



THE GLORY AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD



In this chapter you will ...

- (1) Understand how God brings human history to a glorious conclusion.
- (2) Observe the consummation of the Kingdom fully realized.
- (3) Recognize God establishing a new paradise for His people.
- (4) Marvel as the nations worship the One who is, and always will be, the center of the Story.

Revelation 7:9-12 - The Worship of the Nations



God is glorious ... has always been and will always be. He needs nothing to make Him more glorious, and nothing can be done to make Him less. And yet, as God chose to reveal Himself, He did so primarily as a Redeeming God who shares His glory with those He loves. He loves all those who are covered by the blood of the Lamb and whose hearts have turned from self to trust in His glorious work of redemption through Jesus His Son. God created a beautiful paradise for His people to richly enjoy under His rule and loving care. Sin destroyed that garden paradise, and God's family was corrupted and scattered. But a promise remained ... and that promise is fully realized when His people are now gathered around His throne and before His Son in His glorious Paradise as a perfected family redeemed from every corner of the earth for one reason - Worship!



Every Promise Fulfilled

The Lord is not slow in keeping His promises ... His clock just runs differently than ours (2 Peter 3:8-10). At every chapter in the story, one must be reading with anticipation of this great day. Sitting on the edge of our seats we wonder when the end will come. Without understanding the end of the story one might think God unfaithful, unloving, or unwise ... and we would be seriously incorrect. God is making good on His promises all throughout the story, and now at the final consummation of the Kingdom every promise is fully fulfilled and all is made right. God brings the reward!

Worship is Ultimate!



"Missions is not the ultimate goal of the Church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn't. Worship is ultimate, not missions, because God is ultimate, not man. When this age is over, and the countless millions of the redeemed fall on their faces before the throne of God, missions will be no more. It is a temporary necessity. But worship abides forever. Worship, therefore, is the fuel and goal of missions" (John Piper). When you have taken the time to reflect on the work of God throughout every age, and when you have thoughtfully considered the claims of His Son Jesus and the redemptive work He accomplished, and when you are fully aware of your own heart and the righteous judgment you deserve, then ... and only then do you fall on your face in humble adoration of the greatness and glory of God. And that is the final scene - people from every nation responding forever in delightful worship!

Story-Tellers Takeaways ...

- (1) Human history is not repeating ... God brings it to a final conclusion that endures forever.
- (2) The tension of the "now and the not yet" of the Kingdom is now relieved and the fullness of the Kingdom of God has come.
- (3) What God began in the Garden of Eden, and sin and Satan thwarted, is now made new ... a greater Garden, a greater Paradise, and pleasures forevermore for the people of God.
- (4) Worship is the ultimate goal of the Church!

My Notes:

How to Read the Story ... the Big into the Small, and the Small into the Big ... all to Penetrate Our Hearts!

Feathers - You must have an understanding of the epic narrative of God's story ... this is Biblical Theology that guides our reading of the story.

Shaft - You must approach each text of Scripture honestly and openly ... this is Exposition of Scripture that shapes our understanding of the story.

Point - You must have a soft heart to worship the author of the story ... this is Gospel Centeredness that changes life.

For Discussion:

- (1) Discuss the John Piper quote and the connection between missions and worship?
- (2) What is significant about the absence of a physical Temple in the new creation? What does this teach us about our relationship with God in the eternal Kingdom?
- (3) Discuss racism and your own personal experiences or biases. What does the Gospel say about any sort of ethnic inequality?
- (4) How does your thinking about the glory and kingdom of God effect how you live everyday? What do you need to grow in so as to develop a more robust "heavenly citizenship" each day?