

"Then cometh the end, when He shall have delivered up the Kingdom to God, even the Father; when He shall have put down all rule and all authority and power"

This passage in 1 Corinthians 15 is a very prominent text in the study of eschatology or of the end times/last days/times. Last week we studied Paul's statement: "Then cometh the end".
1 Corinthians 15:21-28

We looked at (4) truths associated with this text, (1) truth has already happened, the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

(V23): But every man in his own order: Christ the first fruits; afterward THEY THAT ARE CHRIST'S AT His coming.

By "they that are Christ's", we understand the resurrection of the saints (or the dead in Christ), "THIS HAPPENS" at the 2nd coming of Christ.

In addition, as we learned last week, the scriptures overwhelmingly reveal THAT DAY to be the end of the world, including the destruction of this present heavens and earth by fire. (Cf. 2 Peter 3)

On THAT DAY, THAT "GREAT HARVEST" of which Christ spoke in Matthew 13 will ALSO come to pass, which is the general resurrection of the just and the unjust. Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43, 24:27-35

THAT DAY (as the Apostle John wrote) is "THE LAST DAY". ON THAT DAY, all the righteous and wicked dead will be summoned to the judgment of the great day, where EVERY mortal human that ever lived will stand to be judged by the Lord Jesus Christ!

Acts 17:31: "Because He hath appointed A DAY, in the which He will judge the world in righteousness BY THAT MAN whom He hath ordained; whereof He hath given assurance unto all men, in that He raised Him from the dead". Revelation 10:4-7, 11:15-19

Beloved of God, that day should not overtake you as a thief, but you should be a watching and expectant people. You should be "looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of the Great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ! 1 Corinthians 1:4-8, James 5:7-8, 2 Peter 3:11-14

Some truths (from the Holy Scriptures) are hard to understand. Some aspects of eschatology (of the end times) are hard to understand, but there are also "many synoptic" passages from the Holy Scriptures that are very clear and plain.

When you study any doctrine in the Word, it is important to remember, as written in William Cowper's hymn: "God is His own

Interpreter"! The Word of God is the best commentary for the Word of God!

We've seen many passages from last week/this week that reveal a clear understanding of what will take place at the end of the world. Those passages should guide our understanding of the difficult passages!

Let's press on in 1 Corinthians 15:24: The return of Christ IS the end of the world: All these other events/happenings ALSO take place on THE DAY of Christ's return.

The sounding of the last trumpet, the resurrection of the just and the unjust, the judgment of THE GREAT DAY, (of the righteous and wicked), and the end and destruction of the world by fire. This brings us to what is NEXT:

"Then cometh the end, WHEN HE, (that is Christ) shall have delivered up the Kingdom to God, even the Father"

What does this mean? Christ "delivering up the Kingdom" to God?

First: Jesus, the Son of God (He is God), the 2nd Person in the Godhead, His dominion is called everlasting and His Kingdom ruleth over all! That can never be taken from Him as God!

Daniel 2:1, 28, 35-38, 44-45, 7:13-14, Matthew 28:18

Daniel prophesied of the everlasting Kingdom of Christ, and Christ declared His Kingship and authority after He rose victorious from the grave, just before He ascended to the right hand of God.

So, WHAT is Christ delivering up the Kingdom to God the Father?

Brethren, when Christ returns, the church will be complete! Every one of God's elect people will have been saved from their sins, from the world, and from the captivity and power of the wicked one!

The LAST SINNER will have been saved, delivered from the power of darkness, and translated/conveyed into the Kingdom of God's Dear Son.

The time of God's saving grace and salvation will have come to an end! God's patience and longsuffering will be no more!

Revelation 6:2: "And I saw, and behold a white horse: and He that sat on Him had a bow; and a crown was given unto Him: and He went forth conquering, and to conquer"

This is the resurrected, ascended, victorious, and REIGNING Christ! He IS King of kings and Lord of lords! This is our Lord Jesus Christ as He continues to GO FORTH, (NOW) CONQUERING the souls of lost sinners, freeing them from Satan's captivity, and expanding the borders of His Kingdom in this present world!

The Lord Jesus IS CONQUERING through His church! Christ is STILL accomplishing the work of redemption by the gospel!

Brethren, what Paul wrote of here in 1 Corinthians 15:24 speaks of when Christ' will have finished conquering souls. And His Mediatorial Kingdom (His work as Mediator will come to an end)! On this day, Christ will present His Kingdom/His Church to His Father.

His work of conquering and enlarging His Kingdom will be complete, and He will no longer intercede for His people, for we shall ALL BE with Him when He returns! And so shall we ever be with the Lord!

The next thing that we see coming to pass is: "Christ shall put down all rule and all authority and power"

When Christ returns, He will effectively dethrone every rebellious principality, government, dominion, and every enemy, He will deprive them of their power; every hostile dominion that is against Christ both in heaven and in the earth will be effectively "put down", never to rise to power or bring any harm again to God's people. ("Put Down" ~ MTC) For the saints of God, that means NO MORE WRESTLING against flesh and blood, no more fighting against principalities, powers, the rulers of the darkness of this world, or against spiritual wickedness in high places

i. 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10, Revelation 11:15-19, 10:4-7

We will no longer come to a table prepared for us in the presence of our enemies (in a hostile world), but we will sup with Christ, in His actual presence in heaven!

1 Corinthians 15:25-26: "For He must reign, till He hath put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death"

(V25): Paul here wrote of what is happening NOW! Christ IS REIGNING NOW! But when He returns, ALL His enemies will be put under His feet.

Psalm 110:1-7, Hebrews 1:13, 10:12-13

And THEN, the last ENEMY that shall be destroyed is death! Remember I said we would come back to (V24), "when Christ shall have PUT DOWN all rule and all authority and power"?

"Put down" in (V24) is the same Greek word as "destroyed" in (V26): #2673: Means to render useless, abolish, put away, bring to nought!

So here, (V26): Death, the last enemy is swallowed up in victory, defeated at the resurrection! Luke 20:34-36, Isaiah 25:7-9, 1 Corinthians 15:54-55

1 Corinthians 15:27

When Christ returns: "All things" and EVERY POWER and DOMINION in heaven and in earth will be under the feet of Christ, the EXCEPTION, God the Father. Psalm 8:4-6, Hebrews 2:8, 1 Corinthians 15:28 READ

Understand here that the Son of God will always be co-equal to the Father, He is God. And yet, He took upon Himself human form, the form of a Servant and was made in the likeness of men. He came into the world as a Man, and He is still a Man, a perfect Man in the heavens. In this sense, He will always be subject to God the Father.

Close: In Revelation 21, John wrote about the commencement of that eternal day, after EVERY hostile power, (both spiritual and earthly) will be finally subdued, NEVER AGAIN to persecute and trouble the saints of God.

It is AFTER the first heaven and first earth, which will be burned up and destroyed by fire in the judgment of the great day, are no more!

Revelation 21:1-8