

The dragon.

You talk to your average person out there that is not in Christ and they would say that they're a pretty good person and they might very well be if they measure their morality by their neighbor.

But if you tell them that they're following the prince of the power of the air, they'd all say, no, I'm not.

But they are.

They are are.

Remember what Ephesians tells us?

That we all once followed the prince of the power of the air that is now at work in the sons of disobedience.

Yes, that's what's going on here.

As Christians, we don't want to be like that.

We don't want to be like we're following the prince of the power of the air, like we're following Satan.

No, we're following Christ the King.

We're living for Him, for His glory in this world.

That's how we are to be living our lives.

Because the rest of the world is under the power of the evil one.

We have been brought out of that power.

He has no authority over us.

He has no claim over our souls, over our lives.

We have authority in Christ Jesus to live for the glory of God and the Holy Spirit living in us by His power that we might shine Christ brightly in this world.

You have been so dumbed down into thinking your only purpose is to live for this world.

Christian, you're not of the world.

But so many are living as if they are.

You've been so programmed and so taught these things.

It's like when we go through this stuff, your brain has a malfunction.

It's like, what?

What?

Hold on, you're saying, yes, that's why we need to saturate our minds with God's beautiful gift of love, his word, so that we know how we think in this world, how we live in this world, because it matters, Christian, how you live matters greatly how you live.

But if you have a worldview that you've been pumped with your whole life, you have to what?  
Be renewed, be transformed in your mind, in your thinking.

That's why Scripture says, do not be conformed to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind so that you might know what the will of God is, His good, His perfect, and His pleasing will.

It takes staying in the Word, studying the Word, so you can have the right way to think.

So many of you probably are struggling with this greatly in our time.

Satan's a liar, by the way.

What a liar that he is.

So, Satan gives his power, his throne, and his authority.

If you notice here, one of the heads of the beast in Revelation chapter 13, we covered this briefly last week, had had a mortal wound.

But its wound was healed.

Now what you're going to learn when you get into Revelation chapter 13, the first beast is a system, but it also culminates in a person.

It's two things.

That's what Daniel's getting at with the little horn.

You know, we talked about it last week, that there's this little horn that uproots three of the ten and takes a prominent position in all the seven, give all of their power, their authority, and their rule to the little horn who has a mouth, who speaks blasphemous names against the Most High God and against His people.

Who is that horn?

We're going to learn more about him here in a moment.

But he is the Antichrist.

He is Satan's man.

He will be this culminated powerful ruler in this world system.

You hear a lot of talk about it.

You hear a lot of talk about it today.

Why is that?

It's a very interesting thing.

Let me bring this up.

We might as well just forget this today because we're not going to finish it.

Here's an interesting thing for you to think of.

Did you know, are you hearing a lot of talk about the coming Messiah?

Oh, you hear it all the time now.

Here's the thing, the three major religions of the world, Judaism, Islam, and Christianity, did you know all three religions are waiting for a Messiah?

Did you know that the Muslims

are waiting for bleak get this now they are completely outside of the saving faith of christ in their religious system

They talk about Jesus Christ and this is how they speak of him.

He is a lesser prophet than Muhammad, although he is a great prophet.

If you talk to a Muslim about Jesus Christ, most Christians will get rocked on their laurels.

Why?

Because a Muslim believes that Jesus Christ really lived on this earth and that he also, not resurrected, but ascended to the Father.

And they believe that he is coming back again in the last day.

Here's the thing.

Who is Jesus is the question, remember?

We've addressed this a hundred times probably.

Jesus Christ is not just a man.

He is God incarnate.

Jesus Christ is God incarnate.

But the problem, the Muslims say he's just a man.

He didn't really die, but he did ascend and they believe.

They're waiting for, guess what?

This is going to blow your mind.

They're waiting for Christ to come again.

Think about that.

The Jews.

Not a lot of them, but many of them.

We have different sects of Jews.

Many of them are so far gone into paganism and all of that mysticism that's part of the cabal and all of that that you find in the Talmud.

And I won't even say what the Talmud says about our Savior.

But there are Jews that believe either Messiah is just a time of peace.

Or some Jews believe that it will be a man that will come on the scene and he will fulfill in bringing and ushering in the kingdom.

That's what he's going to do.

But they believe it could be a son of any woman of the people of the nation of Israel.

But they didn't believe Christ when he came.

They rejected the Messiah when he came.

But there is a false Messiah that is coming.

And he is called the Antichrist.

The word anti means in place of.

Doesn't mean that he's going to come across as being a derelict, some satanic thing.

No.

This guy is going to be a superstar.

And there's Christians that are waiting on what?

Our Messiah to come back again the second time.

We're waiting for our Messiah.

The Jews are waiting for Messiah.

The Muslims are waiting for Messiah.

But here's the crazy aspect of how this will all work.

There will be an Antichrist Messiah who does come.

And for Israel, it will appear that he will usher in the time that they've been waiting for called the time of peace where the Jews will once again feel as if their nation will be set up as a kingdom.

There will be worship and all the aspects of what they're looking for.

Then we have the Muslims who are waiting for the Messiah to come back.

Isn't this interesting?

All of them culminating about this Messiah.

And yet Satan has billions of people deceived.

The deception, guys, will be overwhelming.

And I dare say many people who sit in churches on a Sunday morning who are there only to give lip service to a religious activity or who are there just to please their wife or their husband or to do as they do in the South, many are going to be deceived and they're going to fall for who?

The Antichrist.

The Antichrist.

The Antichrist.

Why?

Because he will be the prominent man who will rise to power to bring governance into this world.

He also will have a false prophet who will call down fire from heaven doing all kinds of signs, wonders, and miracles in the last days.

Things like we read about in Scripture but we've never ever seen before.

This is why we have to understand these truths so that we are not led astray.

We'll get back to this next week, but let me take you someplace.

Go with me to 2 Thessalonians.

Open your Bibles to 2 Thessalonians.

If you would, please.

And I'm going to close with this today.

So Kent, if you could be getting ready, I'd appreciate that.

We've got a little special for you here as we close today.

But I'm going to just read this to you so you can see something here.

And listen, we need not be dogmatic about our eschatology.

The only thing we need to really be dogmatic about is that Jesus Christ is coming again.

He's going to catch away His bride.

And we will come with Him as He comes to earth.

So all of the other stuff are things you can argue over if you want to, but they're not worth dividing the body of Jesus Christ over.

But here's the thing.

Be ready.

Be ready.

Listen to this.

Chapter 2.

I'm going to read this to you and then we're going to close with this today.

We will get back to this next week.

Maybe my voice will actually be better next week and we can get through this better.

2 Thessalonians chapter 2.

Now, these believers were going through tremendous tribulation.

We don't like to hear that word tribulation because as soon as we mention the word suffering, tribulation, and trials, Christians want to shove their head in the sand like an ostrich.

But let me tell you something.

Tribulation has been a part of what it meant to be a people of God ever since people of God have been around.

But in America, we've been free from all of these kinds of tribulations.

But that won't stand.

And it's going to rock some people.

Paul writing here to these people he loved desperately.

He says, Now concerning...

the coming of the Lord, Jesus Christ, and our being gathered to Him.

That is the harpazo, the catching away.

That's 1 Thessalonians chapter 4.

Paul says, concerning this, the coming of the Lord and our being gathered to Him, listen to what he says.

We ask you, brothers, Paul didn't know when this would all happen, didn't understand it all.

Not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed either by a spirit or a spoken word or a letter seeming to be from us to the effect that the day of the Lord had already come.

The day of the Lord is coming, Paul says.

But if you hear a letter or spoken word having to come from one of us that the day of the Lord had already come, he says, throw it in the trash, man.

It hasn't happened.

And let me tell you something.

There is a lot of fear mongering that goes on, I think, in Christian circles that people use certain things, maybe not with the intent to bring fear, but what they're doing by just constantly broadcasting it is people get hardened to these truths.

Oh, really?

I thought that was going to happen.

And some idiots out there will put a date...

1984, there was a whole book written by it.

People bought it by the millions.

Didn't happen in 84, so he wrote a book in 1985.

And people bought the book in 1985.

Scripture says that no one knows the day or the hour, but we can know the season, Jesus said.

You are smart enough to know that when the dogwoods, or when they start putting on their leaf, we know that spring is near.

And just like an olive tree that's bearing its flower, we know that its spring is near.

We know Christians looking at this, and let me tell you something, never in the world has it ever been set like it is now since the Tower of Babel.

We are entering in a time of this collectiveness like we've never seen since Babel.

We started there in Babel, God scattered everything, and everything is coming back to Babel again.

crazy this is so amazing but notice Paul says this don't be alarmed either by a spirit or spoken word or letter to have come from us the effect that the day of Lord has come listen let no one deceive you in any way for that day what day and are being gathered to him the day of the Lord

He says, will not come unless the rebellion or the apostasy, the apostasy.

We are seeing and witnessing apostasy on a grandiose scale, Christian.

You're watching people dropping like flies when it comes to the true biblical truths of Scripture, to trusting and following and believing and serving Christ.

We're seeing this thing just imploding with people who are just giving lip service or whatever it is, being led astray into certain teachings and teachers and all of this stuff.

We are watching on a massive scale this incredible apostasy that is happening today.

Paul says, listen, the day of the Lord will not come unless first the apostasy happens.

And then what?

Tells us here too.

And the man of lawlessness is revealed.

Who is he?

He is the son of destruction, also known as Antichrist.

he will oppose and exalt himself against every so-called God or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.

Do you not remember when I was with you?

I told you these things, Paul said, and you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time.

For the mystery of lawlessness, it's already at work, Paul says.

Only he who restrains it will do so until he is out of the way, and then the lawless one will be revealed."

whom the Lord Jesus Christ will what?

Kill with the breath of His mouth.

And He will bring to nothing by the appearance of His coming.

The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of who?

Satan.

Notice this.

With all power...

Where did he get it from?

Satan.

And false, false.

Here's a key word.

You better underline the word false.

False signs and wonders.

And with all wicked deception for those who are perishing.

Here's the reason.

Because they refused to love the truth and be saved.

Therefore, this is so sad when you read this.

Therefore, God sends them who all who could have, who did hear, who have sat under preaching and teaching and been in America and the South and have been bombarded with Bibles and all kinds of things their whole life.

They could have been saved.

But they didn't love the truth.

And what will God do to those?

It says this right here, just so you can see it.

God sends them a strong delusion so that they may believe what is false.

God says, I've offered you truth.

I've given you truth, the way, the truth, and the life, and you have rejected it and have lived for lawlessness and the things of this world.

Therefore, God gives them a strong delusion, not even to mention the deception that is present in our time, in order that they may what?

Be condemned.

who do not believe the truth, but have pleasure in unrighteousness.

Dude, that's one of the most sobering passages of Scripture.

And here in the south, and I say that, you go north, it's not like it is down here.

Not at all.

People are not church'd up north.

It's not culturally really a cultural stamp of approval in a society once you get way north.

Down here, it's just what everybody does, man.

But I'm telling you, there's no harder place to share the gospel than right here in the great state of Texas.

Because everybody I meet is going to heaven.

You think I'm lying?

No, I believe in God.

I'm a Texan from the South.

My grandfather was a Baptist minister.

My father, he was a Baptist deacon.

And me, well, I'm nothing.

But I believe.

Yeah, you're living like everybody else in the world, like a pagan, like an unbeliever.

But see, they're falsely believing because of religion and because of a culture that accepts it openly, preaches it, teaches it, all of that, that it's okay to live like a hellion all week.

But give God one hour of your attention on a Sunday.

That is the religiosity of the South.

And my heart is burdened for so many people who will go to hell believing in this.

Because they have not in their own life repented of that old man and fully grabbed hold of Jesus who is the only hope of salvation.

They haven't been transferred from the kingdom of darkness and delivered into the kingdom of the sun.

They're still living in the world and coming to church once a week.

That ought to break your heart, Christian.

It breaks mine.

And I run people off all the time for telling them the truth.

And you will too.

But we've got to tell them the truth.

Why?

So that they might believe.

Be saved as we are.

That's why.

Well, it's getting late.

You all have been patient with me today, for sure.

I won't make any guarantees, but we're going to try to get through this next week.

But here's the thing.

Don't miss these.

Why?

Because when we get into the kingdom, you are going to be overwhelmed.

That's why Paul says, our momentary suffering

in this world is not even worth comparing to the glory that will be revealed to us when Christ comes.

I'm telling you,

What is coming and what we're going to do in the kingdom and how we'll rule and reign and who we're going to rule and reign and what's going to be a part of what we do for all eternity.

You don't want to miss this.

That's why we can know that we don't have to live for this world.

We fulfill our purpose.

God has given us in this world so that we can help bring along as many people through the gospel with us to one day be with Jesus.

Listen, I for one want no one to ever experience hell.

And hell is just the beginning because the resurrection will raise all of those from hell joined with their physical bodies.

And then they're going to stand before the great white throne judgment where the books will be opened and the book of life will be there.

And everyone whose names have not been written in the book of the life of the Lamb will be cast alive into the lake of fire.

And they will be in torment forever and ever and ever.

And see, here in the South, we hear this stuff so often.

And as I'm saying it, you're like, yeah, I've heard that before.

but it's really gonna happen.

So what does that do?

As Christians, it brings a great burden to us in a sense that we have friends.

You got friends that don't know Jesus?

I don't mean that they're just like, yeah, I believe, no.

Do you know that they know Jesus Christ?

How about your kids?

How about your spouse?

How about the people you work with that you're just good friends with?

Do they know Jesus?

Because if they don't, you have a great calling and a great work to do.

And you turn your job into something more than a mundane Monday through Friday gig.

It is a mission filled of ministry for you to shine the beacon of Christ's light wherever you go.

Your job has purpose and meaning far more than just providing for the needs of your family.

Oh no, it has a great purpose.

Use it for the glory of God.

Take advantage of the opportunities that God gives you to share this truth with people.

Why?

Because the day of the Lord is coming.

That's why.

Man, what an encouragement it is to know Jesus.

Amen?

Amen.

Well, we have a great gift for you.

Kent, would you come on out here?

I think he's, hopefully he can hear me.

hang off it they're already they already got it some of you that have been here in the past have met my father-in-law this is my father-in-law Kent Farrow and

We're going to close out with a little Scottish flair today.

We're the only church in town doing this today, folks.

I'm telling you, we are.

And Kent's going to go ahead and play Amazing Grace.

Am I right on that?

All right, so if you know it or you want to watermelon it,

Stand up and sing as we close out with amazing grace today.

Maybe Eric will put some words up I didn't tell him, but maybe he will.

So let me close in prayer real quick before he starts.

And then once he's done, you all are dismissed.

Enjoy fellowship as we go from this place.

Serve Jesus Christ for his glory this week and live for the good glory of God.

Amen.

Let's pray.

Dear Heavenly Father, Lord, I thank you so much for these people, God.

You love each and every one of them here today.

And Lord, I thank you that they've been here today and Lord, that they're learning what your word teaches about these very, very important things.

And Father, I pray that you would give us boldness and courage in this day because Christians, we live from a position of victory, Lord.

Father, thank you, God, that we're in your kingdom.

But Lord, there may be some here that are listening today, some watching by live stream or listening by the radio that don't know you today.

God, I pray that they would surrender their life to you, that they would repent of their sin, understanding that Jesus, you're their only hope.

and that they will turn and believe upon Christ, and that you will save them today, and they will know what it means to be delivered from the kingdom of darkness, transferred in the kingdom of the glorious Son, given new life, filled with the Spirit of God, and given new purpose in this world.

God, thank you that you're saving people today.

For the rest of us, Lord, go with us from this place and help us to shine the light of Christ in this world until either we go be with you or you come again one day.

And to the glory of God, we'll do by your grace.

We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen and amen.

Amen.

Love you, buddy.

You too.

Absolutely.

Thanks for helping him do that.

Good man.

I don't want to get you sick, man.

I've been sick for about three days.

All right.